

## **School Paraprofessional Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, March 13, 2012**

**CAS**

**In Attendance:** Marcia Cattanach, Stefanie Carbone, Loyola Welsh, Rhonda Kempton, Donna Morelli, and Iris White

**CREC Updates:** CREC ran a train the trainer for RESC Consultants and district staff on February 14<sup>th</sup> on the new COMPASS School Climate/Bullying Module. CREC is offering this training on March 28<sup>th</sup> from 3:15 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. for anyone interested. Donna has developed a wiki space with resources and materials that can be used to support professional development for paraprofessionals, including video resources: <http://paraprofessional-crec.wikispaces.com>.

**SERC Updates:** Paraprofessionals conference is scheduled for November 14, 2012 at the Crowne Plaza, Crowmell. The topical brief on Autism is half way finished and the brief on Behavior is still in publications.

**SDE Updates:** The Connecticut Paraprofessional of the Year packet has been emailed to all Superintendents and District Contacts. The Connecticut Guidelines for Training and Support of Paraprofessionals is currently being revised. Iris shared a list of the revisions and asked for feedback. There was a suggestion to include a document that would assist districts with determining if paraprofessional support is appropriate. The Commissioner's Foreword also needs to be rewritten and should include some stronger language emphasizing the importance of districts providing paraprofessionals with professional development. The Guidelines are a great resource, but we may also want to think about forming a work group to develop a template that districts could use to develop their own handbook.

**District Contacts for Paraprofessional Issues:** Iris wanted feedback from the Council on how we might more actively engage the district contacts besides only sending a newsletter every month. The consensus was we develop a survey to ask them for the input and suggestions. We may also want to provide sessions for Administrators at the Paraprofessional Conference. Perhaps a panel of administrators could talk about what they are doing for paraprofessionals in their districts.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. at CAS, Cheshire. Agenda items: Update on Commissioner's Response to Recommendations, CT Paraprofessional of the Year Applications, meeting dates and development of goals for next school year.