NC Pre-Kindergarten/Early Education Committee Meeting

Wednesday August 5, 2020

10:04 am

The NC Pre-Kindergarten/Early Education Committee met on August 5, 2020 at 10:04 am.

**Committee Members Present:** Lora Lipe, Annie Parker, Samelia Jones, Debra Pless, Daniel Mauldin, Trina Wenzel, Teresa Aldridge, Deborah Beatty, Sue Rebich, Ann Benfield

**Staff Members Present:** Patricia Sehorn, Lyne Goode, Ariel Ayers

**Guests Present:** Spencer Swain and Kimberly Hutchins, Kelly Huff, Kim Keesee, Elizabeth Heston

Ann Benfield opened the meeting and asked everyone to go around and introduce themselves. She introduced our new parent representative Amber Diley, and Elizabeth Heston, The New Child Care Subsidy Supervisor for DHS. Ann welcomed both of them to the committee.

**Action Items**

**Minutes-** Ann presented the minutes from the June 17, 2020 meeting, asked everyone to look over them, and for someone to make a motion to accept them. Lora moved to accept the minutes, Semelia, second the motion, all were in favor.

**2020-2021-2nd Round Slot Allocations**- were presented by Ariel via screen sharing. That chart will be e-mailed to everyone.

DEDEE sent documents stating that we are allotted 361 slots, and will be paid for the full year for all of the 361 slots. The sites will be paid on slot allocations, not attendance.

Trina asked why slots were being provided to sites outside our county. Ann reminded her that we have done that for several years for families who are Cabarrus County residents. The sites are just located out- side of the county.

Kim Keesee asked Trish how will the paperwork to document information be shared. Trish stated that she is waiting for guidance, and will share that as soon as it is developed.

Samelia posed a motion that we accept the slot allocations as is, Lora second the motion, all were in favor.

**NC Pre-K Update**

**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-**

At this point, our Zoom meeting disconnected. Trish asked if Lora Lipe would send us an e-mail that shared her update.

The following is what Lora sent:

Overspent allocation by $1M this past fiscal year.  $360,000 direct subsidy, remainder – covered P-Subsidy, Parent Fees, Teacher/Staff Bonuses. DCDEE covered the full amount. 

August parent fees will be waived and covered by direct county subsidy allocations.

DCDEE plans to pay the differential rate 83% up to 100% for school-agers due to COVID during the virtual remote learning for the upcoming school year. Vouchers will cover plan of care for child based on if attending Head Start, NCPK, or school age care.

NCPK – remain exempt from waiting list and will need to call DHS to apply or speak to current caseworker if child has an active case already in order to update plan of care.  A copy of the acceptance letter will be needed to have on file.  Updated caseload emailed to providers today.

Waiting list numbers as of the end of July – we are still working the list and are contacting families from June 2020 that are employed fulltime.  Waiting on State budget to be passed, but have preliminary allocation for fiscal year.

167 families

237 children

SERVED 191 children to date

New lead worker, Tessa MacRae will begin on Friday!  Not new to Child Care, but has been away for almost 3 years.

The next NC Pre-K /Early Education Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 16, at 10 am through Zoom