

**December 15, 2021**

**EE/NCPK Committee Meeting**

**Minutes**

**10:00-11:00**

**Committee Members Present:** Deborah Beatty, Sue Rebich, Elizabeth Heston, Debra Pless, Lashonda Houston, Jennifer Baucom, Samelia Jones, Trina Wenzel, Waynett Taylor, Teresa Aldridge

**Guest Present:** Andrea Mayle, Spencer Swain,

**Staff Members Present:** Ann Benfield, Patricia Sehorn

Co-Chair Waynett Taylor opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

**Action Items:**

- **Minutes of the October 20, 2021** meeting were read. Samelia Jones made a motion to approve, Elizabeth Heston seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.
- **Site Selection-** A community interest meeting was held on December 8<sup>th</sup> and a make-up session will be held on December 16<sup>th</sup> for sites impacted by COVID closures. The site selection process, application, decision tree and scoring rubric was shared with all interested directions. Applications are due to the Cabarrus Partnership for Children by January 28<sup>th</sup>. The standardized site selection materials, process and timelines were reviewed with the committee. The following non-conflicted members were voted on approved to serve on the site selection sub-committee: Sue Rebich, Lora Lipe, Samelia Jones, Nicole Sessoms and QuWanya Thompson. This committee will begin its work on or around February 15<sup>th</sup>.

Patricia gave the following NCPK Updates: Applications Updates:

- **Applications-**6 new in process, will start outreach in January for 2022-2023 Year. I will coordinate an application meeting with HS, CCS to make any updated or needed changes to our universal application. I hope to start taking applications by Jan 15,
- **Placement Update-** 348 out of 351 slots filled. The state percentage for our region is 75%. Ours is 99%'
- **Waitlist-** 40 still on the list plus the 6 in process
- **Monitoring Update-** 3 private sites are completely finished with no non-compliance issues. Logan, St. James and CB. These were desk reviews. The rest will be on-site and those are being scheduled now. All have to be completed by Jan. 31.
- **Regional Meeting Updates-**House Bill 366 • NC Pre-K School Options (effective January 1, 2022) – DCDEE will be required to post the following information on its website: • The educational opportunities for kindergarten offered by local LEA, Charter Schools, and for enrollment in nonpublic schools. NC Pre-K programs will be required to provide all families with the address of the website where the information can be found and a brief description of the information available

**Agency updates were provided by the following agencies:**

**Smart Start- The Annual Cuddle Up Coat Drive** has started and will continue through January 31<sup>st</sup>. There are various collection sites throughout the county. Coats will be given out to any child in need through request submitted to the Cabarrus Partnership for children.

**Duffle Bags of Hope** -Ann also reported that a new project to collect donations to the Duffle Bags of Hope. This project is to provide essential items to older children placed in foster care.

**Smart Start-** The Annual Report for the Cabarrus Partnership for Children is now available on the Cabarrus Partnership for Children website.

**State Budget-** NC Smart Start received 20 million dollars. The Cabarrus Partnership for Children will receive \$170,00. Will be used to increase “Wages” to \$19 per hour.

**Stabilization Grants-** The Cabarrus Partnership for Children has been providing information to childcare programs and assisting with applying.

**New Staff Hire-** A new staff person has been hired to fill a vacant position. She will start to work in January.

**DHS Subsidy-** Elizabeth Heston provided the following update on the Child Care Subsidy in Cabarrus County: As of now there is not full time waiting list. All families have until February 28<sup>th</sup> to reply. Many are unemployed or over income. There are still 169 still remaining on the part-time waiting list and before and after care.

**CCS-** Staff are going around to finish up Dials for NCPK students who started after Aug. These should all be completed by this Friday. The Exceptional Children’s Program is behind due to COVID 19 with processing referrals and evaluations. Most are outside of the 90 day timeline. Referrals have increased significantly since COVID-19 started.

**KCS/HS-** No one present at meeting.

**RCCC-** No one present at meeting.

**Cabarrus HS-** No one present at meeting.

**Endless Opportunities-** No one present at meeting.

**CCRI:** Samelia shared that they are working more information about the stabilization grants. Trying to find out how money will be distributed.

Waynett thanked everyone for attending and the was adjourned at 10:35

The next meeting will be held on January 19, 2021 at 10:00 via Zoom.