

## **MINUTES**

**Attendees:** Al Whitesides, Carol Steen, Diana Anthony, Heather Zanzig (virtual), Leslie Anderson, Linda McDaniel, Mark Taft, Martin Moore, Pam Holcombe, Philip Belcher (virtual)

**Absent:** Kit Cramer, Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, Mistie Reising-Cogbill, Susan Mims

**Staff in attendance:** Sara Joss, Angelyn Johnson, Michael Frue, Catalina Otero

### **Welcome**

### **Minutes**

- Approval of minutes from February 6, 2024
  - Motion to approve by Al Whitesides. Seconded by Leslie Anderson. The minutes were unanimously approved.

### **Old Business**

- None

### **New Business**

- Conflict of Interest Disclosures
  - A document was included in the meeting packet of committee members' potential conflicts.
- Follow-up questions for applicants
  - The deadline for committee members to add follow-up questions in the online portal is Monday, 3/11 at 8:00 am
- Trends/themes in current proposals
  - Impact of stabilization grant
    - Stabilization grants are scheduled to end in June, so many of the applications are seeking funds to help offset the impact of these funds ending.
  - Multi-year funding
    - 15 projects are requesting multi-year funding this cycle. If all are awarded, it would account for approximately \$2.5 million for the next 3 years.
    - The committee would like staff to provide a list of organizations and projects funded in previous years, as well as information on previous multi-year awards. The committee would like to review which projects have been funded for multiple years even if it wasn't a multi-year award.
    - The committee would like to consider a cap of the maximum percent of the overall fund that would be utilized for multi-year awards.
    - The committee decided to create a sub-group to research and make recommendations for a multi-year funding process for future cycles. This ad hoc

group will meet after this funding cycle process is complete. Carol, Pam, Leslie and Martin volunteered for this ad-hoc group.

- General discussion
  - Committee members discussed the large requests and how they are disproportionate compared to the overall amount of the fund. There is also concern that the county funds seem to be the only revenue source for some of the applicants. The committee members take this into account when scoring the applications, specifically on the budget scores.
  - The committee discussed how to be sure there is no overlap in funding salaries of NC PreK teachers if both the Buncombe Partnership for Children’s Buncombe PreK project is funded and individual centers are also requesting funding for staff salary. The committee will use follow-up questions to organization and staff will also work with any organizations that are funded to make sure there is no overlap.
  - The committee would like staff to share a copy of the contract template so they can see what all it includes.
  - The committee had questions around if application for advocacy/lobbying at the state level would be allowable. County attorney, Michael Frue, will have to research this. However, the County is already working with a firm, and Early Childhood is one of their legislative priorities.
  
- Timeline review
  - March 11 at 8:00 am – deadline to enter follow-up questions for applicants
  - March 18 at 5:00 pm – deadline for applicants to respond to follow-up questions
  - April 1 at 8:00 am – scoring deadline
  - April 2 at 12:30 pm – extended committee meeting
  - 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 was a document included in the meeting packet of some upcoming trainings for Early Childhood provider for students with disabilities and/or behavioral challenges. This was requested by committee members in a previous meeting.

#### **Public Comment**

- Corrie Price from Evolve Early Learning participated in public comment.

#### **Next Meeting**

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