

March 20, 2024

EE/NCPK Meeting Minutes

10:00 – 11:00

The Cabarrus County Partnership for Children’s local NC Pre-K Committee Meeting was called to order at 10:08 am by Ann Benfield, NC Pre-K Committee Co-Chair, a quorum was present throughout the meeting.

Committee Members Present: Ann Benfield, Elizabeth Heston, Sue Rebich, Nicole Sessoms, Lora Lipe, Starr Batts,

Committee Members Absent: Teresa Aldridge, Debra Pless, Erin Anderson, Deborah Beatty, Waynett Taylor, Lashonda Houston, Wynter Sexton

Guest Present: Andrea Mayle, Misty Mullins, Kris Parker, Melinda Beard, Andrea Mayle, Christy Hopkings

Staff Members Present: Patricia Sehorn

Welcome and Introduction:

Ann Benfield, committee co-chair, welcomed everyone and allowed everyone to introduce themselves.

Action Items:

Minutes of January 17, 2024

Ann Benfield presented the meeting agenda and asked the committee to review the January 17, 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. Nicole Sessoms approved the motion and Elizabeth Heston seconded the motion.

Site Selection Committee Recommendation

Richfield CDC – We recommend Richfield CDC for an approved NCPK site for FY 24-26, pending approval by DCDEE’s for the space for the NCPK classroom.

Kids Korner – We recommend Kids Korner for an approved NCPK site for FY 24-26 based on program meeting all NC Pre-K requirements, application information, site visit and interview.

Kids R Kids - We recommend Kids R Kids for an approved NCPK site for FY 24-26 based on program meeting all NC Pre-K requirements, application information, site visit and interview.

Smart Kids #10 - We recommend Smart Kids #10 for an approved NCPK site for FY 24-26 based on program meeting all NC Pre-K requirements, application information, site visit and interview.

Ann Benfield thanked Nicole Sessoms, Sue Rebich, Christy Hopkins and Lora Lipe for the volunteer work on the NCPK Site Selection Committee. We couldn't have done this without their help.

Ann Benfield asked if there were any questions, and if not, would a non-conflicted committee member move on the recommendations of the Site Selection Committee listed above.

Elizabeth Heston moved to approve the Site Selection of Richfield CDC, Kids Korner, Kids R Kids, and Smart Kids #10. Sue Rebich seconded the motion and all were in favor.

NCPK Updates:

Application Update

Patricia Sehorn reported we have received 250 applications to date and 125 are completed and ready for screening. We are hoping to do slot allocation at the May committee meeting.

Patricia Sehorn reminded everyone slot allocation is dependent on where children live and parent request, so slots will be determined by these two criteria.

Outreach

Patricia Sehorn reported that they are doing in areas of highest need and left cards in areas of Concord at the last outreach day. Today Tu'Nicquia is at the Senior Expo at the Cabarrus Arena today, because we know a lot of seniors are caring for their grandchildren. Lissy will be doing outreach in the Latino communities in the coming weeks. Tu'Nicquia will be going to weekly story hour at all the libraries around the county. So, please get out in your community and recruit in your area and neighborhood so we can fill all our slots by May.

Kindergarten Transition

Patricia Sehorn reported on Kindergarten Transition and stated that we should have a county-wide kindergarten transition plan, but we do not have one yet, but we have been working on kindergarten transition. In February, Cabarrus County Schools sponsored a county wide kindergarten transition event and had kindergarten teachers and different program choices for rising kindergarten children. The event was a huge event and was well attended by families. Kannapolis City Schools is hosting the same kind of event on April 2 and they are having a school wide screening for young children on March 29. Our County wide screening day is May 22nd.

Other Agency Reports

Smart Start

Ann Benfield reported that all current Smart Start programs will be continued for another year since we are in the second year of our contracting period. Hopefully that will work smoothly. We are also working on plans for our State Direct Grant funding and we do have a contract with the NCDHHS and we also submitted a request last week for proposal to implement the grant funding. We are very hopeful that we will get started soon on the plans for new programming.

DHS Subsidy

Elizabeth Heston reported that there are 133 children with vouchers that are looking for space in a child care facility. Parents are holding vouchers because they can't space where they can afford the copays, deposits, overages, and registration fees, which could be \$200. Some facilities have a 7-month wait. Last month they filled 64 placements. Staffing is still a big issue and centers have cut their hours, so parent can't find care for the hours in which their job requires, so one mother lost her job last week. It is very difficult for families and providers because there is not staff that wants to work in child care.

CCRI

Starr Batts reported from CCRI that they have trainings that she is doing especially for Cabarrus County and she will send out the fliers again so everyone is aware of their trainings. They can also provide assistance and training for questions about QRIS & ERS, so please call her and let them come out and help you with Transitions, Room Arrangement, ERS, etc. Starr reported that all Technical Assistance is free of charge to all providers, so please call.

CCS

Did not attend

KCS/HS

Did not attend

RCCC

Nicole Sessoms reported that they are very busy with PDPs and getting ready for summer & fall semesters. They are currently working with the participants to complete the PDPs. This past fall they did their first EDU 119 in Spanish and they are planning another one in the fall. Isha Goode is trying to find funding to assist clients that are not currently working in child care that wants to take the class. They have 102 participants and they will have 7-8 graduates this semester. They pinning ceremony is in May and Nicole will send the actual date soon. Please attend if you have never, because it is a total inspiration to see the graduates complete their life goal.

Endless Opportunities – Did not attend

P.U.R.E. Excellence – Did Not attend

Patricia Sehorn briefly mentioned the Saturday training for the Pyramid Model Training will be this Saturday and the next group will meet next Wednesday & Thursday at McGill Baptist Church. This cohort has about 35 participants.

With there being no other Committee business, the meeting concluded at 11:05 am. The next meeting is scheduled for May 15 at 10:00 am.

Minutes taken by Ann Benfield.