

NC Pre-Kindergarten/Early Education Committee

Tuesday, September, 18, 2019

10:05 am

The NC Pre-Kindergarten/Early Education Committee met on September 18, 2019.

Committee Members Present: Ann Benfield, Lora Lipe, Waynett Taylor, Trina Wenzel, Amethyst Denney, Sue Rebich, Debra Pless, Deborah Beatty, Teresa Aldridge

Staff Members Present: Patricia Sehorn, Lyne Goode

Guest Present: *Aurora Swain, Valerie Belk, QuWanya Thompson*

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

Action Items

Minutes – Ann presented the minutes for the July 17, 2019 meeting. Waynett moved to accept the minutes and Lora second the motion, all were in favor.

Review NC Pre-K Budget/Allocations Patricia shared with the group during the last meeting that we were awarded \$46,408.00 in expansion money. A week later, DCDEE revised the amount to just over \$54,000. While we are thankful for the funds, it is not enough money to award a full classroom of slots. We had hoped the Cabarrus Head Start program would be up and running so we could support them with some dual slots. However, that will not be able to happen this school year. The board voted on option #1 to request a rate exception from the state and to go with option # 2 to add 9 additional slots at Cabarrus Bilingual and 2 additional at Woodrow Wilson in the event the rate exception is denied. The rate exception was submitted to DCDEE and it was denied. So, option #2 was implemented. The additional slots have been filled and currently we are serving 360 children. Overall, applications have been down the waitlist is below normal. We currently have enough funds with the revised expansion from the state and apps to consider awarding Woodrow Wilson 2 more slots, putting them up to 42. They are currently down 5 slots from last year.

Waynett moved on the motion, and Lora second the motion. All non-conflicted members voted in favor, Lora Lipe, Amethyst Denney, Waynett Taylor and Sue Rebich.

Information Only

Cabarrus Head Start – Ann reminded us that Save the Children Alliance is the new Head Start grantee for Cabarrus County. We think they are open from 12-4 daily for the children who attended last year. However, we are not positive because they have stopped communicating with us. They are currently accepting applications and hope to be operational on October 1, November, for Infant/Toddlers. Christopher Felder is the new Director. His number is 704-647-7114 cfelder@savechildren.org

Screening and Placement: Patricia shared that we have 360 currently enrolled Pre-K children, 75 are dual funded. We have Dial screened 323 children, and originally placed 382, (22 dropped out). We have 72 children on our waiting list, 30 still need Dial Screening. We will take applications through the end of October. Patricia also shared that we have been chosen to be mentored for the Universal Pre-K application by Forsythe county. This means that there will be one Pre-K app for Head Start, Title One, and NC Pre-K. We have also been awarded \$3000.00 to help with the mentoring.

Outreach- Lyne shared that she and Lissy attended the CHA on Monday, to promote NC Pre-K, and DPIL. Sue shared that the quality of the DIPL books are wonderful. Lora suggested outreach at the Dream Center. Ann will check into it.

Smart Start Programs- Ann shared that all of these programs have signed their contracts, and are operating. She also shared that RCCC has added a teacher liaison position to their staff. Waynette said to call either of them, and they will do whatever is needed to help recruit, and enroll future teachers.

Deborah and Melissa have become certified as CPR instructors. Hopefully, this will help with the center concerns of not having enough CPR classes that are convenient for their teachers.

Ann shared that the Partnership will be adding an additional program in house, The Sun Project. This program focuses on expectant moms who are addicted, to help them manage postpartum depression. The program will offer support and education to these moms and babies that include, a dr. to manage their medication and to offer mental health support. Our hope is to help ween these moms off their addiction within a year.

DHS Subsidy- Lora shared that they are now fully staffed, and provider visits have resumed. The waiting list is on hold until the budget is released. It contains 368 families, 561 children. They are on hold for Work First families, and the wait list for homeless and special needs families was initiated again.

Family Update: Lashonda was out of town. However, Ann had some items to share.

Lashonda's program that works with The Cabarrus County "Embassy", jail, has become very successful. It has been tracked for the past 3 years, and 90% of these woman do not become repeat offenders. There will be another Circle of Parents Program opening soon, Lashonda will share the details as they become available. Finally, if you want information about Kaleidoscope, contact Ann.

With no other agency reports the meeting was adjourned at 10:50.

Respectfully Submitted by Lyne Goode

Next NCPK Early Education Meeting

Wednesday, October 16, 2019 10:00

In the Board Room (across the hall from the auditorium)