

NC Pre-Kindergarten/Early Education Committee

Wednesday, April 17, 2019

10:05 am

The NC Pre-Kindergarten/Early Education Committee met on Wednesday March 20, 2019.

Committee Members Present: Ann Benfield, LaShonda Houston, Samelia Jones, Danielle Mauldin, Kimberly Huchins, QuWayna Thompson, Deborah Beatty, Debra Pless, Lora Lipe, Wynett Taylor

Staff Members Present: Patricia Sehorn, Lyne Goode,

Guest Present: *Valerie Belk, Aurora Swain, Jessica Helms, Carmen Brown, Linda Roberts, Teresa Aldridge*

Ann Benfield opened the meeting and asked everyone to go around and introduce themselves.

Action Items

Minutes – Ann presented the minutes for the March 20, 2019 meeting, Samelia moved to accept the minutes and LaShonda second the motion, all were in favor.

Information Only-

Review and Approval of Local guidelines: Patricia asked everyone to review the handouts that she provided by e-mail, and hard copy. She shared that we were preparing for next year's NC Pre-K Program, and asked if anyone had any questions or changes to these documents. All policies were reviewed and accepted with the following changes:

1. Correction on Thompsons official name, and will not be offering behavioral support
2. Change Social Services to Cabarrus County Department of Human services
3. Correction of Cabarrus Partnership to Cabarrus County Partnership for Children

She reminded us all that the summer screening for NC Pre-K will be a huge undertaking, and asked all to consider volunteering.

Application and Outreach- Lyne shared that we have 174 completed NC Pre- K applications, and Patricia shared the exact numbers for each site.

269 families have been given an appointment

62 applications have been received through E-mail or fax

There was a plethora of NC Pre-K flyers and touch cards on the table that everyone was encouraged to take and pass out to their community.

Sites were encouraged to share what they were doing for outreach.

Smart Start Scholarship Program- Ann shared that the new programs were approved in March by the board, and has been submitted to the NC Department of Children. The board will focus on teacher training (with the assistance of RCC).

Ann also shared that the partnerships involvement with The Smart Start Subsidy Program will be ending as of June 30, 2019. The Partnership and DHS are working closely to provide a smooth transition for all families involved.

DHS Subsidy- Lora stated that they were diligently working on their wait list when the state directed them to halt the process. Before the halt, they were able to work through half of their waiting list. Unfortunately, DHS was given a lump sum for foster family assistance, not individual stipends, and they have exhausted that lump sum without being able to cover all of the family's needs. DHS will be having a conversation with the state, as to how to proceed.

Family Update: Lashonda shared that she is here to offer assistance with families in crisis. Please reach out to her with your needs.

Lashonda is actively recruiting for her Models group, as some of her girls are aging out. The requirements are that they must be a mom or dad between the ages of 14-21.

Other Agency Reports: Waynett shared that RCC is offering Saturday classes to help their students work on their degrees. On May 15, at 6:30, there will be a resilience video shown at The Jem Theater. It will allow 2 credit hours toward child care training, and there will be a discussion after the video. The first 100 people will receive free popcorn and drinks.

With no other agency reports the meeting was adjourned at 11:05

Our next meeting will be held on May 15, at 10am, in room 231 at the NC research campus