

Early Education/NC Pre-Kindergarten Committee

Wednesday April 20, 2016

10am

The Early Education/ NC Pre-Kindergarten Committee met on Wednesday April 20, 2016 at the office of Cabarrus Partnership for Children. Ann Benfield led the meeting that was attended by Debra Pless, Sue Aschenbrenner, Wendy Brandon, Skylia Solomon, Carmen Morrison, Ashley Reid, Lora Lipe, Jamie Clark and Elizabeth Albright.

Welcome

Ann Benfield welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of February 17, 2016 Minutes

Minutes from the February 17, 2016 meeting were distributed Sue Achenbrenner moved to approve the minutes as presented. Carmen Lewis seconded the motion.

Information/Updates

PORCh

Ann shared with the committee that PORCh app is up and running, we are now using this system to route all families that contact the Partnership offices for an appointment. Once the family is screened then staff contacts family for an appointment. Ann gave a presentation on April 4th to the county commissioners about this new system to help families apply for Early Childhood programs. This system will also create a database for families that are just over the cut off, so that future Smart Start dollars could be designated to help with new programs to help serve these families.

NC Pre-K

Site Selection: Elizabeth Albright shared with the committee the site selection committee has their recommendations, but we do not have enough non-conflicted members to vote on this. She will send an email to arrange a separate meeting for this.

Monitoring: Elizabeth informed the committee that the first part of monitoring has taken place, the other half will be conducted tomorrow afternoon. There are several things will need to be worked through by the committee. Once the 2nd monitoring visit takes place then Elizabeth will type all of the requests and recommendations from DCDEE for the committee.

As of right now:

1. They have asked that we changed the name of the committee to the NC Pre-K/Early Ed committee meeting.
2. Report if there is a quorum or not at that meeting.
3. They have asked that both school systems advertise the open meetings on their social media and websites.

4. Set standards for a number of family engagement activities- and break them out to show transition to NC Pre-K and transition to Kindergarten.
5. Write up how our county addresses transportation issues for families they do not have transportation for NC Pre-K.

Ann suggested a sub-committee to draft these to present at the May NC Pre-K/Early Ed meeting.

Applications: Jamie Clark shared that we are continue to send families first through PORCh, and then families are scheduled for an appointment. We did hear last week that contracts are signed and we can begin placement as soon as site selection is completed and Head Start does their placement. Staff is excited to get to start so early this year.

Head Start

Ann informed the committee that staff is still working on finding a director. The leadership team is continuing to meet to work through things.

Wendy Brandon, with KCS shared McKnight just finished their monitoring and they did really well.

Smart Start

Ann shared that the board approved in March to roll all current programs into next year. Ann said they are still waiting to hear status of signed contracts and looks for them to update after Smart Start national conference.

Jamie Clark shared that the Smart Start Scholarship program is currently full and we have about 8 families on the wait list. We should know this week how many families we can add to issue 12 month vouchers too.

DHS Subsidy

Lora Lipe shared they are still having a low show rate. They are currently at a 34% show rate for appointment. In April 46 were removed and 14 are currently being served. As of March there are 286 families on the wait list, with a total of 441 children. They are 97% spending and monitoring from the county will be on Monday and state will be on Tuesday and Wednesday of next week.

Third translator has been hired, and they are down one staff member due to FMLA. NC FAST call today will given update to how long delay on roll out will be.

Cabarrus Partnership Family Support

Elizabeth Albright shared that the Triple P training had to be modified due to low interest from the community. Instead, it was offered to the parents involved in the MODELS parenting support groups. After observing these classes, the Partnership will look for another parenting program to replace Active Parenting. Elizabeth explained she felt there was not enough interaction with the participants, and predicted that for our general population who sign up for parenting classes, we may lose parents in that style of workshop.

Elizabeth was excited to share that the annual survey for Circle of Parents (MODELS teen and young moms, and the inmate parenting program) results were amazing. Every single parent gave comments that were positive about how these programs were positively impacting their family.

She also shared that there is a free family festival this Saturday at the Mothers and Children housing program in Concord. Everything is free, but there will be a raffle to raise money for supplies for My Father's House.

Community Updates

KCS

Wendy Brandon shared that NC Pre-K is moving back up under Title One, and Annie Parker & Skyliia Soloman will be our new contacts. She will be assisting until end of school year.

CCRI

Carmen Lewis shared her last day with CCRI will be April 28th. Ashley Reid will be the new contact in Cabarrus county.

Thompson

Sue shared she will be hosting a training on Adult resilience tonight and held a biting workshop last night. There is still currently a wait list.

Staff will send an email to non conflicted members to set up meeting to approve site selection recommendations.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Clark