

NC Pre-Kindergarten/ Early Education Committee

Wednesday March 21, 2018

10am

The NC Pre-Kindergarten/ Early Education Committee met on Wednesday March 21, 2018 in the meeting room at Cabarrus DHS. Ann Benfield (co-chair) led the meeting that was attended by Annie Parker (co-chair) Skyliya Soloman, Debra Pless, Samelia Jones, Lyne Goode, Jamie Clark, QuWanya Thompson, Lora Lipe, Jennifer Baucom, Danielle Maulden, Debbie Johnson, Tameka Johnson, Kimberly Hutchins, Spencer Swain, Maureen O'Bryan, Patricia Sehorn, Christy Hopkins, and Trina Wenzel.

Committee Members not present: Linda Roberts, Tanisha Jones, Deborah Beatty, Auorora Swain, Lashonda Houston, and Sue Aschbrenner.

Welcome

Ann Benfield welcomed everyone to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves.

Quorum

A voting quorum was established with 5 of the 5 voting members in attendance.

Action Items:

Meeting Minutes 2/21/18 were moved to be approved by Quwanya Thompson, (with the correction of the spelling of her name), and the motion was second by Samelia Jones.

Family Engagement Accountability and Transition Plan Accountability Instructions:

Jamie Clark asked for recommendations from the committee as to what the consequence will be if and a site does not comply with the Family Engagement and Transition policies that were approved by the committee?

Jennifer Baucom suggested sites partner with the other sites to obtain ideas on how to implement the policies. She invited everyone to join her site to observe their parent workshops. Jamie Clark suggested that a template for this process might aid in accountability for each site.

Quwanya Thompson moved:

1. Create an action plan for any site that does not comply with Transition & Family Engagement Policies and that plan would be due by the beginning of each school year.
2. Provide a quarterly monitoring of Action Plans
3. Create a template that each site will follow for their Family Engagement and Transition Plans.

Lora Lipe second the motion.

Information/Updates:

Applications and Outreach for NC Pre-K: Jamie Clark shared with us that the partnership has been accepting applications in our office since January. We will accept them by fax, through e-mail, or in

person. Lyne can also drop by application packets to your site to give to parents. Please remind parents that it is their responsibility to return the completed paperwork to the Partnership.

Cabarrus Partnership Staff Update: Ann is still in the process of searching for a candidate to fill Elizabeth's position. The Family Outreach portion of the position will be contracted with Lashonda Houston. Until the position is filled, please don't hesitate to contact the partnership with questions, concerns, and assistance with families. Ann will update us when the position has been filled.

Site Selection Committee: The committee made their recommendations for the 2018-2020 school years. Woodrow Wilson, Logan, Kid's Corner, Sunshine House, McKnight, Mary Francis Wall Center, and Bilingual Lockhart Center were all recommended. Royal Oaks and Bilingual St. James were recommended with conditions. The Upper Room was not recommended. The committee received 10 recommendations, and met on 5 different occasions to make their decision. The committee also followed the NC Pre-K rubric, and did several site visits. Ann would like to thank the committee members for all of their hard work and thoughtfulness during this process. Jamie will send out a letter once the votes are finalized.

Smart Start Programs: Ann stated Stephanie had the Smart Start Program Plan for FY 18-19. This is second year of our bidding cycle and the year will begin in July, so we are waiting for final approval from the North Carolina Partnership and then we will start planning the budgets once our allocation is determined.

Smart Start Subsidy Programs: Jamie reminded us that our Smart Start Subsidy Program is full, but the partnership is keeping a waiting list for the future, when funding is available.

DHS Subsidy Updates: Lora stated DHS Subsidy Program is full and they are on a waiting list. Maintaining priority groups, and uploading information into NC Fast is their current goal. They continue to receive calls for children with special needs. However, funding is now a manual process which takes time. They remain cautious with their spending. Lora did attend a webinar last week for NC Fast, which brought up quite a few questions in reference to payments and budget. Lora asked us to reach out to the case workers when we have families in need. The process takes a while, so she asked for our patience. Ann was concerned with the financial status with providers, but Danielle stated that the process seems to be moving smoothly for her. Kimberly did state that she was having issues in the system with vouchers. Lora offered to speak with her after the meeting. Lora also shared with us the implementation of a Child Support Enforcement Pilot Program that is in 3 counties.

Family Update: Ann shared the Family Council meets the 1st Tuesday of every month at noon at the Partnership Office, and everyone is welcome. The committee has scheduled presentations from agencies monthly that will share community resources for families. Lashonda Houston will be leading the meetings.

The Dolly Parton Imagination Library: is still accepting enrollment of children under age 5 for free books each month. Also, if you would like to have the Dolly's cut out to come to an event at your location, feel free to schedule it with Stephanie Bynum or Ann Benfield. Ann shared with us that The Partnership was interviewed by Spectrum news in reference to the library. Currently, CHS-NE Mother/Baby and the Jeff Gordon Hospital is giving out the first book to all of its children and we have

applications in pediatricians' offices. We were reminded that we must spend the allotted money for this program or it will be reverted back to the state of NC.

Incredible Years Workshop: Quwanya, from Thompson Children's Home encouraged us to have our teachers sign up for The Incredible Years Classroom Management workshop. It is a free workshop, they have a few slots left, and it provides follow up coaching.

Next scheduled meeting: Wednesday April 18, 10am at DHS

The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Lyne Goode