

## **Early Education/NC Pre-Kindergarten Committee**

**Wednesday February 17, 2016**

**10am**

The Early Education/ NC Pre-Kindergarten Committee met on Wednesday February 17, 2016 at the office of Cabarrus Partnership for Children. Ann Benfield led the meeting that was attended by Debra Pless, Sue Aschenbrenner, Tanisha Jones, Wendy Brandon, Carmen Morrison, Dee Almond, Linda Roberts, Kimberly Hutchins, Debbie Johnson, Jamie Clark and Elizabeth Albright.

### **Welcome**

Ann Benfield welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **Approval of January 20, 2016 Minutes**

Minutes from the January 20, 2016 meeting were distributed Carmen Morrison moved to approve the minutes as presented. Tanisha Jones seconded the motion.

### **Information/Updates**

#### **NC Pre-K**

Site Selection: Elizabeth Albright shared with the committee the site selection documents. (timeline, Instructions for the Rubric, copy of the Rubric, decision tree, and teacher education worksheet)

Elizabeth went over the time line with the group. Letters will go out to all 4 and 5 star centers in the county on Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. There will be a interest meeting on March 7<sup>th</sup> at 11am, it's optional for sites that have questions about the process. Applications will be due no later than 5pm on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The 2016-2017 site selection committee will begin meeting on March 24<sup>th</sup>. They will have several meetings and time for site visits. They will have their final meeting on April 18<sup>th</sup>, and they will present their final recommendations at the April 20<sup>th</sup> Early Ed/NC Pre-K committee meeting.

Monitoring: Elizabeth informed the committee that she and Jamie Clark completed the monitoring for all the NC Pre-K sites. Elizabeth submitted the Partnership's online Monitoring tool with DCDEE. She brought with her a copy of it and the supporting documents in case anyone had any questions.

Applications: Jamie Clark shared with the committee that for the 2016-2017 school year –instead of a paper application, all intake sites including our office, will enter child's information into the Child Plus system and print from there. In year's past we had to have a paper application, because the Partnership office did not have access to the Child Plus system used by Head Start programs. Now that our office has access to the Child Plus system, staff will be trained March 1-3 on this system. We have also made changes to who will take applications for in our office, to cut down on the amount of appointments for families. Our office will forward all Kannapolis city school district families to McKnight to fill out the application. Also for all families in the Cabarrus county school district with children with IEPs from NC and/or other states will be forwarded to Katie at Long to fill out the application. Jamie shared the office is hopeful that we will be able to begin placement earlier this summer than last year.

## **Porch**

Ann shared with the committee that the One Portal App System has been launched. PORCh was released by the county this week. Our office is still having issues logging in, but as soon as we have the information we will forward that out immediately!

## **Head Start**

Ann informed the committee that staff is still working with the consultants on policies and getting the sites relicensed.

## **Smart Start**

Ann shared that Smart Start is currently in a 2 year bid process, which means current programs have one year left before they have to reapply. The board is looking at the ABC program and also considering expand family services to possibly include Strengthening Families and other family programs.

Jamie Clark shared that the Smart Start Scholarship program is currently full and due to the limited number of spots, we will only take a few more folks on the wait list at this time.

## **DHS Subsidy**

Lora Lipe is at a training, Ann will forward any information that comes in on their current numbers.

## **Cabarrus Partnership Family Support**

Elizabeth provided a flyer for an upcoming fundraiser for Safe Kids, please let us know if you need copies for your site.

Transition to Kindergarten workshops begin next week. Elizabeth will continue the format as last year, where the NC Pre-K school sites will host and invite the NC Pre-K child care sites to these nights.

Cabarrus Partnership and Cabarrus Health Alliance are joining together to offer Triple P Seminar Series to families in April. These are 90 minutes sessions focused on The Power of Positive Parenting, Raising Confident and Competent Children and Raising Resilient Children. Parents can sign up for one or all sessions. All sessions are free and include dinner and childcare, if needed. Flyers will circulate shortly with RSVP information.

## **Community Updates**

The Coming Together for Children Conference was on February 6<sup>th</sup> at Crossroads church. They had about 165 participants and the feedback has been good.

Resource Café will be March 5th, this is open to families as well as providers to young children. Certificates will be available per class so folks do not have to stay for the entire day. There will also be a vendor/agency fair for this event.

The meeting adjourned at 10:51am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Clark

