

**Early Education/ NC-Pre-Kindergarten Committee**  
**Wednesday, December 16, 2015**  
**10:00 am**

The Early Education/NC-Pre-Kindergarten Committee met on Wednesday, December 16 2015 at the Partnership office. Lora Lipe, Debbie Johnson, Sue Aschenbrenner, Danielle Mauldin, Carmen Morrison, Wendy Brandon, Trina Wenzel, Tara Natrass and Debra Pless attended the meeting. Elizabeth Albright and Jamie Clark attended on behalf of the Cabarrus Partnership.

**Welcome**

Ann Benfield welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes of November 18, 2015**

Minutes of the meeting on November 18, 2015 were distributed. Ann asked for any corrections or additions.

- Moved to accept the minutes as presented: Debbie Johnson
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lora Lipe
- All in Favor.

**Information/Updates**

**NCPK & Family Updates:**

Jamie Clark shared there was some confusion about the new online monitoring tool, that has been cleared up and all site principals and directors were emailed the Monitoring Tool for the 2015-2016 school year this morning. A list of dates for the site visits was also emailed out and sites have already begun signing up for dates for Elizabeth Albright and Jamie Clark to visit and complete the Monitoring tool visits in January.

Elizabeth Albright reported we are still taking in coats and are hoping to wrap that up before Christmas break. We will still fill requests as they come in when we return in January. Elizabeth also passed out a flyer for a Free training being held on Family Engagement. It will be January 12<sup>th</sup>, please have staff sign up as soon as possible. We will start a wait list after we reach 40.

**Head Start Update:**

Ann Benfield shared that Kendra Britton has been busy working with Head Start staff. The Head Start review will be in November or December of next year. Khari Garvin was unable to join us for today's meeting but Ann is hoping to have a conference call instead. Ann also shared that everything is moving along for the One Portal to launch in February to assist in the intake and recruitment for the 2016-2017 school year.

**Smart Start Update:**

Ann Benfield reported the Program Oversight committee is still looking at emerging needs in the community. We have several new programs that will be starting in January. Celebrating Families will work with families with substance abuse, this program will be administered by Families are First. We will add a Circle of Parents weekly meeting at the county jail to work with the mom's no matter the time of their sentence. We will also be adding an older young

mom's group for the mother's who are aging out of MODELS. There is room to add additional moms to this group, please refer them to Elizabeth.

**Smart Start Scholarship Program:**

Jamie Clark reported the Partnership program is almost full and will be meeting with several families on Lora Lipe's list this week. Jamie will update Lora by Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> to who the Partnership can serve.

**DHS Subsidy Updates:**

Lora Lipe reported the department is fully staffed. They are currently working on meeting with folks on the wait list from Mid-August. As of December 15<sup>th</sup> there are 285 families, with a total of 470 children, ages birth to 12 on the wait list. In November, 98 children were added, 150 removed and 68 children were served. They are at 92% spending and still have outstanding invoices and contracts from sites. Lora has been able to serve 6-7 children from the wait list from 4E funds. They are setting aside \$40,000 for fraud, at the present time there is \$8,500 being disputed.

They are currently serving 18-19 special needs and this is the highest number so far. Lora also shared that NC Fast will be likely live for Cabarrus county in September or October. They are adding Epass which will allow families to apply online, face to face or mail in option.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Clark

**Early Education/NC Pre-K Meeting  
Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 a.m.  
Meeting will be at the DHS Auditorium**