

**CABARRUS COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
Tuesday, June 25, 2024**

The Board of Directors of the Cabarrus County Partnership for Children met on Tuesday, June 25, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. at the Cabarrus County Partnership for Children Office and via requested Zoom link, which was advertised on our website and in our newsletter. Executive Director Ann Benfield presided over the meeting.

These board members were present:

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|---------------------|---|
| 1. Gil Small | Community/Faith Community |
| 2. Steve Morris | County Commissioner/Government |
| 3. Patrick Graham | CFEA/Community/Services |
| 4. Jackie Whitfield | Community/Faith Community |
| 5. Kevin Garay | Government/Superintendent Kannapolis City Schools |
| 6. Malisha Ross | Services/Partners BHM |
| 7. Lora Lipe | Government/DHS/Subsidy |
| 8. Melanie Holles | Government/Libraries |
| 9. Pam Smith | CCM/Community/Services |

These board members were absent:

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. Amos McClorey | Services/NAACP |
| 2. John Kopicki | Government/Superintendent Cabarrus County Schools |
| 3. Judge Beth Street | Government/Judge |
| 4. Marcella Beam | CHA/Community/Services |
| 5. Danielle Mauldin | Owner of Kids Korner/Services |

A quorum was present.

These staff members were present: Ann Benfield, Ariel Ayers, and Lauren Westin

Welcome:

Ann Benfield welcomed board members and thanked them for attending the board meeting.

Approval of Agenda:

The Board reviewed the agenda for today's meeting.

Steve Morris made a motion to approve the agenda.

2nd: Malisha Ross

All were in favor.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

The board reviewed the consent agenda documents that were emailed to members prior to the meeting, including: Minutes of April 23, 2024 board meeting, June 2024 ED Report, May 28, 2024 Executive Committee Minutes, FY23-24 SS Expenditures, FY23-24 NCPK Expenditures, FY23-24 Other Funds Report, and FY23-24 Final SUN Project Report.

Kevin Garay made a motion to approve the consent agenda items.

2nd: Gil Small

All were in favor.

FY 24-25 Slate of Officers/New Board members and Board Thank Yous:

Ann Benfield presented that a new slate of officers has been identified by the Partnership for FY24-25.

Board Chair: Pam Smith

Board Vice Chair: Marcella Beam (continuing in office)

Board Treasurer: Gil Small (continuing in office)

Board Secretary: Lora Lipe

Steve Morris made the motion to accept the new slate of officers for FY24-25.

2nd: Gil Small

All were in favor.

Ann Benfield reported that the Executive Committee sends the recommendation for the Board's approval of two new Board Members:

Aalece Pugh – Cabarrus County Assistant County Manager
Timbs Fulghum – Community Engagement/Outreach Atrium Cabarrus

All were in favor of approving the new members.

Ann Benfield then thanked to Board Members who are rotating off at the end of June. She presented a certificate of participation and a thank you letter to Patrick Graham and Amos McClorey (not present).

Approval of Smart Start Program Rankings FY24-25:

Lauren Westin presented that the Program Oversight Committee met and reviewed the approved Smart Start programming for FY24-25 and then determined their recommended priority ranking of each program based on community need. The rankings were as follows:

Program Oversight Recommendations for FY24-25 Programming										
Activity	FY23-24 Ranking	FY24-25 Ranking	Funding Motion	Funding 2nd	ASA Motion	ASA 2nd	Program Oversight Approval 2/13/24	Board Approved Recommendation 2/27/24	Comments	Conflict ed Members, Abstained from Voting
SUBSIDY										
Subsidy	MANDATORY	MANDATORY	MANDATORY	MANDATORY	CH	GC	All in Favor	All in Favor		AM/DM /SM/LL
NC Pre-K Program	MANDATORY	MANDATORY	MANDATORY	MANDATORY	LL	PS	All in Favor	All in Favor		SM/AM /DM
ADDITIONAL CHILD CARE RELATED										
Subsidy Administration	MANDATORY	MANDATORY	MANDATORY	MANDATORY	CH	GC	All in Favor	All in Favor		AM/DM /SM/LL
NC Pre-K Non TANF	MANDATORY	MANDATORY	MANDATORY	MANDATORY	LL	PS	All in Favor	All in Favor		SM/KG/ JK
NC Pre-K TANF	MANDATORY	MANDATORY	MANDATORY	MANDATORY	LL	PS	All in Favor	All in Favor		SM/KG/ JK
Child Care Health Consultants	1	1	Gale Coor	Danielle Mauldin	LL	PS	All in Favor	All in Favor		AM/DM
Early Education Liaison	2	2	Gale Coor	Danielle Mauldin	LL	PS	All in Favor	All in Favor		AM/DM /SM
Inclusive Child Care	3	3	Gale Coor	Danielle Mauldin	LL	PS	All in Favor	All in Favor		AM/DM
WAGES	4	4	Gale Coor	Danielle Mauldin	LL	PS	All in Favor	All in Favor		AM/DM
FAMILY, HEALTH and OTHER PROGRAMS										
ABCD	1	1	Gale Coor	Marcella Beam	PS	MB	All in Favor	All in Favor		SM

