

**CABARRUS COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
Tuesday, April 23, 2024**

The Board of Directors of the Cabarrus County Partnership for Children met on Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. at the Cabarrus County Partnership for Children Office and via requested Zoom link, which was advertised on our website and in our newsletter. District Court Judge Beth Street presided over the meeting.

These board members were present:

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| 1. Judge Beth Street | Government/Judge |
| 2. Gil Small | Community/Faith Community |
| 3. Marcella Beam | CHA/Community/Services (participated virtually) |
| 4. Steve Morris | County Commissioner/Government |
| 5. Patrick Graham | CFEA/Community/Services |
| 6. Jackie Whitfield | Community/Faith Community |
| 7. Kevin Garay | Government/Superintendent Kannapolis City Schools |
| 8. Malisha Ross | Services/Partners BHM (participated virtually) |
| 9. Lora Lipe | Government/DHS/Subsidy |
| 10. Melanie Holles | Government/Libraries |
| 11. Danielle Mauldin | Owner of Kids Korner/Services |
| 12. Pam Smith | CCM/Community/Services |

These board members were absent:

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| 1. Amos McClorey | Services/NAACP |
| 2. John Kopicki | Government/Superintendent Cabarrus County Schools |

A quorum was present.

These staff members were present: Ann Benfield, Patricia Sehorn, Ariel Ayers, and Lauren Westin; Contracted evaluator Beth Gilbert participated virtually

Welcome:

Judge Beth Street welcomed board members and thanked them for attending the board meeting.

Approval of Agenda:

The Board reviewed the agenda for today's meeting.

Steve Morris made a motion to approve the agenda.

2nd: Kevin Garay

All were in favor.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

The board reviewed the consent agenda documents that were emailed to members prior to the meeting, including: Minutes of February 7, 2024 board meeting, April 2024 ED Report, March 14, 2024 Executive Committee Minutes, FY23-24 SS Expenditures, FY23-24 NCPK Expenditures, FY23-24 Other Funds Report, and FY23-24 SUN Project Report.

Patrick Graham made a motion to approve the consent agenda items.

2nd: Gil Small

All were in favor.

State Directed Grant Committee Recommendations:

Lauren Westin reported that a volunteer group of Board Members met last week to discuss all proposals received in response to the RFP for the State Directed Grant. The following recommendations for approval or denial come from the committee for the board's approval.

State Directed Grant Proposal Review Matrix

Activity	Provider	Motion	2nd	Approved/Denied	Board Approved/Denied Recommendation 4.23.24	Comments	Conflicted Members, Abstained from Voting
Additional Preschool Slots	Cabarrus County Schools					Need additional information from provider	JK, SM
Conscious Discipline	Cabarrus County Schools	MH	LL	Denied	Denied this applicant, but will look for other options that can be completed within the timeframe of the State Directed Grant	Denied Provider, but want to pursue other options to provide Conscious Discipline in the county	JK, SM
Dental Navigator	Cabarrus Health Alliance	PS	LL	Approved	Approved		SM
Water Testing	Cabarrus Health Alliance	PS	MH	Denied	Denied this proposal, but Ann Benfield will start conversations with CHA and enviromental health regarding issue		SM
Cabarrus Share	Catapult	PS	MH	Denied	Denied this applicant, but will administer this program through the Partnership for cost savings	Denied Provider, but want to pursue In House with a contractor to administer, will be more cost effective	
Conscious Discipline	Conscious Discipline	MH	LL	Denied	Denied this applicant, but will look for other options that can be completed within the timeframe of the State Directed Grant	Denied Provider, but want to pursue other options to provide Conscious Discipline in the county	
Parents As Teachers	Endless Opportunities	PS	MH	Approved	Approved, with contracting stipulations for this Direct Service Provider as previously outlined by the Board during the last bidding cycle	Clear Reporting/Contracting parameters in place for this DSP per last Smart Start Bidding Cycle	
Evaluation	Evaluation Innovations	MR	MH	Approved	Approved		
On Call Teachers	P.U.R.E. Excellence	LL	MH	Approved	Approved		

Contract Activity Description Changes:

Lauren Westin presented the following Contract Activity Description changes that were made during Program Monitoring and preparation for the Annual Submission of Activities to Smart Start.

Early Education Liaison

Rowan Cabarrus Community College (RCCC) will provide Early Education Liaison (EEL) services to address teacher education in Cabarrus County. This program will serve as a liaison between the community college and child care facilities, **servicing birth to five not yet in Kindergarten**, in Cabarrus County and be responsible for managing and conducting communications with students concerning their enrollment and retention. In addition to serving as a liaison between the community college and child care facilities, the staff will provide program advisement for new and existing students academic support and resources such as referrals for tutoring and scholarship programs (such as T.E.A.C.H.) to meet student educational needs. The EEL program will visit child care facilities with emphasis on the recruitment of early educators in all child care facilities. The EEL program will also provide oversight for students in certificate diploma apprenticeship or degreed programs and help student transition to a bachelor degree program once program is complete. Surveys will be conducted on student needs and satisfaction to assist in planning and addressing student needs. Individual Professional Development Plans will be completed with early educators working in any participating child care facility. The EEL program will collaborate to continuously assess the educational needs of Cabarrus County Early Educators. Stipends and/or scholarships may be awarded to participants by the EEL staff per the program guidelines. Smart Start funds may be used to provide supervision of program components administrative support and other related program expenses such as office supplies service-related supplies travel employee training printing and meeting expenses.

