Early Childhood Education & Development Committee

March 5, 2019, 10:00 – 11:30

200 College Street

MINUTES

Committee Members Present

Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, Robert Pressley, Al Whitesides

County Staff Present

Rasheeda McDaniels, Rachael Nygaard

Guests Present

Leslie Anderson, Mary Arnold, Amy Barry, Greg Borom, Jennifer Bosworth, Camille Cushman, John Dewitt, Linda Hobson, Mark Dickerson, Martha Geitner, Christine Malloy, Terrence McAllister, Molly Maynard, Denise Patterson, Brian Repass, Jerry Rice, Caroline Rodier, Shaunda Sanford, Susanna Smith, Glenda Weinert, Marcia Whitney, Jenny Vial

Minutes

Al Whitesides moved approval of the February 19 minutes, with a correction to reflect Martha Geitner's presence. Robert Whitesides seconded, and the minutes were accepted with unanimous approval.

Discussion

- **Committee membership:** Committee members discussed the possibility of adjusting the membership structure for the committee. Because by-laws have not yet been approved, there is flexibility to change the membership. The committee emphasized the desire to include an array of cross-discipline perspectives from across geographic districts while ensuring transparency and open channels of dialog for community members as well as the desire to have a lean group size. There was no decision made; there was agreement to leave the option open to expand from 6 community members to 8, 10 or 12 once applications are in. The likely mechanism would be to use "at large" or general community seats. Committee members requested an update on committee applications as of March 10 to give time for additional recruitment if needed.
- **Community engagement:** Committee members reflected on the input and ideas shared at the previous community engagement sessions held on February 19 with the School Districts and representatives from Asheville-Buncombe Preschool Planning Collaborative. Members discuss the option of holding an open, public engagement session. The suggested timing is sometime before the funding application closes on April 19. The suggested format is a live meeting supplemented by technology such as Facebook Live and Let's Talk. Staff to coordinate on potential event dates and bring to next committee meeting for discussion.
- **Funding application:** Staff reviewed the funding application components with members of the committee. There was some discussion about ideal timing and the application deadline. Al Whitesides moved approval of the funding application, with the change in application deadline to April 19. Jasmine Beach-Ferrara seconded, and the application was accepted with unanimous approval. Staff will post and distribute on Wednesday, February 20.
- **Staffing options:** There was discussion around opportunities to structure a staffing plan to coordinate the implementation of the Early Childhood Fund. Committee members discussed the need to ensure effective investment, which can include tasks such as planning, research, facilitation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. No recommendation or decision was made.

- **Next meeting:** Committee members agreed to meet again shortly after the deadline for committee membership applications, March 15. A next meeting was set for March 19 from 9:30 to 11:00 and changed later that day to March 19 from 9:00 to 10:30.

Next Steps

- Committee membership applications due March 15
- Open public community engagement session to be scheduled
- Funding applications due April 19

Public Comment

- Amy Barry requested clarification around what projects are currently funded and how that funding will be handled going forward.
- Greg Borom shared about the NC Early Childhood Action Plan and emphasized the coordination role of Smart Start organizations such as Buncombe Partnership for Children.
- Leslie Anderson described an opportunity to coordinate efforts at the county with planning in the community in order to ensure a unified vision and plan.
- Jerry Rice shared about the importance of connecting with the educational system as well as the need for quality plan to address the needs, including for those not yet in the system. He also emphasized the need for public comment to be public and captured in the minutes for the record.
- Jerry Rice and Greg Borom each made comments regarding the Early Childhood Education and Development Fund and Committee.
- Jennifer Bosworth thanked the committee for the open forum as well as this overall work and focus on early childhood.

Announcements
There were no announcements.

Meeting Materials
The following documents are included as attachments to these minutes:

- Early Childhood Education Funding application

Next meeting
March 19, 2019, 9:00-10:30 at 200 College Street, Room 310

FY2020 Early Childhood Education and Development Fund

Buncombe County

APPLICATION

Buncombe County requests proposals for community based projects to enhance outcomes for young children and their families in our community. Grants made through the Early Childhood Education and Development Fund will be focused on access to quality early childhood care and education.

Online applications are due by 5:00pm on April 19, 2019.

- Projects must align with the goals and purposes outlined in the application. The focus is on scaling up effective practices for an enhanced local system of early care and education that is effective, accessible, affordable, responsive and sustainable.

- All organization types are eligible to apply. This includes public/governmental agencies as well as private organizations, including nonprofits and private businesses.

- In the first year of the fund (FY2020), requests for capital projects will be restricted to the public school systems. Capital outlay projects are defined as planning, construction, reconstruction, enlargement, improvement, repair, or renovation of buildings and for the purchase of land for early childhood care and education purposes.

- Any organization type may request funding for program operations.

- Multi-year funding requests will be considered.

- Collaborative projects involving multiple organizations will be considered.