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library	6	6	Gale Coor	Marcella Beam	PS	MB	All in Favor	All in Favor		
Emergency Dental	3	3	Gale Coor	Marcella Beam	PS	MB	All in Favor	All in Favor		SM
Program Management/Evaluation	MANDATORY	MANDATORY	Gale Coor	Marcella Beam	PS	MB	All in Favor	All in Favor		
Public Education & Outreach	MANDATORY	MANDATORY	Gale Coor	Marcella Beam	PS	MB	All in Favor	All in Favor		
Safe Kids	4	4	Gale Coor	Marcella Beam	PS	MB	All in Favor	All in Favor		
Social Emotional Intervention	2	2	Gale Coor	Marcella Beam	PS	MB	All in Favor	All in Favor		
SUN Project	5	5	Gale Coor	Marcella Beam	PS	MB	All in Favor	All in Favor		SM

The Board then voted to approve the rankings for Subsidy, NC Pre-K Program, Subsidy Administration, NC Pre-K Non TANF, NC Pre-K TANF, and Early Education Liaison with Lora Lipe, Kevin Garay, and Steve Morris abstaining.

The Board then voted to approve the rankings for Child Care Health Consultants, Inclusive Child Care, WAGE\$, ABCD, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, Emergency Dental, Program Management/Evaluation, Public Education & Outreach, Safe Kids, Social Emotional Intervention, and SUN Project with Steve Morris abstaining.

FY24-25 Coat Allocation Plan:

Ariel Ayers presented the following Cost Allocation Plan for determining how to split general office expenses for the next fiscal year.

Allocation of Salaries & Benefits:

Staff	FTE	Position	Percentages
Ann Benfield	1.00	Executive Director	75% SS Admin; 10% Public Education; 5% Program Management; 5% SDG Admin; 5% SDG CS
Ariel Ayers	0.75	Finance Manager	80% SS Admin; 15% SDG Admin; 5% NCPK Admin
Lauren Westin	1.00	Program Manager	70% PM; 10% DPIL; 5% Public Ed; 5% SS Admin; 5% SDG Admin; 5% SDG CS
Patricia Sehom	0.80	NCPK Prog Man	100% NCPK Admin
Tu'Nicquia Bradley	1.00	NCPK Coordinator	70% NCPK Admin; 15% SDG CS; 5% SK; 5% DPIL; 5% Public Ed
Lissy Rios	0.80	Admin Assistant	50% NCPK Admin; 50% SS Admin
Debra Pless	1.00	CCHC	100% CCHC
Melissa Jones	1.00	CCHC	60% Cabarrus CCHC; 40% Stanly CCHC
Starla Hatley	1.00	SS Programs	50% Safe Kids; 20% ABCD; 20% Public Ed; 5% DPIL; 5% SDG CS
Total	8.35		

Supplies, Business Insurance, Copier/Fax Lease, Computer Maintenance, Telephone/Internet , and other relevant expenses will be allocated based on the following percentages (unless a cost is directly associated with a specific program(s) in which case it will be charged directly to the program's funding)

Activity	FTE	%
Administration	1.8000	21.56%
CCHC Cabarrus	1.6000	19.16%
ABCD	0.2000	2.40%
Safe Kids	0.5500	6.59%
Public Ed	0.4000	4.79%
Program Management	0.7500	8.98%
SDG Admin	0.2125	2.54%
SDG CS	0.3000	3.59%
DPIL	0.2000	2.40%
NCPK	1.9375	23.20%
CCHC Stanly	0.4000	4.79%
Total FTE	8.35	100.00%

Gil Small made the motion to accept the Cost Allocation Plan for FY24-25 as presented.

