

NC Pre-Kindergarten/ Early Education Committee

Wednesday February 15, 2017

10am

The NC Pre-Kindergarten/ Early Education Committee met on Wednesday November 16, 2016 in the Auditorium at Department of Human Services. Ann Benfield led the meeting that was attended by Danielle Mauldin, Debra Pless, Dee Almond, Skyliya Soloman, Jennifer Baucom, Jason Irving, Quwanya Thompson, Elizabeth Albright and Jamie Clark.

Committee Members not present: Lora Lipe, Maureen O'Bryan, Kimberly Hutchins, Ashley Reid, Katherine Boudet, Linda Roberts, Trina Wenzel, Teresa Aldridge, Tanisha Jones, Deborah Beatty, Lashonda Houston, Sue Aschbrenner, Kimberly Hutchins, Annie Parker and Debbie Johnson

Guests: Cindy Yount, Dana Stikeleather, and Jennifer Glover

Welcome and Quorum

Ann Benfield welcomed everyone to the meeting. A voting quorum was not available among non-conflicted members. So the committee will vote on minutes from September 21 and November 16, 2016 at our next meeting with minutes from today.

Action Items: postponed until 3-15-17

NC Pre-K Licensing Update- Cindy Yount lead a discussion in regards to the difference they are seeing in new hires through the school system and the star licensing requirements at our NC Pre-K sites. Jennifer Glover shared information about the new Work Force Online Reporting and Knowledge System. She went over the steps and all of the resources available to have staff enter their information. The link for this is <https://dcdee.works.nc.gov/>

Jennifer Baucom asked if the systems communicated and Cindy Yount suggested that Jennifer contact Heather Marler at 1-800-859-0829 or the webmaster on the website to share her concerns and suggestions.

Local Guidelines- Elizabeth led discussion on about the importance of gathering a sub-committee to meet for an hour to come up with the needed revisions for the local guidelines. This group will work to revise the transition and family engagement plans, per NC Pre-K request. If you would like to be at this meeting, it will be at the Partnership office on March 23rd at 9am. Anyone is welcome to come. Once the changes are made, they will come as a recommendation to the full committee for a vote to establish the changes in the Local NC Pre-K guidelines.

Elizabeth reminded the committee that at the last meeting, she brought up the idea of using the Site Selection sub-committee to help with compliance issues that occasionally arise in NC Pre-K sites. This is not something that is a pressing current issue, but the Partnership is asking to have some assistance from non-conflicted members who may be able to help on an as-needed basis. Historically, the More at Four program had a 'leadership team' who would help in these instances. However, once MAF changed to NC Pre-K, that team was not reconstructed. Elizabeth asked the group how they felt about this

proposed sub-group. After some discussion on confidentiality issues and clarification on what the expectations would be for the members, the present committee indicated that they were not opposed to the idea. Elizabeth informed the group that this is not an item up for vote, as this is not a required action but merely a form of assistance for the Partnership as the contract administrators. However, in an effort of transparency, she wanted the group to be able to discuss it and fully understand the intention behind the request. She will contact the members of the Site Selection Committee to determine who may be interested.

Information/Updates

PORCh (Ann)

Ann informed the committee that PORCh is up and running and our office is sending all families through this system to schedule them for appointments for Head Start, NC Pre-K and Smart Start Scholarship Child Care subsidy.

Head Start (Ann)

Ann reported that CCS Head Start is full and doing well. The Partnership board has voted to not renew the grant, so as of June 30, 2017 the Partnership will no longer be the grantee for the Cabarrus Head Start program. We have sent this information out to the community and once the federal government names the provider July 1, 2017, our office will notify the community once again.

Smart Start (Ann)

Ann shared Smart Start programs are in the beginning of a new bidding process for Smart Start Programs for FY 2017-2019. The programs that applied are awaiting board approval, which will be the middle of March. Once the State budget is adopted and Smart Start funding has been set, the programs will be notified of funding.

Smart Start Scholarship (Jamie)

Jamie shared staff is currently meeting with families on the DHS wait list and issuing vouchers to families that meet our eligibility.

NC Pre-K Update (Jamie and Elizabeth)

NC Pre-K application intake will begin in March, families are already being scheduled for an appointment through the PORCH system.

All NC Pre-K Site Monitoring has been completed and our Contractor Monitoring tool was submitted yesterday to DCDEE. Now we will wait to hear how our site monitoring from DCDEE will be done this year. They either do a phone call or site visit to review documentation.

Elizabeth also shared that all NC Pre-K sites are scheduled for the Kindergarten Transition workshops. Some of the school sites are even going to offer Kindergarten registration that night as well.

DHS Subsidy (Lora)

Lora was not able to attend- but she sent a report to be given out. Jamie will email this report out with the minutes as well.

Family Support (Elizabeth)

Elizabeth passed out flyers for the upcoming Resource Café on Saturday, March 4th. This conference is free to parents and teachers, but they must register. The focus this year is on the Health and Wellness of caregivers who have children with special needs.

Community Updates

Jennifer Baucom with KCS Head Start at McKnight shared that their staff is busy taking applications for next year. Their recent Head Start review went really well. Unfortunately, their site has been hit hard with the flu.

Debra Pless shared the flu is really bad in our county. She urged sites to make sure they had a firm policy on when it's safe for a child to return to school to avoid spreading the flu.

The meeting adjourned at 11:32am.

Next Meeting: March 15th at 10am at DHS.