

## Minutes

**Committee Members in attendance:** Commissioner Al Whitesides, Christy Cheek, Dr. Glenda Weinert, Jane Hatley, Commissioner Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, Kidada Wynn, Kit Cramer, Leslie Anderson, Mistie Reising-Cogbill, Philip Belcher, Rich Johnston, Dr. Susan Mims

**County support staff in attendance:** Angelyn Johnson, Christina McEntee, Kimberly Fullerton, Patricia Wallin, Rachael Nygaard, Rasheeda McDaniels, Zo Mpofo

**Welcome** and agenda review by Commissioner Beach-Ferrara

### Minutes

- Motion was made by Christy Cheek and seconded by Jane Hatley to approve minutes from August 6, 2019. Vote was unanimous.

### Old Business

- **Consideration of Revised Draft By-laws** – presented revised by-laws with revisions highlighted in yellow. Opened floor for comments/questions. Motion was made by Rich Johnston and seconded by Philip Belcher to approve by-laws as presented. Vote was unanimous.
- **Initial Term Assignments** – reviewed document for initial term. If anyone doesn't agree with initial term, please let Philip know.
- **Update on FY2020 Early Childhood Investments** – Rachael presented data on current slot and increase for FY20. Explained the quarterly data reporting form that will be used by grantees. By December, we will be able to review all of the data points. Rachael explained that Christine Avery Learning Center was formerly funded through Asheville City Schools. Christine Avery Learning Center and Asheville City Schools requested funding be provided directly to Christine Avery Learning Center this year, so the agency name listed has changed. Also, Children and Friends wasn't included in the original listing because they were funded with FY2019 funds; however, their currently active contract is for calendar year 2019, and they are slated to open this fiscal year.
- **Update on Site Visits** – staff will be visiting sites in September to prepare for committee site visits in October through December. A form was passed around for committee members to indicate their preferred block of time for site visits. All committee members will have an opportunity to visit any/all sites.

### New Business

- **State of Children in Buncombe County Presentation** – presentation by Rachael Nygaard and Zo Mpofo. This presentation is largely based on 2017 data and includes ages birth to 18. The data is based on the 10 goals outlined in the NC Early Childhood Action Plan. These goals include Healthy Babies, Preventive Health Services, Food Security, Safe and Secure Housing, Safe and Nurturing Relationships, Permanent Families for Children in Foster Care, Social-Emotional Health and Resilience, High-Quality Early Learning, On Track for School Success and Reading at Grade Level. The Buncombe County data was shown in comparison with regional and/or state data. The power point presentation and handouts are included in the meeting materials. Community Health Assessment by

Buncombe County Department of Health & Human Services can be found online at:

[https://www.buncombecounty.org/Governing/Depts/Health/health\\_Reports.aspx](https://www.buncombecounty.org/Governing/Depts/Health/health_Reports.aspx). The Early

Childhood Action Plan from NC Department of Health & Human Services can be found online at:

[ncdhhs.gov/about/department-initiatives/early-childhood/early-childhood-action-plan](http://ncdhhs.gov/about/department-initiatives/early-childhood/early-childhood-action-plan)

**Questions/Comments/Reflections about presentation:**

1. Did the data show that the infant mortality rate increased? Yes, and that is why Buncombe County is focusing on that for the next 10 years instead of just the next 3 years. Micro-trauma has been seen to have a high impact. Southeastern Summit on ACES will be held in Asheville this year at MAHEC. Rich Johnston will share information on this summit.
2. Do we track substance abuse? Yes, and it is associated with behavioral health public health priority, and has impacts in all areas.
3. Asheville City Schools vs. Buncombe County Schools data – we are one of the only districts with County/City School divide. Will share comments with County Performance Management staff for the purpose of having an analysis of combining city and county and then comparing and also the other counties that also have city/county schools.
4. The data is depressing and can make you feel hopeless. We have to work on it and have the discussions. We can't fix the issues overnight, but there are things we can do to make a difference.

**Next Steps** – At September's meeting, there will be a presentation on the State of Early Childhood Education in Buncombe County.

**Public Comment** – Corrie Price from Evolve Early Learning thanked the committee for supporting them. NC Voucher program is closed for new child enrollments, and families can't access care they need. Need to locally come up with a plan.

**Next meeting** – October 1, 2019, 1:00 – 2:30 pm at 200 College Street, Ground Floor Conference Room

**Adjourn** – Dr. Glenda Weinert made a motion to adjourn, Rich Johnston seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.