

NC Pre-Kindergarten/ Early Education Committee

Wednesday June 14, 2017

10am

The NC Pre-Kindergarten/ Early Education Committee met on Wednesday June 14, 2017 in the meeting room at Cabarrus DHS. Ann Benfield (Co-Chair) led the meeting that was attended by Annie Parker (Co-Chair), Skylia Soloman, Teresa Aldridge, Trina Wenzel, Jennifer Baucom, Lora Lipe, Ashley Reid9via phone), Quwanya Thompson, Suzanne Nieman, Elizabeth Albright and Ariel Ayers.

Committee Members not present: Maureen O'Bryan, Katherine Boudet, Linda Roberts, Debbie Johnson, Tanisha Jones, Deborah Beatty, Lashonda Houston, Sue Aschbrenner, and Dee Almond.

Welcome

Ann Benfield welcomed everyone to the meeting. Ashley Reid called in via phone to attend the meeting. Several members were running late, so Ann asked if the group could start with updates and leave actionable items until the end.

Information/Updates:

NC Pre-K (Elizabeth)

Elizabeth shared staff is still meeting with families. We are currently low on applications and staff is open to do any type of community outreach. Cabarrus County Schools staff will be holding application days at each of their NC Pre-K school sites during the month of June. Placement should start the week of 6/26.

Head Start (Ann)

Community Development Institute, or CDI, will assume responsibility of Head Start on 7/1/17. They are currently hiring staff to work with them next school year at the Long school location. Current Head Start staff is wrapping up year-end paperwork and will be submitted to federal contacts on 6/15.

Smart Start (Ann)

Ann shared Smart Start programs are on hold and staff is waiting on contract information from NCPC at this time. They have been cleared provisionally to put 100% of funding into provider contracts.

Smart Start Scholarship (Elizabeth)

Elizabeth shared staff is currently wrapping up appointments for families that are on the DHS wait list, while also holding Recertification appointments for our current vouchers that are set to expire. Jamie and Ariel are working on the 17/18 spending forecast.

DHS Subsidy (Lora)

Lora shared they are closing out for the school year. They added \$21K for foster care children served this year. The county has stopped pursuing subsidy fraud. They had \$29K left in that fund. That money will go to cover special needs children in care. Closeout for the year will be on 6/15. There is a proposed \$185K cut to their budget for next year. There is currently a Title 5 position in the unit that will help manage the wait list after completing training. The current wait list reflects 278 families with 440 total children. In May, 64 children were added and 36 were removed. September is the start date for NC Fast. Cabarrus is in the last region for rollout.

Family Support (Elizabeth)

Elizabeth announced that she wrapped up family support with all teachers at the end of May. The Partnership was able to purchase draw string backpacks and a small amount of school supplies for each NC Pre-K child. They were distributed in May.

Quorum

A voting quorum was established at 10:35am.

Action Items:

NC Pre-K/ Early Education minutes: Minutes for the 5/24 meeting were submitted to the committee for approval. QuWanya Thompson noted the date and location of the meeting needed to be changed from April to May and the location was at DHS, not All Saints. Ashley Reid (via phone) recommended to accept the minutes with amendments and the motion was seconded by QuWanya Thompson.

Budget with Slot Allocations: Ann requested that the committee vote today on slot allocations and budget. However, due to the low number of applications, slots may need to be reallocated in an emergency July meeting if those spaces cannot be filled. The staff had requested to wait until July to see the outcome of the outreach efforts in June. She also announced that Elite CDC will no longer be an NC Pre-K site starting with the 2017-2018 school year.

Ariel distributed a budget proposal with slot allocations. She noted the changes at the bottom of the budget outlined proposed slot allocations for the 17-18 school year. There were many points of movement, including the change in dully funded to fully funded slots in the CCS district, which decreased the total number of overall slots.

QuWanya Thompson made a motion to approve the budget proposal and slot allocation for 2017-18 school year. Ashley Reid (via phone) seconded the motion.

Next scheduled meeting: August 16, 10am at DHS

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55am