The Board of Commissioners has identified the following goals related to this priority:

- Collaborate with community leaders and stakeholders for a coordinated system approach;

- Increase the availability of high-quality early childhood care and education with an emphasis on Pre-K programs;

- Address issues of affordability, both for providers in a sustainable business model and for families in access to care;

- Support a robust career track in the field of early education, with development ladders from entry level to highly educated, credentialed, seasoned professionals; and

- Cultivate a system that responds to the needs of families, such as those impacted by trauma, poverty and addiction.

Funding will be allocated for the following purposes:

1. Creating new classrooms to serve more children in early care and education settings;
2. Implementing workforce development strategies to recruit and retain qualified teachers;
3. Supporting strategies for scaling up effective programs; and
4. Providing support services for children and families enrolled in early care and education programs.

Funding will be allocated to support programs and activities that can help contribute to a significant scale-up of the early childhood education system in Buncombe County, based on effective and promising practices locally and from other communities.

Examples of potential projects include:
- public/private collaborations to launch new centers and expand support services available at these programs (e.g. a health clinic);
- recruitment and retention strategies such as signing bonuses, individualized coaching, access to benefits like matched savings programs;
- shared services models that help smaller centers become more operationally and fiscally effective; and/or
- strategies focused on advocacy at the state level and on supporting effective local collaboration.

PROJECT

Project Name*
Character Limit: 100

Project Description
Provide an overall summary of the project. Include information about whether this a new initiative, an expansion, or a continuation.
Character Limit: 3000

Key Steps
How will the project work? What specific activities and milestones are included in the project plan?
Character Limit: 3000

Need

What is the main issue that this project is established to address? What data are available to demonstrate the need? (quantitative/qualitative, agency/community/research evidence)

Character Limit: 1000

Approach

What models or evidence-based practices will be incorporated into this project?

Character Limit: 1000

Organization

Provide an overview of the organization that will be responsible for this project. If this application is a partnership between more than one organization, describe the lead entity or fiscal agent. When was the organization established, what is the focus and services, and what is the track record of success?

Character Limit: 1000

Collaboration

List any formal partners, and describe their roles in the project. How will the partnership be managed and monitored? List additional supportive partners and their roles.

Character Limit: 1000

Equity

Describe your approach to racial equity, both inside and outside the organization. What are some specific examples of practices that are in place?

Character Limit: 1000

RESULTS

Purpose

Explain how this project aligns with the goals and purposes identified by the Board of Commissioners for the Early Childhood Education and Development Fund.

Character Limit: 1000

Scope

Is this project focused on enhancing the overall system or is it focused on specific programming within the system? Does the project focus on one component of early care and education (such as pre-k) or a certain subset of the population (such as geographic or demographic)?

Character Limit: 1000

Outputs

What key measures will be tracked that relate to project activities and volume of services? How much will be achieved with this project? How will the outputs be measured and monitored?

Character Limit: 1000

Outcomes

Describe the intended result to be achieved by this project. Be specific about the change that will occur as a result of funded activities. Include information about any impact the project will have on the following areas: system effectiveness; workforce; slots; program quality; affordability; access; equity; and/or the growth and development of children.

Character Limit: 1000

Evaluation

Explain the project evaluation process. Are there specific performance goals? How will performance indicators will practices and/or inform decision making?

Character Limit: 1000

Scale

What is your vision for how the strategies from this project could contribute to a significant scale-up the overall system to collectively address shortages serve more children and families?

Character Limit: 1000

Resource Support

What are the most important questions that the organization will be wrestling with over the term of the grant? Are there ways beyond funding that Buncombe County can support your organization in strengthening your work? (e.g. related to equity, scale, or impact)

Character Limit: 1000

BUDGET

FY2020 Request Amount

How much funding is being requested from Buncombe County's Early Childhood Fund for FY2020? (July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020)

Character Limit: 20

Project Budget

Upload a budget for the project, including revenue and expenditures. Any standard budget format is acceptable, provided that it contains clear information about the income sources and expense details for the project. Denote any eligible capital expenses. Include information about any sub-contracts or funding that will be issued to project partners. If this is a multi-year request, separate the budgets by year.

File Size Limit: 25 MB

Budget Narrative

Provide a summary of the project budget. Explain how grant funds will be used, specifically what type of expenses would be covered by County funds. Describe what other revenue sources are also budgeted for the project, including type of funding source, restrictions, and status.

Character Limit: 1000

Multi-Year Funding

Is this a request for multi-year funding? If multi-year, explain the request. Would the project be able to begin with a 1-year grant, or is a multi-year commitment critical?

Character Limit: 1000

Partial Funding

If the project were to be offered a grant for partial funding, what factors would need to be considered?

Character Limit: 1000

GRANT PROCESS

Grant applications will be reviewed by the Early Childhood Education and Development Committee. Recommendations from the Committee will be submitted to the Board of Commissioners for approval. Grant announcements are anticipated for June 2019 with the funding period to begin July 1, 2019. After grants are awarded, funding will be administered by the Strategic Partnerships Department through performance based contracts. Organizations will be required to submit financial assurances and certificates of insurance as part of the contracting process. Terms of disbursement of grant funds will be negotiated, and fiscal and programmatic compliance will be monitored.