



January 17, 2024

EE/NCPK Meeting Minutes

9:45-11:00am

The Cabarrus Partnership for Children's local NC Pre-K Committee Meeting was called to order at 9:50am by Ann Benfield, NC Pre-K Committee Co-Chair, with a quorum was present throughout the meeting.

Committee Members: Trina Wenzel, Ann Benfield, Teresa Aldridge, Lashonda Houston, Jennifer Baucom, Starr Batts, Elizabeth Heston, Debra Pless, Erin Anderson, Deborah Beatty, Lora Lipe, Nicole Sessoms, Sue Rebich, Waynett Taylor, Wynter Sexton

Committee Members Present: Trina Wenzel, Ann Benfield, Lashonda Houston, Jennifer Baucom, Elizabeth Heston, Lora Lipe, Nicole Sessoms, Sue Rebich, Wynter Sexton

Committee Members Absent: Teresa Aldridge, Starr Batts, Debra Pless, Erin Anderson, Deborah Beatty, Waynett Taylor

Guest Present: Andrea Mayle

Staff Members Present: Patricia Sehorn, Tu'Nicquia Bradley

Welcome and Introduction:

Ann Benfield, committee co-chair, welcomed everyone and allowed everyone to introduce themselves.

Action Items:

Minutes of July 19, 2023

Ann Benfield presented the meeting agenda and asked the committee to review the July 19, 2023 minutes. A request was made by Ann Benfield for any corrections. No corrections were needed for the minutes. Ann Benfield requested a motion to approve the minutes without any corrections. Nicole Sessoms approved the motion and Lashonda Houston seconded the motion.

Appoint and Approve Site Selection Committee

Ann Benfield called Patricia Sehorn to present the volunteers for the Site Selection Committee. Patricia Sehorn named Nicole Sessoms, Sue Rebich, Christy Hopkins and Lora Lipe as the volunteers and asked if anyone else would like to volunteer. No one else volunteered for the committee, so Ann Benfield called for a motion. Lashonda Houston approved the motion and Elizabeth Heston seconded the motion.



NCPK Updates:

Application Update

Patricia Sehorn stated that the 2024-2025 applications were hopefully going live as the meeting was going on. She stated that the information on the website was going to be simplified so that the families were not overwhelmed with information.

Outreach

Patricia Sehorn stated that outreach would be starting right away, and that both Tee Tee and Lissy will start outreach every other Thursday. Patricia Sehorn also stated that she had NCPK postcards available for anyone who wanted to take some to give out.

Monitoring Results

Patricia Sehorn stated that the monitoring tools were done and done on time and that three out of the sixteen sites had recommendations and one site had an action plan. Of the three recommendations, two of them were already completed. Patricia Sehorn explained that she would be able to get out to the sites more and provide more help, in the future. She also stated that the next cohort for the Pyramid Model will start in February, on the last Wednesday and Thursday of each month, with a fast track option offered on Saturdays.

PLAN- Committee Members- suggestions

Patricia Sehorn stated that more non-conflicted members are needed for the committee, preferably parents and more community members. Lashonda Houston asked for the description for the committee member, in which Patricia Sehorn exclaimed that she would send it out and that it is available in the NCPK guidelines. Jennifer Baucom stated that she may know a parent that could serve on the committee.

Conflict of Interest Statements- Reminder

Patricia Sehorn stated that she was waiting on a few Conflict of Interest Statements to be signed.

Patricia mentioned to the committee that there would be a community-wide Kindergarten Transition event held in conjunction with Cabarrus County School on February 1, 2024. Nicole Sessoms stated that she could help pass out the event's flyers to other childcare centers. Jennifer Baucom informed the committee that they would also be doing a Rising Up program for their families.

Other Agency Reports

Smart Start

Ann Benfield informed that everything was going well and that they were getting ready to go through program monitoring. Ann explained how politicians have lobbied for money to go towards Early Education, but Smart Start was not going to get a part of that money. However, there was a special appropriation made for Cabarrus County Smart Start, which led to them receiving \$2 million. Ann Benfield explained that they were looking in to ways to use the money, such as Tri-Share, grants for centers, substitute services, expanding WAGE\$ to tier 3, and expanding Conscious Discipline. She also stated that they are also taking other suggestion to look at how to use the funding.

DHS Subsidy

Elizabeth Heston reported that there are 150 children that does not have a voucher and see that they are struggling with space, transportation and overages. Elizabeth Heston also stated that there have been calls made about childcare centers and how they are presenting themselves.

CCRI

No report.

CCS

Trina Wenzel announced that they had a new Pre-K Coordinator.

KCS/HS

Jennifer Baucom explained that they are short 2 teachers and an assistant, and that they will have their transition to kindergarten event soon. Wynter Sexton reported that they have served 58 children with IEP, and that 15 of them have autism. Wynter stated that they have also had students who transferred in that are “seriously medically fragile”.

RCCC

Nicole Sessoms informed everyone that they will be offering an in-person bilingual EDU 119 course starting March 18, 2024. She also stated that they have had 98 participants in their program, with 2 who received their degree in the Fall. She stated that the students are starting to seem more interested and invested, and that they are starting to get some younger students.



Endless Opportunities

Lashonda Houston states that they are actively seeing families for P.A.T., and working on case management. They have helped families who are on waitlist for apartments, and worked closely with Sun Clinic. Lashonda also informed everyone that 25% of their referrals come from Atrium.

P.U.R.E. Excellence

No report.

Patricia Sehorn briefly mentioned the next cohort for the Pyramid Model Training.

With there being no other Committee business, the meeting concluded at 11:12 am. The next meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2024 at 10:00 am.

Minutes taken by Tu'Nicquia Bradley.