

NC Pre-Kindergarten/Early Education Committee

Wednesday, January 16, 2019

10:00 am

The NC Pre-Kindergarten/Early Education Committee met on Wednesday January 16, 2019.

Committee Members Present: Ann Benfield, Sue Rebich, Lashonda Houston, Lora Lipe, Debra Pless, Samelia Jones, Danielle Mauldin

Staff Members Present: Patricia Sehorn, Lyne Goode, Jamie Clark, Lauren Westin

Guest Present: Aurora Swain, Carmen Brown, Linda Roberts, Dee Almond, Richard Almond, Valerie Belk, Lasharee Rogers, Teresa Aldridge

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

Sue Rebich, Supervisor of Student Teachers, and Associate Professor at UNCC was introduced as a non- conflicted member to the committee. Valerie Belk, with Kannapolis city schools was introduced, and Lauren Westin was introduced as The Partnerships new Program Manager.

Action Items

Minutes – Ann presented the minutes for the October 17, 2018 meeting. Lashonda moved to accept the minutes with two corrections and Lora second the motion, all were in favor. The corrections for the minutes were the correct name of Thompsons (it was recorded as Thompsons Children’s Home), and the spelling of the word confirmation.

Ann shared with the group that Stephanie Bynum is no longer working for the Partnership as she has taken a full time job in Charleston.

Information Only-

The Biology of Stress + The Science of Hope video is available for sites. We encourage you to come by the Partnership and check out the DVD at your convenience, to show it to your staff.

Child Care Resources training calendar and Child Care Health Consultant & Thompson Training is posted quarterly at www.cabarruspartnership.org, with many training opportunities available. Please remember if the training is not utilized, the classes are at risk of being cancelled. If you are interested in any of the classes, please don’t wait to the last minute to sign up. The cost of renting space was brought up, and Ann said anyone who needed space for training should contact her with the dates and times, and she would arrange a space for the training free of cost.

Ann has been in contact with almost all pre-school directors in the area to inform them of The State Wide Salary Supplement Program for Infant/Toddler Teachers who have at least an Associate’s Degree in ECE. The website is <https://www.childcareservices.org/au/about-us/>

Flyers for the new TEACH program called Working Scholars were handed out. Ann encouraged everyone to share this with all of their early educators who are obtaining higher education. The past barriers such as employee sponsorship are no longer an issue.

Updates:

NC-Pre-K – Trisha shared that the site monitoring was complete, and the program monitoring tool is due in February. She visited 14 sites, and 4 action plans were issued. A detailed report will be given to the committee in May.

Trisha said The Conscious Discipline Training workshop was successful, and will be offered again on January 22 and 23 for NCPK teacher assistants. It is open if anyone is interested in attending.

She stated that the suspension policy is being enforced, and there have been no major issues this year. One child was evaluated, and is being supported, and two children have been referred to Thompsons.

Her next focus will involve transition planning, and she will reach out to individual sites to offer support. Please remember these need to be recorded on your family engagement plans.

Trisha reminded the group that the NC Pre-K process will be updated in 2019, to include health and screening being completed before a child is placed at a site. This will help insure that all our children are identified for any additional services they may need sooner.

Application and Outreach- Lyne stated that the Partnership opened the NC Pre-K 2019-2020 application process on January 4th.

Monday January 7th, was our first app day in the office. We scheduled 12 appointments.

4 people called and cancelled

3 came to their appointment with all of the required paperwork

3 were no shows

2 came to their appointments, but were rescheduled for another day because they didn't have the required paperwork

Future appointments are scheduled for 1-24, 1-29, 2-4, and 2-7

Smart Start Programs- Lauren shared that the bidding process has ended and the partnership has received quite a few new proposals. Unfortunately, we do not have enough money to implement them all, and the board will have some decisions to make as to which ones we will choose to work with.

Smart Start Scholarship Program- Jamie stated that the Partnership is diligently working to gain 6-9 more qualified children to add to the program. It is a “hurry up and wait process”, as families must be given time to respond to phone calls, and gather needed documents for their appointments.

Ann presented to the committee that there had been discussion of the possibility of handing over all of The Partnerships Smart Start Scholarship responsibilities to DHS. Please remember, no decision has been made as of yet, as it is still in the discussion phase.

Lashonda asked if the teen parents would still be a priority for DHS, Ann was unsure.

Lasharee asked if the student parents would still receive priority? Ann reminded her, that they aren't currently looked at as a priority, and never have been.

Linda was concerned about families with non- traditional working hours, and how that would affect them. Lora reminded her that DHS considered the welfare of the children they serve as their top priority, and that the program runs according to their needs.

DHS Subsidy- Lora shared that she was still working her list of families in need. 108 children have been added to the program from the waiting list. The list currently has 574 children on it, 408 families. They removed 80 families in December, and added 29.

There have been quite a few policy changes for instance, if a parents' income goes up during their voucher term, it will not be reevaluated to increase that parent fee, until that family is up for recert. Also, on February 1st, the 90-day phase out policy will be changed to extend that through certification of recert, which will directly affect the waiting list.

Family Update: Lashonda wanted to thank The Crew Angels for their Christmas gifts for 60 children, and asked that teachers send thank you notes to them. She shared that she has some sleepers in size 6 to 9 months if there is anyone that can use them, and handed out a food pantry list.

Ann expressed concern about the community needs for food, and their childcare subsidy funding running out. She asked us all to share this need with anyone who will listen.

Ann said that if anyone had clothing needs or furniture needs, please contact us.

Our next meeting will be at 10:00 on February 20, in the DHS Meeting Room.

With no other agency reports the meeting was adjourned at 11:07