

## MINUTES

**Attendees:** Al Whitesides, Diana Anthony, Kit Cramer, Leslie Anderson, Linda McDaniel, Mark Taft, Martin Moore, Mistie Reising-Cogbill (virtual) Pam Holcombe, Philip Belcher, Susan Mims

**Absent:** Carol Steen, Heather Zanzig, Jasmine Beach-Ferrara

**Staff in attendance:** Rachael Sawyer, Sara Joss, Angelyn Johnson, Michael Frue, Burnett Walz, Rocio Quintero

### Welcome

### Minutes

- Approval of minutes from March 5, 2024
  - Motion to approve by Mark Taft. Seconded by Leslie Anderson. The minutes were unanimously approved.

### Old Business

- The Christine Avery Learning Center – Valley Update
  - The sub-group met recently to review the monthly financials submitted by The Christine Avery Learning Center. Based on the submitted financials, it appears the center will not be operating in a deficit once they start receiving their subsidy and meal funds (they are paid in arrears). They provided a list of one-time expenses they will incur related to licensing. The sub-group allocated an additional \$5,000 toward those one-time expenses.

### New Business

- Grant Review/Allocate Funds
  - The committee discussed the applications, scores and overall funding philosophy.
  - They worked through some different scenarios
    - Scenario 1 was based on last year's rules: projects that score 86.9% to 100% were awarded 100% of the request, and projects that score 81% to 86.9% were awarded 95% of the request.
    - Scenario 2 awarded all applicants recommended by 100% of committee 100% of the request.
    - Scenario 3 awarded all projects with a score over 85% based on their scoring percent (i.e. if they scored 95%, award 95% of request).
    - Scenario 3.1 awarded all projects with a score over 80% based on their scoring percent (i.e. if they scored 95%, award 95% of request). This scenario resulted in exceeding the available amount.
  - Philip made a motion to remove all projects that scored below 80% from consideration. Kit Cramer seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
  - The committee discussed agreeing on a scenario as a beginning point and determining adjustments on a case by case basis. Staff shared information about proposals, such as slots, reasons for expansion and budget components.

- The committee discussed concerns with these scenarios, such as:
  - Ability to fund the NC PreK project, which is a large amount but 3<sup>rd</sup> highest scoring project with 100% of committee members recommending at least partial funding for.
  - Committee members discussed Irene Wortham’s application being left out. This is concerning because they are a large provider for Developmental Day children.
  - Committee members are also concerned that these scenarios leave out several workforce focused projects, especially since they identified workforce development as a priority this year, such as BCS Learning Labs and AB Tech
  - Potential impacts or interruptions to slots if previously funded providers lose grants
  - The committee discussed the application from Upwards. Committee members have concerns about sustainability. They are also concerned that it duplicates efforts by local organizations such as Buncombe Partnership for Children and Dogwood Health Trust.
  - The challenges funding any expansion items or non-slot/non-workforce projects in crisis environment.
  - Committee recommends considering Family Child Care Homes as an off cycle learning topic.
- The committee would like staff to develop 3-5 different scenario options for the committee to consider during the next meeting. Items to consider when developing options include:
  - Projects that are for maintaining/stabilizing vs expansion
  - Projects that include workforce
  - Applicants’ performance on previous grant projects
- Timeline review
  - April 16 at 12:30 pm – extended committee meeting
  - April 23 at 12:30 pm – possible extended committee meeting if needed
  - April 26 – recommendations are due to the County’s Budget Office

### **Announcements**

- There were no announcements.

### **Public Comment**

- There were no public comments.

### **Next Meeting**

Next meeting is April 16, 2024, 12:30-2:30 pm, 200 College St, Ground Floor Conference Room