

March 15, 2023

EE/NCPK Meeting Minutes

10:00-11:00 am

The Cabarrus Partnership for Children's local NC Pre-K Committee Meeting was called to order at 10:00am by Ann Benfield, NC Pre-K Committee Co-Chair, with a quorum was not present and maintained throughout the meeting.

Committee Members: Trina Wenzel, Waynett Taylor, Danielle Mauldin, Teresa Aldridge, Lashonda Houston, Jennifer Baucom, Samelia Jones, Elizabeth Heston, Debra Pless, Ann Benfield, Annie Parker, Deborah Beatty, Nicole Sessoms, Sue Rebich

Committee Members Present: Trina Wenzel, Teresa Aldridge, Jennifer Baucom, Samelia Jones, Elizabeth Heston, Nicole Sessoms, Waynett Taylor, Deborah Beatty

Committee Members Absent: Lora Lipe, Annie Parker, Lashonda Houston, Sue Rebich, Danielle Mauldin,

Guest Present: Spencer Swain, Alia Kenner, Andrea Mayle, Malinda Beard, Danielle Labinski

Staff Members Present: Ann Benfield, Patricia Sehorn, Hannah Wareham

Welcome and Introductions

Ann Benfield, committee co-chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Action Items

Agenda Overview and Approval of Minutes for January 18, 2023

Ann Benfield presented the meeting agenda and asked the committee to review the January 18, 2023 minutes. A request was made by Ann Benfield for any corrections. No corrections were needed for the minutes. Ann Benfield requested a motion to approve the minutes without any corrections. Samelia Jones approved the motion and Nicole Sessoms seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Approval of revised 2023-2024 Local Plan

Undue financial burdens were added to the 2023-2024 Local Guidelines. The following statement was added to the 2023-2024 assurance statements "I verify that NC Pre-K families will not be asked to pay for extra expenses such as school supplies, field trips, school uniforms, etc. Fees for meals or transportation can be submitted to the NC Pre-K Committee for approval." Ann Benfield requested for a motion to approve the revised 2023-2024 local plans. Samelia Jones made the motion to approve the local plans and Waynett Taylor seconded to approve all plans. All voted in favor.

Smart Kids

We did not reach quorum in the meeting so Smart Kids situation was not discussed or voted on.

NC Pre-K Updates-

Enrollment/Applications Update:

Patricia Sehorn stated there is a DIAL screening for April 28th and June 6th for about 120 students. We have not heard anything about additional slots.

NCPK Outreach Update

Patricia encouraged each site to do their own outreach in their area. Hannah stated that she and Lissy are doing outreach in the community and will be attending Hispanic resource night and Special Olympics in April.

Agency updates

Smart Start update:

Ann stated that the board has approved some of their programs and there will be some changes to Smart Start programming. They are adding a program for mental health. Ann is constantly educating to state legislators for more funding for early childhood education and for help with challenging behaviors in the classroom.

DHS Subsidy:

Elizabeth Heston stated they have served 672 applications since opening the subsidy application since August 2021, 159 pending vouchers and no waiting list for a voucher. They are finding many families are over income. Overages plus the family fees and registration fees are hard for families.

CCRI:

Samelia stated there are some zoom days through United for Change coming up with events for people to learn how to advocate.

CCS:

Trina stated that they are swamped with referrals, they have taken 10 referrals in 7 days and it is for children going to kindergarten. Trina stated that April 1st is the federal head count and she believes they will have over 400 children with special needs.

KCS/HS:

Jennifer stated they received over \$300,000 funding for the items lost in the flood. They are going to move forward with their new building but that will only affect their 3 year olds. They have a lot of applications coming in and she thinks they will have more applications than slots this year. She states that staffing and meeting 90 day deadlines is a challenge.

RCCC:

Nicole stated 2 weeks ago they participated in Read Across America. They just started the 2nd 8 week courses and they are working on PDPs. They have 120 participates in the program. They are offering 2 EDU 119 this summer.

Endless Opportunities:

Not present

With there being no other Committee business, the meeting concluded at 11:30. The next meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2023 at 10:00am.

Minutes taken and submitted by Hannah Wareham, NCPK Coordinator