

## MINUTES

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

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

**Staff in attendance:** Rachael Nygaard, Sara Joss, Burnett Walz, Michael Frue, Angelica Tyler

### Welcome

### Minutes

- Approval of minutes from January 2, 2024
  - Motion to approve by Carol Steen. Seconded by Al Whitesides. The minutes were unanimously approved.

### Old Business

- Southwestern Child Development/Valley Child Development
  - Christine Avery Learning Center has taken over ownership of the Valley Child Development location. The sub-group recently met and reviewed Christine Avery Learning Center's projected revenues and expenses for this transition. The sub-group authorized \$39,000 in additional funding for Christine Avery Learning Center for the transition. The sub-group will continue meeting regularly to review the revenue and expenses incurred by Christine Avery Learning Center.

### New Business

- Grant review planning
  - Evaluation Orientation taking place on Thursday 2/8 at 3pm to go over the application review process
  - Scoring Tool
  - Software
  - Methodology
  - The committee decided to keep the follow-up questions for applicants component of the FY25 funding process.
    - All reviewer questions for applicants should be submitted in the "Questions for Applicants" box no later than Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 8am.
- NC ELI & mClass Data Review (presented by Burnett Walz, Strategy & Innovation department)
  - The committee had questions about the following areas that are not currently being tracked:
    - Economic status
    - Individualized Education Plans (IEPs)
    - Length of time served by a preschool program

- Dogwood Health Trust ECE workforce development projects (presented by Tricia Wilson, Dr. Ereka Williams, Stephen Blount, and Victoria Brownlee)
  - ECE Grantmaking 2020-2023 (in 18 county footprint):
    - 46 partners
    - 62 grants totaling \$23,080,581
  - Grants to partners in Buncombe County
    - AB Tech
    - Colaborativa La Milpa
    - Verner Center for Early Learning
  - Looking ahead to advocacy and policy opportunities in the ECE sphere as members of “Invest Early NC” funders collaborative and beyond.

#### **Announcements**

- Grant applications are due on Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. Staff will upload applications into reviewers’ grant portal dashboards on Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Public Comment**

- Pepi Acebo made public comment.
- Amy Barry from Buncombe Partnership for Children made public comment.

#### **Next Meeting**

Next meeting is March 5, 2024, 1:00-2:30 pm, 200 College St, Ground Floor Conference Room