

MINUTES

Committee Members in attendance: Al Whitesides, Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, Kidada Wynn, Kit Cramer, Leslie Anderson, Mark Taft, Mistie Reising-Cogbill, Philip Belcher, Rich Johnston, Robert Pressley, Wendy Wieber

County support staff in attendance: Rachael Nygaard, Michael Frue, Burnett Walz, Trish Wallin, Angelyn Johnson, Rasheeda McDaniels

Others in attendance: Jenny Vial, Deanna LaMotte Amy Barry, Richard Caro, Brian Repass, Sunshine Request

Welcome and agenda review by Jasmine Beach-Ferrara. Introduction of new committee member Mark Taft.

Virtual meeting reminder: Identify yourself when speaking. All votes will be conducted by roll call. This is a public meeting. If any community members are in attendance, there will be a time for public comment at the end of the meeting.

Minutes

Philip Belcher made a motion to approve the minutes from August 3. Kit Cramer seconded the motion. Minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote

Old Business

- Site Visit Planning
 - Staff recommends all virtual visits due to COVID
 - Based on committee survey results, site visits will be scheduled on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons
 - There will be one site visit per organization
 - Site visits are not generally open to the public, but an opportunity has come up to potentially invite the Education focused impact officer from Dogwood Health Trust to join as our guests for the purpose of info sharing and relationship building.
 - The committee would like to all Dogwood Health Trust staff to join as long as it is clearly communicated with the organizations and they have the opportunity to opt out of having DHT join their session. DHT would be present for observation only.
- Preschool expansion process update:
 - The contract with Buncombe Partnership for Children has been executed. The timeframe is 7/1/21 – 12/31/21. The deliverable will be a model recommendation, including their rationale, cost estimates, implementation steps, etc. This will be in collaboration with Asheville Buncombe Preschool Planning Collaborative (ABPPC). The process will include community and parent engagement. If anyone is interested in following along, subscribe to updated on ABPPC's website. If committee members are interested in participating in ABPPC or any of their subgroups, please email Deanna LaMotte.
- Roadmap
 - Staff presented the revised draft FY2022 roadmap. There was one change made since the draft was emailed to the committee, which was to swap the topics for the October and November meetings. The Behavioral Health panel discussion is now in October and Buncombe Partnership for Children will be in November.

New Business

- Election of Officers
 - Current officers: Chair – Jasmine Beach Ferrara, Vice Chair – Glenda Weinert, Secretary – Rich Johnston
 - Al Whitesides made a motion to keep the current officers. Kit Cramer seconded the motion. Motion was approved by roll call vote

Announcements

- Jasmine Beach-Ferrara announced that the Board of Commissioners have awarded their initial Recovery Funding grants. This will be a rolling series of funding. They will also be hosting community listening sessions to get input from the community. They may open additional RFPs to focus on structural challenges.
- Mistie Reising-Cogbill shared the NC Early Education Coalition Budget Toolkit:
https://nearlyeducationcoalition.org/2021-budget-toolkit/?mc_cid=eaa0ab84a3&mc_eid=cc5c5bd009
- Kit Cramer shared information on HB574 regarding childcare subsidies. A link for her Mountain Xpress article was shared: <https://mountainx.com/opinion/letter-legislation-would-help-working-parents-businesses-and-kids/>

Public Comment

- There was no public comment

Next Meeting: Next meeting is October 5 at 1:00 pm.