

MINUTES

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

Absent: Philip Belcher, Susan Mims

Staff in attendance: Rachael Nygaard, Angelyn Johnson (virtual), Michael Frue, Johanna Cano, Rasheeda McDaniels (virtual)

Welcome

- Introduction of new members: Diana Anthony, Heather Zanzig, Pam Holcombe

Minutes

- Approval of minutes from October 3, 2023
 - Motion to approve by Al Whitesides. Seconded by Carol Steen. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Old Business

- Committee membership
 - There is still one vacancy. The committee would like to look at the current membership and identify if there are certain demographics, geographic areas, areas of expertise, etc. that are missing from the group. Some ideas discussed included a parent of a child with identified behavioral issues, BIPOC community with experience with the early childhood setting.

New Business

- Revised bylaws
 - After consulting with county legal, the bylaws have been revised to change the quorum from 9 to 8, based on the majority of the 15-member committee. Motion to approve the revised bylaws by Kit Cramer. Seconded by Jasmine Beach-Ferrara. The motion was approved unanimously.
- Session 4 of ECE Workforce Development: presented by Rachael Sawyer Nygaard
 - NC Pre-K Expansion Pilot:
 - The 2-year pilot began in July 2022, and was funded with federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) COVID Recovery Funds
 - Funding currently expires September 30, 2024, and Buncombe Partnership for Children projects having \$186,000 remaining that could be used to extend the federal award timeframe. They estimate \$1,069,000 additional funding needed in FY2025 to continue the program

- Kit Cramer made a motion to invite Buncombe Partnership for Children to submit a proposal through the regular FY2025 grant application process. Motion seconded by Al Whitesides. Motion was approved unanimously.
- Workforce Development in the Early Childhood Grants
 - The committee discussed the benefits and risks of prioritizing the workforce strategy by requiring all projects to have a workforce component.
 - The committee acknowledged that more slots are needed, but slots can't be added without workforce.
 - The committee is concerned that supplemental pay may not be sustainable.
 - The committee would like to explore more information about Family Child Care Home, and why those numbers are decreasing.
 - The committee feels the need to define categories of workforce development.
 - Many of the current projects contain a workforce development portion, and through their reporting, we should be able to see what is working and what is not working.
 - Both retention of current workforce and recruitment/development of new workforce is needed.
 - The committee would like staff to summarize the takeaways from the 4 workforce development series meetings.

Announcements

- Mistie informed the committee that Warren Wilson will be phasing out their Early Childhood program at the end of this school year and wanted to honor the great partnership with them.
- Rachael notified the committee of the recent news that Southwestern Child Development has closed most of their child care centers in Western North Carolina. As of now, Valley Child Care is still operating.

Public Comment

- Pepi Acebo, Caitlin Johnson, Amy Barry and Brian Repass participated in public comment.

Next Meeting

Next meeting is December 5, 2023, 1:00-2:30 pm, 200 College St, Room 310