

NC Pre-Kindergarten/ Early Education Committee

Wednesday June 20, 2018

10am

The NC Pre-Kindergarten/ Early Education Committee met on Wednesday June 20, 2018 at DHS building in Kannapolis.

Committee members present: Ann Benfield, Samelia Jones, Kimberly Hutchins, QuWanya Thompson (by Phone), Lora Lipe, Trina Wenzel and Danielle Mauldin.

Committee Members not present: Deborah Beatty, Annie Parker, Jennifer Baucom.

Staff present: Ann Benfield, Patricia Sehorn, Jamie Clark

Community present: Debbie Johnson, Skylia Solomon, Jackie Whitfield. Jessica Helms, Spencer Swain, Theresa Addison, LaSharee Rogers, and Linda Roberts

Welcome

Ann Benfield welcomed everyone to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves. Ann also introduced Patricia Sehorn, the new NC Pre-K Program manager who just started Monday at the Partnership. She asked everyone to go around and introduce themselves because we had new folks attending.

Action Items:

Meeting Minutes May 30, 2018, were presented and Debbie Johnson moved to be approve as presented, and the motion was second by Lora Lipe, all were in favor.

Site Selection Committee Recommendations:

Ann asked the members of the Site Selection committee to discuss the site selection process and share the recommendations with the committee. Jackie Whitfield shared her experience on the committee, and presented that the site selection recommendation is to approve every site that applied.

Ann shared that the Site Selection committee recommended that all sites are properly trained in lesson planning and formative assessment linking foundations and TS Gold. They also made the request that the next application period all sites need to provide the appropriate documentation of credentials, lesson plans, compensation and benefit package. Ann shared this will be discussed at the Informational meeting for the next site selection process.

QuWanya Thompson made a motion to approve.

There was a question from Linda Roberts if QuWanya could vote since she was on Site Selection committee. Ann explained QuWanya was a non-conflicted committee member, who volunteered to serve on the site selection committee at the last meeting to help with Site Selection. Ann asked all of the non-conflicted members if they had a problem with QuWanya voting. Lora Lipe and Samelia Jones both stated they did not have an issue and believed it would not be a conflict.

Lora Lipe gave the second, all were in favor.

Slot Allocation:

Ann passed out the proposed budget for the 1st round of placement. Ann explained we will vote again on July 18th, when more completed applications are received and we decide where we can maintain a classroom for the entire year. If there is a site that would be willing to accept 9 slots please contact Ann before July meeting.

Lora Lipe made a motion to accept the proposed budget and slot allocation as presented, QuWanya Thompson gave the second. All in favor.

Information/Updates:

Applications and Outreach for NC Pre-K: Jamie Clark reported application and outreach for NCPK continues and NC Pre-K Placement will begin on Monday. Patricia and Jamie will contact approved sites today to let them know the committee's decision and to request the necessary documents to begin placement. Jamie also shared that application intake will continue through the summer to ensure any openings are replaced timely. CDI Head Start is reporting very similar numbers on their list, and there could be several families on both lists. So the Partnership wants to avoid any slots sitting opening once we discover a family accepted placement in both programs.

Smart Start Subsidy Programs: Jamie reminded us that our Smart Start Subsidy Program is not placing new children until the state provides the market increase for 3 – 5 year olds. We will also be working with NC Pre-K families in August to ensure they receive wrap around care to ensure their NC Pre-K placement.

Smart Start Programs: Ann reported the Partnership is waiting on the North Carolina Partnership for provide our contract so we can enter into contract with the Direct Service Providers. Hopefully that will be soon, because we are in the second year of the Smart Start bidding process and hopefully all the current Smart Start programs will be continuing.

DHS Subsidy Updates: Lora shared they had their fiscal close out on May 31st. Waiting on allocation, and new market rate. Their Wait list is 288 families that includes 492 children. NC FAST had an update this weekend and they are hoping some of the glitches will be resolved with transferring money. Right now they are still doing manual notices until system is resolved.

Family Update: The Board of Directors will vote this month to decide the new Family Support Coordinator. Ann also shared the map that the Partnership had made and offered up to anyone that would like to share with their families.

LaSharee Rogers reported she has been meeting with directors in Cabarrus County and she would like to share the progress at this committee meeting so they will have a representative at all meeting. The Director's Groups wants to work together for the children and families in the community. Ann shared she is currently working with our web designer to create a page for the early childhood professionals in Cabarrus County, so the child care community know of the the services offered by the Partnership.

The meeting adjourned at 10:54

Next scheduled meeting: Wednesday July 18, 10am at DHS