

NC Pre-Kindergarten/ Early Education Committee

Wednesday August 16, 2017

10am

The NC Pre-Kindergarten/ Early Education Committee met on Wednesday August 16, 2017 in the meeting room at Cabarrus DHS. Ann Benfield (Co-Chair) led the meeting that was attended by Skylia Soloman, Lora Lipe, Ashley Reid, Quwanya Thompson (via phone) , Danielle Mauldin, Patricia Sehorn, Deborah Beatty, Kimberly Hutchins, Dayen White, Elizabeth Albright, Jamie Clark and Ariel Ayers.

Committee Members not present: Maureen O'Bryan, Linda Roberts, Debbie Johnson, Tanisha Jones, Lashonda Houston, Sue Aschbrenner, Annie Parker, and Trina Wenzel.

Welcome

Ann Benfield welcomed everyone to the meeting. Quwanya Thompson called in via phone to attend the meeting.

Quorum

A voting quorum was established

Information/Updates:

Head Start (Ann)

Community Development Institute, or CDI is in charge of Head Start as of 7/1/17. We have not heard if their 10 classrooms are full and staffed. It is still unclear when the grant will be released.

Smart Start (Ann)

Ann shared all but one of the Smart Start contractors have signed contracts. We are still waiting for total allocations from state.

Smart Start Scholarship (Elizabeth)

Elizabeth shared staff is currently wrapping up appointments for families that need NC Pre-K wrap around care. The Smart Start Scholarship program is currently on hold from adding any new families to the program. Lissy is keeping a list of families interested in the program and will contact as soon as appointments are available.

DHS Subsidy (Lora)

Lora shared that there is a Market Rate increase scheduled for October 1st. She will send over that information to Ann. This will affect children Birth to 2 years old and will be for 3-5 star centers and homes. The current wait list reflects 378 families with 601 total children. In July, 79 children were added and 1 was removed. September is the start date for NC Fast. Cabarrus is in the last region for rollout. Lora will have a phone call this week to discuss the start date. Staff is continuing to do Provider

visits. There was a discussion about the NC FAST and suggestions were made to help have parents confirm their attendance.

Family Support (Elizabeth)

Elizabeth shared the flyer for SafetyPalaza.

NC Pre-K (Elizabeth)

Elizabeth shared that the staff is still meeting with families and calling for placement. We have temporarily suspended the use of PORCH system until the updates are made. She also reminded the group that Training Day for Teachers are this month. Child care centers teachers can attend either day. Lead Teachers must attend this training, assistants and directors/principals can attend if they like. Elizabeth will go over the changes to the documentation for suspension plan. There has been changes on a state level that goes along with our local plan. If the state plan has not been release, Elizabeth will go over the Local requirements with the teachers.

1. CCS teachers will be on August 23rd
2. KCS teachers will be on August 29th

Then next month, there will be a meeting for Principals and Directors to go over all of the changes to the Program guidelines and Requirements.

Action Items:

NC Pre-K/ Early Education minutes: Minutes for the June 13th meeting were submitted to the committee for approval. Lora Lipe made a motion to approve the minutes and the motion was seconded by Deborah Beatty.

Budget with Slot Allocations: Ariel distributed a revised budget proposal with slot allocations. She noted the changes at the bottom of the budget outlined proposed slot allocations for the 17-18 school year.

1. 260 Fully Funded Slots and 75 Dual Head Start Slots
2. A Mother's Touch will not be a site
3. 5 Additional slots at CCS –Mary Frances Wall Location
4. Reduce KCS by 24 slots (from 76 to 52)

Elizabeth explained, we have had a change at the site- A Mother's Touch child development center. This site had been approved to be a 2017-2018 school year. The week of placement the site shared they would not be able to be a NC Pre-K site due to staff.

We also spoke with Kannapolis City Schools and they have requested to return 24 slots.

There was a discussion if there was a Child Care Center that could take on atleast 9 more. Logan and Sunshine House said they would look at their staffing options and licensing options. Ann also shared that Lockhart may be option for additional slots as well.

Staff agreed to go back and look at the applications to determine how many could be potentially sent to each site.

Ashley Reid made a motion to approve the budget proposal and slot allocation for 2017-18 school year.
Lora Lipe seconded the motion.

Next scheduled meeting: September 20th , 10am at DHS

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10am