

MINUTES

Attendees: Al Whitesides, Carol Steen, Diana Anthony, Heather Zanzig, Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, Leslie Anderson, Linda McDaniel, Mark Taft, Martin Moore, Mistie Reising-Cogbill (virtual), Pam Holcombe (virtual), Susan Mims (virtual)

Absent: Kit Cramer, Philip Belcher

Staff in attendance: Rachael Nygaard, Sara Joss, Angelyn Johnson (virtual), Michael Frue, Angelica Tyler

Welcome

Minutes

- Approval of minutes from December 5, 2023
 - Motion to approve by Mark Taft. Seconded by Al Whitesides. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Old Business

- Southwestern Child Development/Valley Child Dev
 - There were 8 submissions received from organizations interested in taking over the operation of Valley Child Development.
 - As of February 1, the location will be operated by The Christine Avery Learning Center under the existing license for the facility.
 - The Christine Avery Learning Center was selected because of their existing relationship in the area, including with families, the county (including Early Childhood grants) and the schools.
 - They are a NC Pre-K provider, so there is an opportunity to potentially expand NC Pre-K to this location.
 - The attorneys are working through all the details.
 - We have not yet received a financial request from The Chirstine Avery Learning Center for any transition expenses, but if one is received, the sub-group will be notified.
 - Southwestern has communicated to enrolled families and staff throughout the process, including today to notify them of the changes.

New Business

- Buncombe Partnership for Children presentation
 - Buncombe Partnership for Children presented the current State of Child Care in Buncombe County and provided an update on their Building Capacity in Buncombe County to Expand NC Pre-K Availability and Accessibility pilot program. A copy of the presentation was included in the meeting materials.

Announcements

- February meeting will include Dogwood Health Trust as guests and also the annual kindergarten readiness data update.



Early Childhood Education & Development Committee

January 2, 2024, 1:00 – 2:30 pm

200 College St, Ground Floor Conference Room

- The grant applications are open and the deadline is February 9.
- Grants Open House on January 10 from 4:00-6:00 pm.

Public Comment

- There were no public comments.

Next Meeting

Next meeting is February 6, 2024, 1:00-2:30 pm, 200 College St, Ground Floor Conference Room