

### **Draft Minutes**

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

**County support staff in attendance:** Michael Frue, Lamar Joyner, Rasheeda McDaniels, Rachael Nygaard, Max Taintor, Patricia Wallin, Burnett Walz, and Stacey Woody.

**Welcome** and agenda review by Jasmine Beach-Ferrara. Included a moment of reflection for former Buncombe County Commissioner Mike Fryar who passed away on Sunday, February 2.

### **Minutes**

A motion was made by Philip Belcher and seconded by Christy Cheek to approve minutes from January 9, 2020. Vote of approval was unanimous.

### **Old Business**

#### **Community Engagement Reflections** - Committee discussion:

- Wish there had been more community (parents) engagement rather than just a session with early childhood professionals. Maybe we should consider other times of day for future events.
- Good to be open and out in the community
- Wish more people had attended; it was good dialogue
- Part of the work we do is specific to early childhood education, but another part is helping the County engage and be transparent in different ways
- Enjoyed opportunity to connect one-on-one
- It gave grantees a chance to understand some of the constraints and realities of the committee's work.

### **New Business**

**Meeting Procedures Training** – Jasmine Beach-Ferrara introduced this topic as a way to build equity through clarifying, and educating committee members about, meeting procedures. County Attorney Michael Frue and County Clerk Lamar Joyner reviewed sections of the committee's by-laws, provided an overview of the legal framework for committee procedures, and answered questions from committee members. Key topics included:

- Public body (this committee, as formed by the Board of Commissioners)
- Official meeting (a majority of the board conducting business together)
- What constitutes a Public Record
- Conflicts of interest (direct and readily identifiable, as well as apparent conflicts)
- Duty to report conflicts (when in doubt, report)
- Duty to vote
- Special meetings vs. continuations to a date certain
- Types of motions (main/substantive vs. procedural motions)

- Public comment

Next steps:

- Staff to review the newly adopted “Committees Policy” adopted by the Board of Commissioners for any potential inconsistencies with Early Childhood Committee by-laws
- Staff to add By-Laws Review to the FY2021 roadmap in the summer (July/August) timeframe

**Models for Success: Lessons Learned & Promising Practices from Other Communities** – Rachael Nygaard gave a presentation, which is included in the meeting materials and made a part of the minutes for this meeting.

- Overview of 6 NC counties to look at as “bright spots” for early learning: Durham; Forsyth; Guilford; Mecklenburg; Transylvania & Wake.
- Discussion about annual county investments in those communities; it would be good to have comparative information about these county funds over time.
- Discussion of leverage or “attractor” funding and potential investments from private foundations, corporate partners, and others with capacity to increase support for early childhood education.

Next steps:

- Commissioner Whitesides to try to arrange a meeting between Dogwood Health Trust and Board of Commissioner members of the Early Childhood Committee to discuss potential funding partnerships.

**Grant Review & Meeting Schedule** – Rachael Nygaard reviewed a proposed schedule and process for spring grant making that:

- February
  - Applications due Feb 14
  - Applications sent to committee Feb 17
- March
  - Regular meeting set for March 3
  - Proposal to move to March 17 (to give a month for review): discuss applications & identify questions for applicants
  - Questions sent to applicants on March 18 with responses due March 27
  - Responses sent to committee March 30
- April
  - Recommendation for no in-person presentations
  - Regular meeting on April 7: review top scoring proposals by category & discuss funding recommendations
  - Proposal to schedule additional meeting for April 21: finalize funding recommendations
  - Recommendations due to Budget Office by April 24

Philip Belcher moved to adopt the grant review and meeting schedule as presented. Susan Mims seconded, and vote of approval was unanimous.

### **Next Steps**

- Staff to review the newly adopted “Committees Policy” adopted by the Board of Commissioners for any potential inconsistencies with Early Childhood Committee by-laws
- Staff to add By-Laws Review to the FY2021 roadmap in the summer (July/August) timeframe
- Commissioner Whitesides to reach out to Dogwood Health Trust to request a meeting with Board of Commissioner members of the Early Childhood Committee to discuss potential funding partnerships.
- Staff will send instructions to committee members on or near February 17, 2020 for scoring grant applications.
- Committee members are to complete initial scoring by the rescheduled March meeting, including questions for applicants.

### **Public Comment**

- Bettie Council – Are there community members on commission? Request revision in bylaws for public comment. I want to push back on the idea of having Preschool for children. Asheville has a history of not doing well for black students and they are struggling and traumatized in school system. My pushback is if there is Pre-K from 3-4 it’s just an earlier pipeline from school to prison. Have daycares instead of Pre-K and have the teachers trained in racial equity and cultural competency.
- Amy Berry – Wanted to highlight a couple things –The Asheville Buncombe Preschool Planning Collaborative has been part of a group for the past three years with most of the “Models for Success” counties mentioned earlier, and that group has been exploring a variety of potential funding streams for early childhood development. Also, we should note that 3 of counties highlighted focus specifically on 4-year olds; they recognized that there is not enough state money for NC Pre-K and expanded the NC Pre-K model only. I appreciate that this committee is looking beyond that. Finally, we are learning from other counties that are creating family-friendly childcare systems by having a single shared application..

**Next meeting** – March 17, 2020, 1:00-2:30 pm, 200 College Street Ground Floor Conference Room

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