

NC Pre-Kindergarten/ Early Education Committee

Wednesday September 20, 2017

10am

The NC Pre-Kindergarten/ Early Education Committee met on Wednesday September 20, 2017 in the meeting room at Cabarrus DHS. Ann Benfield (Co-Chair) led the meeting that was attended by Skylia Soloman, Debra Pless, Linda Roberts, Quwanya Thompson, Raven White, Patricia Sehorn, Elizabeth Albright, and Jamie Clark.

Committee Members not present: Maureen O'Bryan, Linda Roberts, Debbie Johnson, Tanisha Jones, Lashonda Houston, Sue Aschbrenner, Annie Parker, and Trina Wenzel.

Welcome

Ann Benfield welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made around the table.

Quorum

A voting quorum was not established at the beginning of the meeting, as there were only 2 of 5 voting members present. A quorum was established at 10:30 when the 3rd voting member arrived.

Information/Updates:

Smart Start (Ann)

Ann shared that there will be an expansion this year in the PAT, Celebrating Families, and Project Baby Reach programs. This is available because of an additional amount of non-Smart Start funds that was appointed to Cabarrus by Sen. Paul Newton. Additionally, DHS will use some of the money to contact with a professional to complete trauma screenings on children who come through the in-home program. Those children will then be referred to a counselor or therapist in the community, if necessary.

Smart Start Scholarship (Ann)

Ann shared that the Smart Start Scholarship program is currently on hold for new applicants because of a market rate increase in the state. Staff is working on forecasting to determine if additional spots are going to be available later on in the year. Also, this program is now supporting wrap around care for eligible NC Pre-K students who are not already being served by DHS subsidy programs.

DHS Subsidy (Lora)

Lora is currently on Maternity Leave. DHS Subsidy is also on hold due to forecasting after the market rate increase.

Family Support (Elizabeth)

Elizabeth shared that the Partnership was working on contracting with someone to lead parent workshops for the NC Pre-K program as requested.

NC Pre-K (Elizabeth)

Elizabeth shared the minutes and budget from the 8/25/17 conference call that approved the last slot assignments. She noted that all slots are currently filled and the NC Pre-K staff had opened up additional appointment times so that there would be some wait list files ready for turnover for the year. Elizabeth reminded the committee that health form deadlines were beginning that week. And she distributed the NC Pre-K timeline for Cabarrus County.

Thompson CFF (QuWanya)

QuWanya shared that training started this month for child care providers. Anyone interested should check the website for the class listing. The behavior specialists are also currently accepting referrals for their program.

KCS (Skylia)

Skylia informed the group that they had an unannounced visit the 3rd day of school from child care licensing. The visitor was specifically looking at files for new CPR and Shaken Baby training documentation.

Action Items:

NC Pre-K/ Early Education minutes: Minutes for the 8/25/17 meeting (via phone) were submitted to the committee for approval. QuWanya Thompson made a motion to approve the minutes and the motion was seconded by Ashley Reid.

Next scheduled meeting: October 18 , 10am at DHS (if needed)

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50am