Minutes

Committee Members in attendance: Leslie Anderson, Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, Philip Belcher, Kit Cramer, Jane Hatley, Rich Johnston, Chavaun Letman, Dr. Susan Mims, Robert Pressley, Glenda Weinert, Al Whitesides

County support staff in attendance: Rachael Nygaard, Patricia Wallin, Rasheeda McDaniels, Burnett Walz, Angelyn Johnson, Max Taintor

Welcome and agenda review by Commissioner Beach-Ferrara.

Minutes

- Motion was made by Rich Johnston and seconded by Philip Belcher to approve minutes from October 1, 2019. Vote of approval was unanimous.

Old Business

- **Update on Site Visits** – Rasheeda McDaniels presented information on upcoming site visits. The first site visit is this Thursday. After the site visits, there will be a 3-question survey that will allow committee members who attended the site visit to share observations with other committee members who were not able to attend and with the organization visited. Rasheeda distributed a list of site visits scheduled for the month of December, and committee members signed up to attend.

New Business

- **Funding Process Focus:**
  - **Equity discussion:**
    - Access to committee
    - Resources of applicants
    - Score emphasis on written "quality" of application
    - Interest in applications that didn't score highest
    - "Carve out" vs. equity at every step
    - Equity in the people served (e.g. children enrolled) at grantee organizations
    - Racial equity/equity of opportunity across economic spectrum/inclusion of people of all abilities
    - Workforce equity/teachers of color

  - **Application content:**
    - Staff will take input from today's meeting and update the application for committee review at next month's meeting.
    - Condense introduction
    - Clear up intro section – goals/purposes/focus
    - Equity question: do we want to expand to include socio-economic status or others?
    - Outputs/outcomes/evaluation: could these questions be combined?
    - Scale – what is meant by this question?

- Could there be different questions/applications to accommodate different type of requests?
- Should all questions be scored?
- Application is intimidating and complicated. Can we simplify it?
- Different categories of funding with different application forms (e.g. multi-sector collaboration/system startup vs. single-program)
- Begin with committee's vision and mission
- Include more questions about slots/children served (age, subsidy)
- Different types of projects: (self-identified by organizations)
    - Access to quality care
    - Workforce development
    - Infrastructure and best practices
- Use same application but weighted differently for different types?
- Certain questions only apply to some
- Provide glossary to define key words (e.g. equity, collaboration, scale, scope, outcomes)
- Too many words and questions
- Results could be 1 essay
- Why is this needed and what is the vision?
- How will you do it?
- Possibly remove collaboration question
- How does this project fulfill the county's purpose of scaling up?
- Remove examples of potential project from introductory section
- Need to clarify whether capital projects will remain restricted to public schools

- **Multi-year funding and renewal requests**
    - Multi-year beneficial and challenging
        - Positives
            - Takes more than 1 year for some projects
            - Reduces burden on grantees
            - Contingent on budget and on satisfactory results
        - Negatives:
            - Limits money available to committee
            - Factors may change over course of year
    - Keep open as an option to use at committee's discretion
    - Cap at 3 years
    - In the committee's review of applications, possibly decide any limitations on how long projects can be funded.
    - Simplify what would you accomplish in 1st year, 2nd year? –strategy (rather than compete budget)

- **Application process:**
    - Communication about opportunity to apply
    - Alternate methods to apply (video).
    - Staff support for creating written applications

- Access to committee (self-advocacy, presentations, rules of order – public/grantee connection)
- Community engagement and navigation support
- Staff support for grantee/applicant by request
- Applicant presentations

- **Application Timeline:**
  December – approve application at December 3rd meeting. Open application mid-December
  January – Special meeting for community engagement. Grant writing workshop.
  February – mid-February application deadline
  March – Orientation/Grant Review
  April – Grant Review
  May –
  June – awards

Announcements – Trish Wallin provided an update on childcare subsidy funds. The County has received allocation for subsidized childcare; however, it is approximately $1.5M less than last year. These funds will serve about 250 children on the wait list.

Next Steps –

- Committee members should email suggested edits for applications to committee/staff before the next meeting
- December agenda will include a performance review focus, to include:
  - Online grantee reporting dashboard
  - Update on system-level measures
  - Funding application opens

Public Comment

- Amy Barry from Buncombe Partnership for Children thanked the committee for taking time to review the application process. One thing for consideration, need to identify the long-term goals of the fund (i.e. where do we want to be in 5 years, etc.). The idea of different categories of applications is helpful. Sustainability is a challenge so we need to have grantees be clear with their plan for sustainability. Lastly, "advocacy" was an option last year; will it be considered this year?

Next meeting – December 3, 2019, 1:00 – 2:30 pm at 200 College Street, Ground Floor Conference Room

Adjourn – Motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Glenda Weinert and seconded by Commissioner Al Whiteside. The motion carried unanimously.