

MINUTES

Attendees: Carol Steen, Mark Taft, Pat Tuttle, Sara Lappe, Adrian Sandler, Pam Holcombe, Maia Sloan, Linda McDaniel, Al Whitesides, Diana Anthony, Heather Zanzig (virtual), Emily Nicholson (virtual), Jasmine Beach-Ferrara (virtual)

Absent: Martin Moore

Staff in attendance: Rachael Sawyer, Sara Joss, Angelyn Johnson, Michael Frue, Johanna Cano

Welcome

- Welcome to new committee members:
 - Adrian Sandler, MD - Pediatrician or medical professional in service to young children
 - Emily Nicholson - Business community or economic development professional
 - Pat Tuttle - Professor or higher education professional
 - Sara Lappe, MD - Member of the public representing the community at large
- Diana Anthony is currently serving in a Community/At Large seat, but offered to move to the Funder/Community Investment seat in order to fill that role that has not received any applications. Staff will follow up.

Minutes

- Approval of minutes from June 4, 2024
 - Motion to approve by Mark Taft. Seconded by Linda McDaniel. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Old Business

- Grantee updates
 - Buncombe Partnership for Children
 - Subgroup of Martin Moore, Diana Anthony, Maia Sloan
 - Received a grant from Dogwood Health Trust for their NC PreK project, which will be moving forward as remainder of funding is secured.
 - Community Action Opportunities
 - Continuing services at Hillcrest and Pisgah View HACA locations for Head Start programming, but not Lonnie D. Burton location.
 - The Christine Avery Learning Center
 - Continuing to act as provider for the Valley Center.
 - Won the bid with HACA to provide early childhood education services at Lonnie D. Burton location.
- Funding Carry Forward / Available balance Funding Philosophy
 - \$78,584.39 in unspent FY24 grant awards, which have been rolled over into the FY25 ECE fund.

New Business

- Election of Officers (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary)
 - Motion to approve Commissioner Martin Moore as Chair, Dr. Adrian Sandler as Vice Chair, and Carol Steen as Secretary of the Early Childhood Education Committee.
 - Linda McDaniel made a motion to approve this slate of officers. Diana Anthony seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
- Annual Roadmap
 - Site visits:
 - The committee decided to continue participating in grantee site visits for FY25.
- Funding Strategy – Session 1 of 4: A look at early care & education in Buncombe County, including licensure, quality, data & context
 - The presentation included:
 - Child Care regulation in NC
 - Child care licensing
 - Star ratings
 - Child care quality over time
 - Licensed slots, enrollment and population
 - Comparison to other counties
 - Workforce
 - Funded provider results
 - Topics of discussion and questions included:
 - Accreditation by other institutions such as NAEYC or American Montessori Society as a quality indicator other than DCDEE star rated licensure
 - What dictates how many slots we have as a community?
 - Is it easier today to find a slot for children with disabilities?
 - Has the backlog with fingerprinting/criminal background checks been alleviated?
 - What is the drug testing policy for early childhood providers?
 - What incentives exist for providers to pursue star rated licenses?
 - Are there any Montessori programs that have quality star rating higher than 1?
 - Is there data that correlates start rating with child outcomes?

Announcements

Public Comment

- Pepi Acebo made public comments.

Next Meeting

Next meeting will be September 3, 2024, 1:00-2:30 pm, 200 College St, Ground Floor Conference Room.