

## **MINUTES**

### **Committee Members Present**

Al Whitesides, Chavaun Letman, Christy Cheek, Glenda Weinert, Jane Hatley, Kidada Wynn, Kit Cramer, Leslie Anderson, Philip Belcher, Rich Johnston, Robert Pressley & Susan Mims

### **County Staff Present**

Burnett Walz, Christina McEntee, Kimberly Fullerton, Rachael Nygaard, Rasheeda McDaniels

### **Discussion**

- Orientation presentation by Rachael Nygaard
- Committee exercise: Think about the vision of every child in Buncombe County having an equal opportunity to thrive in their first 2,000 days, including access to quality early childhood education. What would this look like?

#### Responses:

- Parents have access to resources about Early Childhood issues
- Decrease in our current achievement gap
- Affordable and quality care for families that work or go to school past 5:00 pm
- Every child has access to affordable childcare (Pre-K)
- Strong early childhood services help to wipe away achievement gap of black students and white students
- Provides healthy food (nutrition) to children
- Parents of all incomes have great advice on preparing kids for school
- There are plenty of subsidies and the rate of subsidy is higher so centers can also thrive
- Include trauma-informed care and efforts to mitigate ACES
- There are plenty of high-quality after school programs
- Helps show parents the importance of “parenting”
- Transportation is widely available to get kids to childcare
- Every child in county enters kindergarten prepared for school success
- Early childhood educators are fairly compensated
- Has quality teachers who are paid what they deserve
- Supports vocabulary in all languages.
- Families can find respite care when needed
- Open at all hours for all people
- High-quality food is available to all centers
- All children feel loved and nurtured
- Children who feel safe, nurtured and prepared to succeed in school and in life
- All children enter school ready to learn
- Available care during the time parents are looking for work or enrolling into school
- Support for early childhood professionals
- No disparities in school readiness for kids of color
- No gap between subsidy and ability to pay
- No wait lists for childcare

- Safe and affordable housing for all families
  - Health care is affordable, accessible and quality
  - Childcare is not a barrier to employment
  - Every child graduated from high school
  - Fair compensation and benefits for early childhood staff – comparable to public school
  - Safe places for children to learn and play
  - Childcare no longer being a barrier
  - Kids all start school ready to learn
  - 24 hour childcare is available near where people live
- Committee comments/requests during presentation:
- Priority/target population (i.e. 2-5, 3-5, 0-5, etc). County has defined the target population as birth through 5 (first 2000 days).
  - Could be helpful to have a glossary of terms
  - Could we do a survey of parents? Partnership for Children conducted one in 2017, plans to conduct another soon. Staff will coordinate.
  - Data/measurement critical. Helpful to also have on other programs such as NFP, WIC, Reach Out and Read, Partnership for Children.

#### **Next Steps**

- Staff will email list of grant applications, login instructions and scoring info to Committee
- Committee to review applications in advance of next meeting

#### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

#### **Announcements**

There were no announcements.

#### **Meeting Materials**

The following documents are included as attachments to these minutes:

- Orientation Presentation

#### **Next meeting**

May 7, 2019

2:30 – 4:00

200 College Street, Ground Floor Conference Room