



EASTCONN Early Head Start & Head Start Policy Council

What is Policy Council?

Policy Council is a volunteer group of Head Start and Early Head Start parents/guardians and community members that meets monthly with program staff and directors to take part in the decision and policy making of the program. The Council is made up of at least 51% of **parents** of currently enrolled children and interested community members.

What is my role as a member?

Your role as a member means that, after having been elected, you will have a voice that will affect decisions concerning program operations. The Council makes important decisions such as:

- Approving or disapproving program policies
- Hiring or firing staff members
- Approving or disapproving grant applications and budget proposals

The Council's main task is to make sure that our programs meet the "Head Start Performance Standards." These are the guidelines that our funder, the United States federal government, requires all Early Head Start and Head Start programs to follow.

The Policy Council is very important and provides parents with valuable leadership experience that can be used to enhance your resume.

What will I need to do?

As a member, you will attend all policy council meetings ensuring that policies and decisions reflect the views and ideas of parents from your center. Your Family Advocate/Home Visitor will help you gather the input from your fellow parents/guardians.

When and where is Policy Council?

Policy Council meets every month, except July. We serve dinner and the meeting usually lasts two hours. There is help with paying for childcare costs and mileage. It is located in Hampton at the EASTCONN Central Office building, 376 Hartford Turnpike, Hampton, CT.

If you are interested in learning more about Policy Council, please talk with our staff or call our Director, Kim Mansfield at (860) 455-0707.