2nd: Malisha Ross

All were in favor.

FY24-25 Smart Start Allocation:

Ariel Ayers then presented the proposed allocation for Smart Start funds below.

Activity	DSP	Recommended Changes to Program Design	FY23-24 Actual Funding *Includes 22-23 CF & Add'l Req Subsidy	POC Rec Priority	Requested FY24-25 Allocation	Pr FY24-2
Proposed FY24-25 Smart Start Services Funds			2,339,419.00		2,213,009.00	
SUBSIDY						
Subsidy	DHS	Establish Priorities: DHS subsidy priorities	645,000	Mandatory	600,000	
NC Pre-K Program TANF	Partnership		296,410		273,600	
TOTAL SUBSIDY		FY24-25 Required TANF = \$864,520	941,410		873,600	
ADDITIONAL CHILD CARE RELATED						
Subsidy Administration	DHS		59,500		60,000	
NC Pre-K Program Non-TANF	Partnership		34,865		28,500	
Child Care Health Consultants	Partnership		194,441	1	240,140	
WAGES	CCSA		187,575	4*1	399,512	
Early Education Liaison	RCCC		244,766	2	253,765	
Inclusive Child Care	PE		255,854	3	299,981	
OTAL OTHER CHILD CARE RELATED			977,001		1,281,898	
TOTAL SUBSIDY/ADD'L CHILD CARE RELATED		FY24-25 Req Subsidy & Add'l Child Care Related = \$1,549,106	1,918,411		2,155,498	
FAMILY, HEALTH AND OTHER PROGRAMS						
ABCD	Partnership		37,587	1	27,986	
Emergency Dental	CHA		36,259	3	30,000	
Dolly Parton Imagination Library	Partnership		6,876	6	7,067	
Program Management/Evaluation	Partnership		129,798	Mandatory	101,894	
Public Education & Outreach	Partnership		51,763	Mandatory	74,047	
Safe Kids	Partnership		52,059	4	70,078	
Social Emotional Intervention	KIDS		105,389	2	135,000	
SUN Project	Partnership		1,277	5	0	
TOTAL OTHER			421,008		446,072	
TOTAL			2,339,419		2,601,570	
Admin			244,139		234,139	
OVER/UNDER ALLOCATION			0		-388,561	

Malisha Ross made the motion to approve the proposed allocations for Subsidy, NC Pre-K Program TANF, Subsidy Administration, NC Pre-K Program Non-TANF, Early Education Liaison, ABCD, Emergency Dental, and the SUN Project as presented.

2nd: Patrick Graham

All were in favor, with Lora Lipe, Steve Morris, and Kevin Garay abstaining.

Gil Small made the motion to approve the proposed allocations for Child Care Health Consultants, WAGES, Inclusive Child Care, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, Program Management/Evaluation, Public Education & Outreach, Safe Kids, and Social Emotional Intervention as presented.

2nd: Malisha Ross

All were in favor with no abstentions.

FY24-25 State Directed Grant Allocation & Funding in the Bank:

Ariel Ayers presented the following proposed allocation for the State Directed Grant funds.

Activity	Allocation Approved at January Exec Comm Mtg	Rank	Proposal Amount Requested	DSP	Proposed Allocation	Comments
State Directed Grant Award Amount	2,000,000				2,000,000	
Cabarrus Share	900,000	2	n/a	CPC	850,000	Costs of program still unknown; may need to increase
Child Care Health Consultants *to increase WAGES	228,750	1	n/a	CPC	246,310	WAGE\$ estimate increased since January
Public Education *to increase WAGES	20,000	1	n/a	CPC	71,390	WAGE\$ estimate increased since January
NC Pre K SS Support *to increase WAGES	20,000	1	n/a	CCS/KCS	32,860	WAGE\$ estimate increased since January
Increase Preschool Capacity	200,000	9	262,000	CCS	131,000	Reduced from proposal amount due to unknown Cab
Grants for Child Care Programs	200,000	5	n/a	CPC	50,000	Costs of program still unknown; may need to increase
Cabarrus Teacher On Call	100,000	7	188,165	PE	155,000	Reduced from proposal amount due to unknown Cab
Conscious Discipline	106,250	6	148,136	PE	129,315	Reduced from proposal amount due to unknown Cab
Parents as Teachers	50,000	3	217,006	EO	177,006	Reduced from proposal amount due to unknown Cab
Bilingual Dental Navigator	50,000	8	156,297	CHA	103,618	Reduced from proposal amount due to unknown Cab
Reduce Chemical Exposure	25,000	n/a	31,825	CHA	0	Proposal denied
Administration	92,971	n/a	n/a	CPC	46,472	Reduced due to unknown Cabarrus Share program cos
Evaluation	7,029	4	7,029	CPC	7,029	Included within Partnership indirect amount
	\$2,000,000				\$2,000,000	

