

NC Pre-Kindergarten/Early Education Committee Meeting

Wednesday September 16th, 2020

10:04 am

The NC Pre-Kindergarten/Early Education Committee met on September 16, 2020 at 10:00 am.

Committee Members Present: Samelia Jones, Debra Pless, Ann Benfield, Waynette Taylor, Lashonda Houston, Nicole Sessoms, Jennifer Baucum

Staff Members Present: Patricia Sehorn, Lyne Goode

Guests Present: Kimberly Hutchins, Jessica Helms, Kelly Huff, Elizabeth Heston

Action Items

Minutes- Ann presented the minutes from the August 5, 2020 meeting, asked everyone to look over them, and for someone to make a motion to accept them. Debra Pless moved to accept the minutes, Kimberly Hutchins second the motion, all were in favor.

NC Pre-K Update

Enrollment Update- Patricia shared that we currently have 280 Nc Pre-K slots filled, out of the 361 available. Unfortunately, many parents cannot make virtual learning work for their families, so several families have declined slots, or have had to withdraw their children. She stated that in light of our current world pandemic situation, she feels that we are in a great spot with applications.

The teacher approval process has been an uphill battle, but will be completed within the next few days.

DCDEE continues to pay for the full slot enrollment, not based on attendance.

Applications and Outreach- Lyne shared that she and Lissy meet weekly to brainstorm Outreach opportunities. They have visited big box stores, neighborhoods, parks, greenways, restaurants, laundromats, farmers markets, and gas stations (to name a few). They are accepting applications via e-mail, fax, mail, or over the phone, and have adjusted their work hours to accommodate families.

Other Agency Reports-

DHS Subsidy: Elizabeth Heston reported that there were no August reports.

They have 192 families on their wait list, 279 of those are children.

Last month, 40 families terminated, and 14 moved out of the county.

There

are discussions about virtual provider visits for families.

There are no DCDEE updates.

Endless Opportunities:

Parents as Teachers: Lashonda Houston shared that they meet in a zoom group once per month. During this meeting, a teacher reads aloud a book (chosen in advance, and sent to the parents) and then does an activity that goes along with that book. This month is Hispanic Heritage month, so the book was read, and sent in Spanish.

They have gained four new participants this month.

Circle of Parents: Lashonda reported that they meet weekly via zoom, but that has been tough for these parents. They are feeling very isolated and alone.

Attached to the minutes will be information on all of the programs that Endless Opportunities provides. Lashonda encourages all of the Pre-school providers to sign up with Aunt Bertha (a data base that holds a plethora of services, and providers, to connect the families in our community with their needs).

RCCC: Nicole Sessoms shared that the Teacher Liaison Program currently has 70 participants, and new classes will begin in October.

RCCC has hired an additional Early Education liaison, (to make a total of three).

The liaisons hold a virtual meeting every Thursday evening, to offer support of any kind to their students.

If you need to reach Nicole.sessoms@rccc.edu 704-216-3526 or Waynette.taylor@rccc.edu 336-588-7833

Ann encouraged everyone to look into the RCCC programs, as she feels they will benefit everyone.

McKnight Family Support Center: Jennifer Baucom shared that McKnight has received a 4.5-million-dollar grant from Head Start to construct The McKnight Family Support Center which will include:

13 classrooms

Food Pantry

Full Bathroom

Kitchen

Clothing Closet

Laundry Matt

Offices for training and support

Jennifer also shared that they are creating a natural area in the back that will contain a playground which includes sensory activities for children.

The next NC Pre-K /Early Education Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 21, at 10 am through Zoom