

MINUTES

Attendees: Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, Al Whitesides, Rich Johnston, Leslie Anderson, Wendy Wieber, Linda McDaniel, Philip Belcher, Mistie Reising-Cogbill, Carol Steen, Marsha Davis (virtual), Susan Mims (virtual)

Absent: Mark Taft, Martin Moore, Brandy Bowman, Kit Cramer

Staff in attendance: Rachael Nygaard, Angelyn Johnson, Sara Joss, Michael Frue, Matthew Baker

Welcome

Minutes

- Approval of minutes from April 4, 2023
 - Motion to approve by Al Whitesides. Seconded by Rich Johnston. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Old Business

- None

New Business

- Grant review/funding allocation
 - Matthew Baker presented the updated scenario spreadsheet with additional information requested by the committee: Slot data, unspent dollars from the last 3 years, multi-year requests, geographic location of services.
 - Projects with a record of unspent funds are almost always due to staffing issues.
 - Project level: At the end of the contract period, organizations are required to return any unspent funds from their project.
 - Fund level: The committee is requesting a change in the budgetary process where returned project funds would be rolled back into the ECE budget for the following fiscal year's use, instead of going back into the county general fund.
 - Hominy Baptist Church has additional infant slots (14-15 new), which is unique of the current requests.
- The committee updated the scenario to fund projects who score 86.9 or above at 100% and fund projects with scores of 81-86.8% at 95%. This resulted in:
 - 12 organizations funded at 100% of their request
 - 7 organizations funded at 95% of their request
 - This scenario was overbudget by \$203, and the committee decided to deduct that amount from Hominy Baptist Church.
 - Committee members discussed the possibility of funding Evolve Early Learning and Southwestern Child Development, but decided not to include them in the funding scenario at this time.

Meeting materials are posted online at www.BuncombeCounty.org/Grants

- Philip Belcher made a motion to approve and recommend this scenario. Al Whitesides seconds. Unanimously approved.
- The committee discussed the possibility of converting the Early Childhood fund to a multi-year fund so that unspent funding can be utilized instead of returned to the County's general fund.
 - Commissioners Beach-Ferrara, Whitesides, Moore will bring forth a recommendation for multi-year fund for further utilization of funds for the Early Childhood Education Grant process at the next FY24 budget workshop.
 - Unspent funds from FY23 projects will return a minimum of \$145,000. If the multi-year fund recommendation is approved by Commissioners, the \$145,000 could be allocated to additional or partially funded projects, at the discretion of the committee. The committee will need to come up with a process for this (if approved).
 - Carol Steen made a motion to put forth a recommendation to Commissioners to convert the Early Childhood fund to a multi-year fund to allow returned funds to be reallocated in alignment with the priorities established by the Early Childhood Committee. To take effect July 1, 2024 and include any unspent funds from FY2023. Wendy Wieber seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Announcements

Mistie reminded everyone about the PBS Impact Summit on June 24th

Public Comment

Pepi Acebo participated in public comment

Next Meeting

The committee is not scheduled to meet in May or June; however, the first Tuesday in July is a holiday. The committee decided to meet in June to discuss:

- Multi-year awards
- Returned funds from FY2023
- Workforce Development recommendations

Next meeting is June 6, 2023, 1:00-2:30 pm, 200 College St, Ground Floor Conference Room