

NC Pre-Kindergarten/ Early Education Committee

Wednesday August 17, 2016

10am

The NC Pre-Kindergarten/ Early Education Committee met on Wednesday August 17, 2016 in the Auditorium at Department of Human Services. Ann Benfield led the meeting that was attended by Sue Aschenbrenner, Lora Lipe, Ashley Reid, Skylia Solomon, Dee Almond, Debra Pless and Elizabeth Albright.

Welcome

Ann Benfield welcomed everyone to the meeting. A 50% voting quorum was confirmed among participants.

Action Items

June 15, 2016 Minutes

Minutes from the June 15, 2016 meeting were distributed. It was noted that the date of the minutes needed to be corrected to reflect June not July, and the noted approval of minutes were for the May meeting, not the April meeting. Ashley Reid moved to approve the minutes with noted corrections. Debra Pless seconded the motion.

Budget

Ann noted that there was a budget for the 2016-17 year that was approved by the committee in June. However, the budget approved needed some correction. The corrected budget was presented to the group. Ann remarked that the total dollar amount is the same. The difference is that the reimbursement rate was increased for dual funded slots by \$10. This ends up showing that the program would initially start the year in the red. However, there are always months where children do not attend enough days to be paid and money goes unspent at the end of the year. This plan allows for that to happen and still not have to give back money at the end of the year. Ann told the committee that if spending is more than expected and NC Pre-K still shows red, Smart Start will make up the difference at the end of the year.

Ashley Reid made a motion to accept the budget. Lora Lipe seconded the motion. All non-conflicted voters in favor of approval.

Information/Updates

NC Pre-K Guidelines and Update (Elizabeth and Jamie)

Elizabeth let the group know that they would be looking at the Local NC Pre-K guidelines at the September meeting. This committee is responsible for considering requests for changes and approving any additions or amendments to the guidelines. Elizabeth will email the current guidelines to the committee before the next meeting so they can review them. Any requests from current NC Pre-K sites who wish the committee to review a particular guideline needs to be in writing to Elizabeth by the day before the next meeting.

NC Pre-K applications are still being taken at McKnight, Long School and the Partnership. Current sites need to submit their staff forms, assurance statements and all child health information to Jamie. Shortly, Elizabeth will visit the locations to get principal/director signatures for the Signature II page. Soon, there will be some additional classroom supplies available to current NCPK sites. These are items that came back from former NCPK sites at Irvin and Winecoff. Elizabeth will follow up on this once school is back in session and students are settled.

PORCh (Ann)

Ann informed the committee that PORCh is currently running normally for families, but agencies are not yet able to run reports correctly. The IT person assigned to this program has left their position, so we are waiting on their replacement to start before it can be fixed.

Head Start (Ann)

Ann reported that CCS Head Start is full and Open House will be next week. This summer renovations were conducted at the Long school site. They are now only in the Pod out back and the main building has been closed. The new entrance for visitors and parents is on Ann St.

Smart Start (Ann)

Goals for this current fiscal year have been set with all DSPs. The new bidding cycle for the 2017-19 years will begin soon. Applications for current and new bids will be available to interested parties in November and will be due in December. More information to come in the September meeting. There is a spotlight community-wide on Mental Health, Childhood Obesity and Substance Abuse.

The Smart Start Scholarship program is currently full. They hope to be forecasting soon, in hopes that they can add children from the wait list.

DHS Subsidy (Lora)

Lora informed the committee that at the end of July, there were 428 families and 673 children on the wait list. In July, they added 82 children, removed 6 and terminated 34 from care. They are waiting on the full allocation from the state to let them know exactly how much they are getting for the year. They closed the fiscal year with 100% spending. Currently, they are operating on \$300K less this year, but are hoping to receive additional funding. July spending was at 110% due to summer care. Lora was happy to report that they are fully staffed with 2 new workers and have updated caseload listings.

The NC Fast system now has all providers linked and the provider portal is running. Contracts through the portal will be available within the month. In Nov/Dec the conversion will take place and the state will take over payment. October is the deadline for all providers to sign up. There is self-paced training and virtual classroom training available.

Family Support (Elizabeth)

Elizabeth informed the committee that the current model of fall Schedules and Routines will not be used this year. The last few years have shown declining attendance. Teachers have noted that this is a busy time for families to visit the school multiple times in the month. Elizabeth has a 6 minute video on the topic that she will ask teachers to show on a night that parents are already present at the school for a child related event. Hopefully this will reach more parents who need this valuable information.

Elizabeth also reminded the committee of the upcoming Cabarrus Safe Kids SafetyPalooza on Sept. 10 at Fire Station #3, 10am-2pm.

Community Updates

Thompson CFF has new trainings available. Check their website for information and registration.

Kannapolis City Schools informed the committee that their KCS Head Start program is full and application appointments will resume in October. This year the administration has decided to have regular meetings for pre-k staff to improve communication.

Dee Almond from Elite CDC said that their NC Pre-K program has been busy preparing for students. Open house is tomorrow for families.

Debra Pless, CCHC from the Partnership said that they have wrapped up their Emergency Preparedness trainings for the summer. All sites in Cabarrus County must have at least 2 people trained by July 2017. They will offer a Medical Administration class in September and SIDS training in October. For any of these classes, contact Lissy at the Partnership by phone or email.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm.