



## Early Childhood Grants Committee

September 15, 2020

Grantee COVID Discussion

### DRAFT MINUTES

#### Welcome

**Welcome** and agenda review by Rachael Nygaard.

**Committee Members Present:** Leslie Anderson, Jasmine Beach Ferrara, Philip Belcher, Brandy Bowman, Jane Hatley, Rich Johnston, Chevaun Letman, Susan Mims, Robert Pressley, Mistie Reising-Cogbill, Al Whitesides, Wendy Wieber

#### **Grantee Agencies Represented:**

- Asheville City Schools, Asheville Jewish Community Center, Buncombe County Partnership for Children, Buncombe County Schools, CIMA, Christine Avery Learning Center, Community Action Opportunities, Eliada, Irene Wortham, OnTrack Financial Education, Southwestern Child Development, Swannanoa Valley Child Care Council, Warren Wilson, YWCA of Asheville

#### **MentiMeter Questions/Discussion (reference attached Menti results for all answers)**

- What would you most like the committee to know in regard to staffing at your organization?
  - Many organization stated they are having difficulty recruiting and retaining staff
  - Staff are having a hard time supporting their own school age children
  - Teachers are feeling emotional toll of so much discussion of how k-12 students can be kept safe, when they have been working to keep students safe the whole time.
  - CDC guidelines are taking away their support (i.e. not gathering in break room to be able to talk with other staff)
  - Guidelines cause strain on budget (constantly cleaning, removing shared items that children are used to using).
- What would you like the committee to know in regard to enrollment (or other service delivery at your organization?)
  - Need time and flexibility to change model.
  - Not at normal levels
  - Having to deal with social distancing requirements
  - Lack of staffing doesn't allow them to serve as many students
- Did your organization receive any special COVID funding?
  - PPP and EIDL Loans
  - Dogwood Health Trust
  - BC Smart Start
- What would you like the committee to know in regards to funding for early childhood education?
  - Thank you for patience
  - Please allow for flexibility of funding, could use it for operational support if possible.
- Besides funding, what other resources can Buncombe County and/or the Early Childhood Committee help you with?



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- Increased bandwidth for internet usage.
- Grant research
  
- Reminder:
  - First quarterly reports for FY2021 are due by October 15, and they should be emailed to Angelyn Johnson. If the agency is on quarterly billing, please submit that invoice with the quarterly report.
  - Site visits will be scheduled for one hour per agency, and the purpose is for the committee to gain a deeper understanding of the work, including challenges and successes. Grantees should be on the lookout for an email from Angelyn with details about site visits and the opportunity to schedule their site visit using calendly.