# Education Focus Group

Date | time 12/4/2019 5:00 PM| Location High Hopes Classroom- 36 Town Woods Road Old Lyme CT

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Meeting called by | High Hopes Program Task Force |
| Facilitator | Chelsea Bourn & Jane Bolles |

 | Attendees: **Chelsea Bourn, Kitty Stalsburg,** **Carrie Wind,Jane Bolles**, **Jackie Kangley,** **Vicki Newton,** **Margo Packer,Mary** **Kate Mundell,** **Nicole Cormier**  |

## Meeting Minutes

|  |
| --- |
| * IEP- It would be helpful to staff and volunteers to know goals/objectives and accommodations in the school setting so we could apply the same ideas in EAAT. Often, Special Educators are unaware that these goals can be accomplished in our setting and increased interfacing with them would be of benefit. Parents could invite a High Hopes representative to their IEP meeting- we will consider putting an article in RIDER so they are aware of this option. We could share our IRP outcomes with families more succinctly so they are seeing the benefit and connection to skills at school/home.
* Consider creating mentored volunteering with local transition programs- there could be a service piece and a learning piece. Many of these programs are looking for vocational training opportunities for their young people. Funding could be secured via a sponsorship model.
* Visit programs that offer other alternative therapy options then welcome them to High Hopes- we can all learn something from each other and potentially share clients/participants
* Create a mentorship trajectory where seasoned volunteers mentor participants- perhaps Best Buddies would be interested in developing a relationship to implement this
* Region 18 Superintendents office does a Focus on Education Newsletter that goes out- perhaps we could showcase our Reins of Empowerment program in it
* Consider a unified sports program- could partner with schools- would just need an “end activity”
* Out of district families are paying tuition to send their kids to LOL schools due to the high quality of the system- if we could find a way to increase awareness of HH in this group, it would be of benefit to us.
* Health Coordinators at schools would be good points of contact- Patty Cournoyer at Region 18 can be first
* Because school systems are data driven, we need to be clear about what are outcome expectations are- what are we hoping will change in our participants lives- less truancy, better grades, increased friendships, less time in the principals office, etc- it’s not just about learning riding skills.
* Open house at High Hopes with various special education resources (CPAC, Best Buddies, Therapists, Advocates, etc- invite families. We could also try to go to open houses at the schools.
* ESY Programs- Educational component provided at school, then come to High Hopes in the afternoon to generalize skills to an outside setting. Transportation is a part of ESY, so it wouldn’t be an added burden.
* Programs to reach out to: expand service offerings with our current schools. Determine the geographical area we want to focus on and start there- we can build out further later. The Thomas School, Grove, Franklin Academy, CREC Schools, Coastal Connecticut Academy- new Transition school in Essex.
 |