Patrick Graham made the motion to approve the proposed allocations for NC Pre-K Smart Start Support, Increase Preschool Capacity, Bilingual Dental Navigator, and Reduce Chemical Exposure as presented.

2nd: Lora Lipe

All were in favor with Steve Morris and Kevin Garay abstaining.

Patrick Graham made the motion to approve the proposed allocations for Cabarrus Share, Child Care Health Consultants, Public Education, Grants for Child Care Programs, Cabarrus Teacher On Call, Conscious Discipline, Parents As Teachers, Administraiton and Evaluation as presented.

2nd: Gil Small

All were in favor with no abstentions.

Ann Benfield presented that we have received the full \$2 Million in our bank account, and we are allowed to invest some of the money as long as the money made from investing is spent on the same purposes as the grant. Our bank has informed Ann that we will be able to put the funds in a money market account that will get us approximately 5% interest.

Gil Small moved to invest the \$2 Million.

2nd: Malisha Ross

All were in favor.

Governor Cooper Visit:

Ann Benfield told the board that Governor Cooper's Press Secretary reached out yesterday to inform Ann that Governor Cooper would be visiting Cabarrus Bilingual Preschool on Thursday, June 27, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. and asked if Ann would speak. Ann invited Board Members to join her and represent the Partnership as this event.

FY24-29 Strategic Plan:

Ann Benfield presented that Robbie Furr has been hard at work on the Strategic Plan. A survey was completed and received approximately 100 responses, which is much more than we've ever received in years past. Robbie will begin starting one-on-one interviews in the next couple of months.

Updated Data on Child Care Services:

Ann Benfield presented that we had recently performed an updated State of Child Care Survey, and the updated presentation that she uses for the Early Childhood Task Force and other presentations has been updated to reflect the new data. A copy of the updated presentation was given to each Board Member in attendance. She noted that she had a 54% rate of response from Child Care Centers and Homes.

Implementation of Cabarrus Share Grant Program & Flex Plex Partnership:

Ann Benfield presented that she is having a hard time getting the municipalities to agree on the percent of poverty that will be used for the Cabarrus Share Program. The Board had a discussion that really it would need to be 400% of poverty or more for multi-parent households in order to serve the target population that does not qualify to NC Pre-K and Subsidy, but is still struggling. After a lengthy discussion Gil Small moved to increase the poverty level for Cabarrus Share Grant Plan to 400% of poverty and Malisha Ross seconded.

Ann Benfield is also working with Families First of Cabarrus County's Spencer Swain and McGill Learning Center to bring the Flex Plex idea to Cabarrus County. McGill has an entire wing that does not have children in it, and due to the rule change they should be able to license those classrooms that have an external exit separately, so that they can be rented and utilized by Family Child Care Home providers. It has been a long process, but Ann is continuing to help and advocate for this idea to go through Licensing. The Cannon Foundation has also agreed to pay for all the upfit of the classrooms that Licensing deems necessary, i.e. adding bathrooms, sinks, and possible small kitchenettes.

Updated on the SUN Project/SUDA Institute:

Ann Benfield presented that the last of the grant funds have been spent on the SUN Project through the Partnership and they are now functioning on their own. She did want to note that CCM and My Father's House are opening a new transitional housing for SUN Moms at Memorial Baptist Church tomorrow, June 26, 2024.

Support the Partnership:

Ann Benfield reminded the Board Members to donate this fiscal year and next to the Partnership, that grants we are trying to apply for want 100% participation from the applicant's board.

With no further business, Patrick Graham made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:03 p.m.

2nd: Malisha Ross

All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Westin