

NC Pre-Kindergarten/Early Education Committee

Wednesday, October 17, 2018

10:05 am

The NC Pre-Kindergarten/Early Education Committee met on Wednesday October 17, 2018 in the community room of All Saints Church.

Committee Members Present: Ann Benfield, Skylia Solomon, Kimberly Hutchinson, Lashonda Houston, Lora Lipe, Debbie Johnson, QuWanya Thompson, Waynett Taylor, Annie Parker, Trina Wenzel

Staff Members Present: Patricia Sehorn, Lyne Goode

Guest Present: Spencer Swain, Carmen Browne, Jessica Helms, Teresa Aldridge, Bonita Thompson

Ann Benfield opened the meeting and asked everyone to go around and introduce themselves. A Quorum was established.

Action Items

Minutes – Ann presented the minutes for the September 18, 2018. Lora Lipe moved to accept the minutes as presented and Lashonda Houston seconded, all were in favor.

Information Only-

The Biology of Stress + The Science of Hope will be held on October 30, at McGill Baptist Church from 6:30-8:30. Please call Lissy at Ext. 100 to register. We encourage you to come by the Partnership and check out the DVD at your convenience, to show it to your staff.

Family Engagement Training last month had 53 people register, and 38 in attendance. The reviews have been stellar, and Race to the Top certificates were handed out.

Ann has been in contact with almost all pre-school directors in the area to inform them of The State Wide Salary Supplement Program for Infant/Toddler Teachers who have at least an Associate's Degree in ECE.

Applications for the new TEACH program called Working Scholars was handed out. Ann encouraged everyone to share this with all of their early educators who are obtaining higher education. The past barriers such as employee sponsorship are no longer an issue.

Updates:

NC-Pre-K – Tricia shared that everyone was off to a great start as she continues to visit our sites. She is doing compliance monitoring and monthly site visits.

Dial scores are coming in, and she is concerned about the low scores. She is working with the school system to update the referral process, and will be referring behavioral issues to Thompson.

Tricia shared with the group that the NC Pre-K process will be updated in 2019, to include health and screening being completed before a child is placed at a site. This will help insure that all our children are being served correctly.

Application and Outreach- Lyne stated that the Partnership is still accepting NC Pre-K applications for the wait list. We will continue to place children from that wait list until Spring Break. Lyne continues to do outreach weekly. We anticipate some turn over after the holidays, and will be ready to fill those spots.

Smart Start Programs- Ann shared that these programs are off and running, and all contracts are signed. The Bidders Conference will be held on November 5th.

Ann introduced Lauren Westin as the Partnerships New Program Manager. She will be working with Stephanie Bynum (who works remotely), as she transitions to this new position.

Smart Start Scholarship Program- Lyne stated that the Partnership is diligently working to gain 30 qualified children to add to the program. It is a “hurry up and wait process”, as families must be given time to respond to phone calls, and gather needed documents for their appointments. Lyne hopes to have these 30 children being served by the end of November.

DHS Subsidy- Lora shared that she was still working her list of families in need. The list currently has 675 children on it. It is however at a standstill until next month’s conformation of how the market rate will effect spending. As a result, they are cautiously underspending.

Their team is now fully staffed, and will be working together as of Nov 5th. She shared that their Special Needs and Homeless contacts have slowed down.

There were a few new policies put into place, and some are on hold until November 1, 2018.

The new policies that have been approved are as follows:

If a family is receiving Subsidy assistance outside the county, and transfers into the county, they will not lose their voucher. The same goes for the reversal of moving from our county to another.

13 year olds will now be able to receive funds through their certification period.

Lora is waiting on the new market rate increase to see how it impacts the employment waiting list.

Family Update- Lashonda asked if anyone had families with true Christmas needs to send in referrals by the deadline of November 2nd. She will then send them on to CCM. The Partnership kicked off our 12 annual Coat Drive on October 1, and shared the process of contacting lyne

with requests. Please be as detailed as you can with requests, and let us know if the child could also use socks and underwear. Ann and Lyne invited everyone to The Cabarrus Brewery for our Parkas for Pints coat drive celebration on December 5th, from 6 to 9 pm. Ann also invited everyone to the annual Voices 4 Children luncheon 20-year celebration, on Tuesday December 4th, at noon.

We have made contact with lovely woman who has offered to crochet hats for the children in need also. If anyone has extra yarn, please send it to the Partnership, and we will get it to her.

Other Agency Reports- Waynett from RCC shared that the college has space for meeting if we ever need it.

Thompsons Children's Home- QuWanya shared that they have spaces for parent classes, and Incredible Years training.

There will be no meeting in November or December. Our next meeting will be on January 16, 2019 at DHS.

With no other agency reports the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m