Key to Our Futures: Expanding Access to High Quality Preschool Education and Supports for Early Learning
Today’s Presenters

Jennie Eblen: Chair of the Asheville Buncombe Preschool Planning Collaborative
Eblen Short Stop Stores

Jacque Penick: Funding Model Workgroup Member
Executive Director for Verner Center for Early Learning

Jenny Vial: Member of Quality Model Design and Research Workgroups
Child Care Resource & Referral Director for Buncombe Partnership for Children

Caroline Rodier: Co-chair for Funding Model Workgroup
Assistant Director for Buncombe Partnership for Children

Amy Barry: Member of Asheville Buncombe Preschool Planning Collaborative
Executive Director for Buncombe Partnership for Children
The Asheville Buncombe Preschool Planning Collaborative

The Vision

To ensure that every child age birth to five in Asheville and Buncombe County has access to high-quality, affordable early care and education.

The Purpose

Within the next five years, our purpose is to increase access to affordable, high quality preschool for three- and four-year-olds in Asheville and Buncombe County, with a priority on children and families who are currently experiencing the greatest barriers to access.
Why focus on 3 & 4 year olds?

• Preschool expansion is the most fiscally viable expansion & provides the next step upstream from kindergarten

• By increasing access to 4 year olds, we will provide seats for younger children aging up

• Many families surveyed want preschool for social and learning experiences with children their age
The Value of the Collaborative and the People Involved

Steering Committee

Collaborative Team

Research  Communications  Quality Model Design  Workforce  Funding Model
Our Inclusive Approach

Collaborative Team and Work Groups
A wide range of stakeholders beyond those working in the field of ECE

Extensive Family Survey
Over 600 respondents

Early Care and Education Providers
Provider surveys & listening sessions
**A-B Preschool Planning Collaborative Work Phases**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Process Design</th>
<th>Plan Assembly</th>
<th>Endorsement</th>
<th>Implementation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>What we did:</strong></td>
<td><strong>What we’ll do:</strong></td>
<td><strong>What we’ll do:</strong></td>
<td><strong>What we’ll do:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussed and developed process; created structure for forward movement; received consulting services</td>
<td>Research options [model design; financing; workforce development; etc.] &amp; develop a draft plan. Determine workability in A-B.</td>
<td>Secure community buy-in; revise plan w/community feedback. Secure financial support for implementation.</td>
<td>Initial implementation &amp; ongoing sustainability work.</td>
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<td><strong>Output:</strong> Clear process for moving forward</td>
<td><strong>Output:</strong> Draft Plan for expanding preschool to 3 &amp; 4 year olds in A-B</td>
<td><strong>Output:</strong> Revised plan that has broad community support &amp; initial funding</td>
<td><strong>Output:</strong> First priority plan recommendations are in place &amp; future funding is secured</td>
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**Plan Assembly**
(July 2016 - September 2017)

**Endorsement**
(October 2017 - May 2018)
Local Preschool Expansion in NC

- Forsyth
- Durham
- Guilford
- Wake
Current Need and Climate in Buncombe County

- High Demand
- Lack of Available Slots
- Workforce Shortage
Need for Highly Qualified Teachers

- Teaching is meaningful but stressful, and profession is undervalued
- 30% drop in enrollees in NC colleges for ECE/BK programs
- Limited local opportunities for pursuing Higher Ed in ECE
- Recruitment and retention challenges
Prohibitive Cost of Care

For Preschool Programs:
Current public funding does not cover the full cost of high quality care

For Families:
71.5% of parents surveyed who did not send their children to preschool said it was too expensive
Creating the Model: Community Input

- **91%** of respondents stated they need or want preschool for their children.

- More than **2/3** of parents want access to preschool so they can work; **18%** want care so they can go to school.

- The majority of parents (**59.5%**) need or want preschool full-time either year-round or during the school year.
The Quality Model

- Based on research & community insight
- High standards for teachers, administrators, & programs
- Best practices for children, families, and teachers
Building on NC Pre-K for the Buncombe County Quality Model

- Consistent high quality standards in a variety of program settings
- A focus on workforce & ongoing program support
- Sharing services
Using the Quality Model to Determine Cost of Care

- **Assigning costs to model requirements, keeping in mind:**
  - Living wage
  - Increasing teacher education
  - Supporting best classroom practices

- **Creating cost models to meet family & provider needs**
# Cost for Increased Access to High Quality Care

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FULL DAY, FULL YEAR</th>
<th>SCHOOL DAY, FULL YEAR</th>
<th>SCHOOL DAY SCHOOL YEAR</th>
<th>FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENTRY</td>
<td>$9,697</td>
<td>$6,711</td>
<td>$5,650</td>
<td>$6,269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOAL</td>
<td>$10,774</td>
<td>$7,470</td>
<td>$6,296</td>
<td>$6,384</td>
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Costs Compared to Other Models

• Head Start, NC Pre-K, Subsidy, others

• Projecting expansion costs based on
  o Available children
  o Saturation rate research
Potential Financing Strategies

- Financing training by NC Early Childhood Foundation

- Early Childhood Financing Toolkit

- Research financing options for Buncombe County
Next Steps - Phase III Work

- Identify most likely sources of funding
- Host focus groups
- Launch a public education campaign
- Conduct polling to assess community support for funding
- Collaborate with NC communities working on preschool expansion
How You Can Help

• Continue your strong financial support of comprehensive early childhood services

• Provide support and guidance around financing strategies

• Support our public education campaign

• Find opportunities to work together to and for you to

• Consider ways to financially support preschool expansion
For more information on the Asheville Buncombe Preschool Planning Collaborative visit our website: www.abppc.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!