Patrick Graham moved to approve the changes.

2nd: Lora Lipe

All were in favor, with Steve Morris abstaining.

Inclusive Child Care

This activity supports the inclusion of children with emotional, behavioral, and/or identified special needs in the child care setting. Services that are provided using Smart Start dollars in this activity include: (1) Technical assistance: Technical assistance (in the form of consultation and coaching) provided to early childhood educators working in start-up, licensed, and/or G.S. 110 child care facilities serving children birth to five years old. The Technical Assistance will be focused on improving the capacity of providers to support nurturing and responsive caregiving, create learning environments, provide targeted social-emotional skills, and support children with challenging behavior in child care settings through the use of Teaching Pyramid Observation Tool (TPOT)/**Teacher Pyramid Infant-Toddler Observation Scale (TPITOS)**. (2) Training for child care providers: Training for DCDEE credit hours provided on social emotional and behavioral competence related topics and coordination of CEU opportunities. This program may serve part-day programs within the county. Smart Start funds may be used to provide supervision of program components administrative support, Non-Cash grants, and other related program expenses such as office supplies, service-related supplies, travel, employee training, printing, and meeting expenses.

Kevin Garay moved to approve the changes.

2nd: Steve Morris

All were favor.

Social Emotional Intervention for Young Children

Social Emotional Intervention for Young Children will be provided in the child's home or child care setting in Cabarrus County, NC. These services will address the child's social emotional and developmental needs. Once the referral is received an assessment will be completed to determine need for services, create goals and identify need for possible referrals. Social Emotional Interventions will be provided in a 3-tier system based on the child and family's need. 1.) Behavioral Specialist 2.) Licensed Clinical Social Worker 3.) Child Psychologist / Clinical Play Therapist. Triple P parenting program **(Level 3 Primary Care and Level 4 Standard)** and the Pyramid Model are just a couple of the strategies that will be implemented based on need. Services will be available to all children under the age of 5 who have not yet started kindergarten, in Cabarrus County, with a social emotional delay no matter race, gender or social economic states. **A** Spanish Speaking Behavioral Specialist ~~to~~ **will** provide services in the

native language for Hispanic families in our community. Smart Start funds may be used to provide supervision of program components administrative support, Non-Cash grants, and other related program expenses such as office supplies, service-related supplies, travel, employee training, printing, and meeting expenses.

Steve Morris moved to approved the changes.

2nd: Gil Small

All were in favor.

Community Early Childhood Profile:

Beth Gilbert presented the data collected on our Early Childhood Profile and how our local programming is effecting the state level indicators. Her presentation and reports can be found in the Board Folder and are attached here to the minutes. (See EC Prof PP Presentation (FY2023 data) Cabarrus and EC Prof Summary (FY2023 data) Cabarrus.

FY24-29 Strategic Plan Update:

Ann Benfield presented that Robbie Furr is continuing to work on the Strategic Plan and they are currently working towards a Fall 2024 implementation.

Implementation of Cabarrus Share Grant Program & Flex Plex Partnership:

Ann Benfield presented that she has had additional meetings with businesses and government and are working towards a plan to implement as of July 1, 2024 for Cabarrus Share Grant program.

Ann Benfield then explained that she has been working in conjunction with Families First, The Cannon Foundation and McGill Learning Center to implement Flex Plex in Cabarrus County. Flex Plex is a model that was developed under the Yadkin County Partnership for Children that allows multiple child care licenses to be housed at one location. Allowing child care home providers to share services, i.e. food, supplies, etc. and be licensed out of a building with separate entrances instead of operating out of their own homes. They already have child care home providers interested and all parties are working towards this goal. These types of providers are able to serve second and third shift employees.

2024 Early Childhood Action Plan:

Ann Benfield reported that Early Childhood Action Plan came out and they identified four goals in the executive summary to focus on:

Goal 1: Healthy Babies

Goal 3: Food Security

Goal 6: Permanent Families for Children in Foster Care

Goal 8: High-Quality Early Learning

Update on the SUN Project/SUDA Institute:

Ann Benfield reported that the Partnership is wrapping up our involvement with the SUN Project. We hope to have all of the funding through the Partnership spent by the end of May or early June, and then funding and operation of the SUN Project will be operated through their own non-profit The Suda Institute.

Support the Partnership – Contribution Reminder:

Beth Street reminded the board to please contribute. Letters were sent to Board Members who have not donated this fiscal year. She noted that 100% Board participation is highly encouraged on grant applications, and the deadline to donate for this fiscal year is the end of June.

With no further business, Patrick Graham made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

2nd: Beth Street

All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Westin