

## **NC Pre-Kindergarten/ Early Education Committee**

**Wednesday May 16 2018**

**10am**

The NC Pre-Kindergarten/ Early Education Committee met on Wednesday May 16, 2018 in the meeting room at Cabarrus DHS.

Committee members present: Ann Benfield, Annie Parker (co-chair), Samelia Jones, Patricia Sehorn, QuWanya Thompson, Lora Lipe, Jennifer Baucom, Danielle Maulden, Trina Wenzel and Debra Pless

*Committee Members not present:* Maureen O'Bryan, Deborah Beatty,

Staff present: Ann Benfield, Jamie Clark, Lyne Goode, Debra Pless

Guests: Sharon Stokes DCDEE, and Sharon Spigner DCDEE, Skylia Soloman, Spencer Swain, Aurora Swain Linda Roberts, Jason Irving, Crystal Hill, Lasharee Rogers, Teresa Aldridge

### **Welcome**

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

### **Action Items:**

Meeting Minutes April 18, 2018, were moved to be approved by Lora Lipe, and the motion was second by Samelia Jones.

### **Site Selection Review and Process:**

Ann shared with the group that the Site Selection process for the 2018-2020 school year was done incorrectly. Sharon Spigner and Sharon Stokes from DCDEE stated that there were inconsistencies with the process, and The Site Selection process must be done again. The applications for this will be due (COMPLETED) to Cabarrus Partnership for Children by June 1. Ann stressed that because there is such a quick turn around with this process, any applications turned in not complete will not be considered. Sharon acknowledged the former Site Selection Committee for their hard work and time spent on the process.

A Site Selection training session will be conducted by Sharon Stokes, and Sharon Spigner at the Partnership on May 23, at 9am. The Partnership will then be responsible for training the Site Selection Committee.

It was noted by Sharon that no sites will be approved not holding a license.

Spencer offered a global perspective on the licensing process, and wanted the committee to remember that in the end, it should be all about the children.

Linda asked Ann if The Partnership was moving toward just holding NC-Pre-K sites in elementary schools?

Lasharee shared with the group what she thought to be documentation of where The Partnership confirmed this rumor.

Ann addressed the group clarifying that there was never such conversation, and encouraged centers that felt like they needed financial assistance to apply for the Head Start Grant.

Crystal shared numbers of current and projected NC Pre-K children in her school system to also dispel the school vs child care sites rumor.

Danielle asked when Ann thought Site Selection would be complete? Ann hopes it to be done by June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Jennifer asked if sites could apply next year? Ann said the Partnership has the ability to decide that year to year.

Jamie asked Sharon if we could open up Site Selection again in August 2018, if we did not receive enough sites applying before then? Sharon said that she would check.

Ann passed out the Site Selection rubric, and asked the non-conflicted members if there needed to be any changes in it. After discussions, Quwanya moved to accept the rubric with the understanding that next year there will be thoughtful discussions and possible changes to it. Lora second the motion, and all voted yes.

### **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. The Partnership is working diligently to complete the final audits of all NC Pre- K applications that we have already received, so as to be ready for placement when Site Selection is complete.

**Cabarrus Partnership Staff Update:** Ann announced that Tricia Seahorn will start work at the Partnership as new NC Pre-K Administrator on June 18, 2018. She comes to the Partnership with experience in Cabarrus County Schools, and a plethora of knowledge of the NC Pre- K Program.

**Smart Start Programs:** Ann stated that we are waiting for the budget to be adopted.

**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. Current families have been encouraged to update their vouchers for the summer programs. If there is the 3.5% subsidy market increase it will cause the Smart Start Program to continue to be on hold.

**Family Engagement and Transition:** Ann feels that all sites will be in compliance.

**DHS Subsidy Updates:** Lora stated that they have been able to contact some families to fill additional slots. In April they removed 14 children, and served 6. Their waiting list has 266 families which includes 443 children. They are still working on over and under payments within NC Fast, and are wrapping up provider visits.

**Family Update:** Lashonda Houston is working hard with our family support groups.

Ann reminded everyone that if they ever had questions, concerns, thoughts, or ideas, to please contact her.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10.

Next scheduled meeting: Wednesday May 30, 2018 10am at the Partnership Office.