FY2024 Buncombe County Early Childhood Grant Report

Organization Name:	Buncombe Partnership for Children		
Project Name:	Early Childhood Systems Coordination: Addressing Gaps in Equity Education & Children's Mental Health		
Reporting Quarter: (Check one)		Quarter 1 (July 1, 2023 - September 30, 2023)	
		Quarter 2 (October 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023)	
	X	Quarter 3 (January 1, 2024 - March 31, 2024)	
		Quarter 4 (April 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024)	

Narrative summary of grant related activities

Please provide a brief summary (no more than <u>1500 characters</u>). You may attach supplemental documents if needed.

Quarter 1	The Racial Equity Work Group completed our work with Integral Ed, our contractor, in late August, and received three completed videos, highlighting Buncombe BIPOC families telling stories about their experiences with early education, while highlighting key research and concepts (implicit bias, cultural humility, etc.). The Workgroup is excited to get these videos out in the community, but first we had to finalize the onine landing page the videos point to, and to allow teachers to settle into the new school year a bit. We are planning an ECE Teacher Equity Movie Night for later this fall. Work focused on understanding and addressing issues related to young children experiencing social-,emotional-behavioral challenges included:1) RFP for a contractor to facilitate listening and planning sessions created 2) Proposal review committee members identified 3) Gathered information on social- emotional-behavioral curriculum/frameworks being used in child care programs locally 4) Began identifying community mental health service providers who support young children for the creation of the mental healh service providers listening session and 5) Drafted a comprehensive diagram of the local early childhood system with accompanying doc describing the programs affiliated with each of the 4 system hubs, who administers the program and funding source. We are getting feedback from the ABPPC on the diagram and to finalize and use it as a tool to further educate our members, educate others and aid in the ABBPC's planning.

Quarter 2	The Racial Equity Work Group hosted an evening "launch event" for the video series on December 5, 2023 at the Jewish Community Center. We offered continuing education credit, as well as food and childcare. This event was to let our community know these videos exist and to invite them into the conversation about how we can use them in our field to spark conversation, raise awareness and build important skills for ECE teachers. We hope to host at least one more open event like this, and we are also working with directors and CCR and higher education partners to disseminate them more organically. We also presented the videos at BPFC's December Board meeting where members viewed one video followed by small group discussions. The ABPPC full collaborative met in November for a visioning session facilitated by Dr. Amieris Lavender, collaborative tri-chair. While the collaborative's vision and overarching goal -- increasing access to high quality affordable preschool for 3- and 4yr olds in Asheville and Buncombe County, with a priority on children and families who are currently experiencing the greatest barriers to access -- remains the same, over the years the group has reviewed and updated their goals to address current challenges and barriers towards meeting that goal. At the January collaborative meeting, members will review the ideas generated from the visioning session and to get confirmation on existing/new goals as well as determine if there is a need for any workgroup changes to support the goals. Re: the work focused on children experiencing social-emotional and/or behavioral challenges, we received a good response to our invitation to mental health professionals, pediatricians and early interventionists, the first group who will participate in listening sessions. We adjusted our timeline for this work and plan to begin sessions in early March.
Quarter 3	Though the Racial Equity in Early Education Work Group did not host a video viewing in Quarter 3, we did work on making the videos accessible to ECE programs for use at staff meetings, etc. They now live on a YouTube page that is not open to the public but can be shared. We've created an online form where individuals can request access to the videos and also report back about their use of the videos with staff, classes, etc. We have also been working to develop a discussion guide to accompany the videos to make this kind of program-based use easier. We will be hosting a 3-part, in-person training series using the videos beginning in late April (4/23, 5/16 and 5/30 at the YWCA). The group is also planning to offer a VIRTUAL 3-part training series over the summer for those who cannot attend evening events. At the April in-person meeting we will focus on 4 topics: 1)The end of ECE stabilization grants and review of the results from a statewide survey on the impact on ECE providers. BPFC staff are wrapping up phone interviews with a large group of BC providers re: the end of stabilization grants. Results will be shared with the collaborative as we plan advocacy efforts and think about ways we can support providers. 2) The possible creationof a product & vendor resources on-line directory, something brought up a director at our last meeting. (There has not been strong interested in shared services but strong interest from directors for support with make expensive purchases that meet licensing requirements).3) Finalizing our deeper focus areas for the next couple of years. Listening sessions for two groups - mental health professionals and early educators will be held in May and family listening sessions will be held in June. We have a draft of questions and prompts for listenging session attendees and have continued outreach to get more and different types of mental health providers to participate.

Quarter 4	

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Progress toward annual goals

Measure	Annual Goal	Actual Results (Enter Data) Please only include new data for the specific quarter				Progress toward Annual Goal
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
# of attendees at video screening/discussion	50	0	40	0		40
# of teachers who report increased awareness and understanding of teacher bias and the negative impact on children	40	0	26	0		26
# of early educators who participate in listening session and interviews	25	0	0	0		0
# of mental health professionals who participate in listening sessions & interviews	30	0	0	0		0
# of sets of strategy recommendations completed	1	0	0	0		0

Comments:

In Quarter 3, the Racial Equity in Early Education Work Group did not host a video viewing, but we did work on making the videos accessible to ECE programs for use at staff meetings, etc. We have also been working to develop a discussion guide to make this kind of internal use easier. We will be hosting a 3-part, in-person training series using the videos beginning in late April. The group is also planning to offer a VIRTUAL 3-part training series over the summer. We are confident targets related to the equity video project will be exceeded in Q4. Listening sessions for mental health providers and early educators focused on children who are expereincing social-emotinonl/behaviaoral challenges has been delayed but will be completed by the end of June along with a report of summary of results and recommendations.

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Use of funds to date and any budget considerations

Spending Category	Starting Budget	Total Spending (Enter Data)				Amount Remaining
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
Personnel	$ 53,260	$ 6,564	$ 5,530	$ 6,361		$ 34,805
Travel/Training	$ 2,000	$ -	$ -	$ -		$ 2,000
Technology						$ -
Curriculum/Assessments						$ -
Licensing/Dues				$ 72		$ (72)
Nutrition						$ -
Transportation						$ -
Supplies/Materials	$ 2,000	$ 22	$ 28	$ 488		$ 1,462
Building Maintenance/Repair	$ 29	$ 7	$ 10	$ 3		$ 9
Rent/Occupancy/Utilities	$ 601	$ 101	$ 164	$ 249		$ 87
Furniture						$ -
Playground/Outdoor space						$ -
Printing/Marketing/Website/Postage	$ 621		$ 288	$ 10		$ 323
Admin Expenses (Legal, Accounting, Insurance,						$ -
Other (stipends, translation, honorariums)	$ 9,000		$ 375			$ 8,625
Total	$ 67,511	$ 6,694	$ 6,395	$ 7,183	$ -	$ 47,239

Comments: