

NC Pre-Kindergarten/Early Education Committee Meeting

Wednesday May 20, 2020

10:04 am

The NC Pre-Kindergarten/Early Education Committee met on May 20, 2020 at 10:04 am.

Committee Members Present: Lora Lipe, Susan Rebich, Waynett Taylor, Samelia Jones, Debra Pless, Jennifer Baucom, Daniel Mauldin, Trina Wenzel, Teresa Aldridge, Deborah Beatty

Staff Members Present: Patricia Seahorn, Lyne Goode, Ariel Ayers, Ann Benfield

Guests Present: Valerie Belk, Nicole Sessoms, Spencer Swain, Lashonda Houston, QuWanya Thompson, Lyndsey Pelussi, Ebony Beatty, Crystal Hill, Kimberly Hutchins, and Carmen Browne

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

Action Items

Minutes- Ann presented the minutes from the January 15, 2020 meeting, asked everyone to look over them, and for someone to make a motion to accept them. Lora moved to accept the minutes, Samelia second the motion, all were in favor.

Selection/Approval of Contracting Agency- Patricia Seahorn asked if there was anyone present who would like to make a motion to nominate an agency. Lora nominated The Cabarrus Partnership for Children, Sue second the motion, all were in favor.

Adaption of The Conflict of Interest Policy- Patricia Seahorn asked if anyone wanted to make a motion to adopt The Conflict of Interest Policy. Samelia made a motion to approve the policy, Lora second the motion, all were in favor.

Approval of the 2020-2021 NC Pre-K/Early Education Committee meeting schedule- The meeting takes place the third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 am. Lora made a motion to adopt the meeting schedule, Waynett second the motion, all were in favor.

Assurances and Requirements Sec. 1 Signatures- Patricia shared with the committee that she is seeking approval to obtain the use of doccu sign.

Adaptation of Transitions, Family Engagement, ESL Families, Transportation, Suspension and Expulsion Policies- Waynett made a motion to accept the policy, Samelia second it, all were in favor.

2019-2020 Contract and Budget Review- Ariel shared the budget spreadsheet and asked if anyone had any questions. There were no questions so Waynett made a motion to accept the budget, Lora second the motion, all were in favor.

Site Selection Committee Recommendations- Patricia introduced the committee members, Waynett Taylor, Sue Rebich, and Samelia Jones. A reminder that any current site without an action plan, did not have to reapply, and would continue to be an NC Pre-K Site during the 2020-2022 contract cycle was shared with the committee.

The Site Selection Committee shared that they visited each site that applied, and screen shared the rubric with their findings (this completed rubric will be sent to each applicant). The rubric looked at 5 standards for each site, and their scores were based out of 100. All sites who applied scored a 70 or above with the exception of Bethel, Bogart, Kids R Kids, and Save the children. The chart listed both concerns and accolades for each site.

Waynett asked the NC Pre K/ Early Education committee to discuss Bethel and Boger to determine if it would be appropriate to allow them to be chosen as a site. Although, both sites were well organized, and very informative, The Site Selection Committee was concerned that these two sites were not set up appropriately for a NC Pre-K classroom. Crystal Hill and Trina Wenzel disagreed with their findings, stating that both schools were operating with a temporary license, and children were already using the classrooms.

The Site Selection Committee shared their experience at Kids R Kids, stating that the director was not interested in improving salary and training for the staff, nor could he answer most of their questions. He was unorganized, and had limited knowledge of his sites procedures and policies. Therefore, The Site Selection committee did not recommend that Kids R Kids be approved as an NC Pre-K Site.

The Site Selection Committee shared that during their visit to Save The Children, the site was chaotic, unorganized, and lacked focus. They suggested that the site focus on making their Head Start commitment successful before they took on anything else. Therefore, The Site Selection Committee did not recommend that Save the Children be approved as an NC Pre-K Site.

Lashonda asked if Save the Children would still be serving children, because several of her teen moms use the program. Patricia clarified that yes, the children would still be served, they would just not receive dual funding for a NC Pre-K classroom. The motion to approve all sites who applied to be an Nc Pre-K site during the 2020-2022 contract cycle with the exception of Save The Children and Kids R Kids was made by Waynett, it was second by Lora, all were in favor. Each site was approved by name during this process.

Trina asked how the poverty level was determined in the process. Patricia shared that a map which indicated high, medium and low poverty areas was used.

Patricia thanked the Site Selection Committee for their hard work and many long hours.

Monitoring- This was not discussed

Applications and Outreach- Patricia shared that we have 145 completed applications to date, and is worried that we have not reached all in need. Lyne shared what our Covid Outreach looks like. Lyne has been creating Social Media videos weekly, posting things on the CPC website, contacting community organizations such as (The Dream Center, CCM, Parks and Rec, The Housing Authority, Drive through Food Pantries, and local apartment Complexes and sending them postcards to hand out to families.) Patricia stressed that we need everyone to do their part with outreach to get more applications. She also shared that we have received no applications from Save The Children.

Please share with families that both the NC Pre-K Application, and the ways that you can turn it in are listed on our website.

Information Only

Schools Out Bash- Has been rescheduled to Saturday June 1, 2021.

Other Agency Reports

Smart Start Programs- Ann shared that we are in a two-year bid cycle. We will be continuing most of our current programs with the exception of Project Baby Reach, Incredible Years, and Kaleidoscope.

DHS Subsidy Updates- Lora shared that they were doing phone interviews with clients, and served 125 children off their waiting list. As a result, they have cleared their Special Needs and Homelessness waiting list. They are close to clearing their fulltime waiting list. They anticipate overspending, but the state confirmed they would reimburse them.

Lora has taken a new position as the DHS Program Administrator, Economic Family Support Services.

Family Update- Ann shared that Lashonda is doing virtual PAT visits, and in contact with her teen moms. The county detention center is closed, but are still being sent packets.

Other Program Highlights- Nicole shared that RCCC has received an education grant. They have been doing virtual meetings with their 46 students. Spring semester has just finished, and graduation has been completed for the semester.

Jennifer Baucom shared that Head Start received a grant for a new roof, and they are in the process of trying to purchase a new building.

Next NC Pre-K /Early Education Meeting will be held on Wednesday June 17, 2020 at 10:00 am. Format/Location will be announced