

MINUTES

Attendees: Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, Al Whitesides, Martin Moore, Rich Johnston, Leslie Anderson, Brandy Bowman, Carol Steen, Philip Belcher, Linda McDaniel (virtual), Marsha Davis (virtual), Wendy Wieber (virtual)

Absent: Mistie Reising-Cogbill, Susan Mims

Staff in attendance: Rachael Nygaard, Angelyn Johnson, Sara Joss, Michael Frue

Welcome

Minutes

- Approval of minutes from April 18, 2023
 - Motion to approve by Al Whitesides. Seconded by Martin Moore. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Old Business

- None

New Business

- Multi-year funding
 - 8 organizations receiving awards for the FY24 grant cycle have requested multi-year funding.
 - An ad hoc committee will review multi-year requests and process, and bring back a set of recommendations for August ECE meeting, to include setting clearer parameters around what multi-year funding could look like moving forward.
 - Al Whitesides (Chair)
 - Leslie Anderson
 - Martin Moore
 - Mark Taft
- Returned funds
 - \$145,000 in returned funds (currently). This could increase slightly once the fiscal year wraps up, but the amount would likely be incidental.
 - Al Whitesides made a motion to move all projects currently funded at 95% (7 projects) up to 100% of requested funds to utilize \$68,571 of the \$145,000 in returned funds from FY23. Mark Taft seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by the committee.
 - The ad hoc committee that is reviewing multi-year funding recommendations will also examine potential uses for the remaining \$76,429 that is still on the table for future determination of use.

- Workforce Development recommendations
 - The committee will utilize meetings beginning in August to work towards recommending a strategy to explore ways to develop and sustain a successful early childhood education workforce specific to Buncombe County.
 - They would like to have broader conversations on workforce development issues and practices to include currently funded organizations to help the committee better understand what is already happening in the community and what is needed.
 - Use research from Dogwood Health Trust as a starting point for this work.
 - Commissioner Whitesides would like to further investigate the State’s voucher program to have a better understanding of how they are being utilized and what impact that has on this work.
- Committee membership update
 - Thank you to Rich, Brandy, and Wendy who are rolling off the committee at the end of June.
 - Mark and Linda are up for reappointment, which will be confirmed at tonight’s Board of Commissioner meeting.
 - There are currently 3 open committee positions available. Two community at-large and one retiree.

Announcements

Public Comment

- Marcia from Verner Center for Early Learning made public comment.
- Corrie from Evolve Early Learning made public comment.

Next Meeting

Next meeting is August 1, 2023, 1:00-2:30 pm, 200 College St, Ground Floor Conference Room