

Draft Minutes

Committee Members in attendance: Leslie Anderson, Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, Philip Belcher, Jane Hatley, Rich Johnston, Chevaun Letman, Susan Mims, Glenda Weinert, Al Whitesides, Kidada Wynn

County support staff in attendance: Rachael Nygaard, Rasheeda McDaniels, Zo Mpofo, Max Taintor, Burnett Walz, Trish Wallin, DK Wesley

Welcome and agenda review by Jasmine Beach-Ferrara.

Virtual meeting reminder: Identify yourself when speaking. This is a public meeting. If any community members are in attendance, there will be a time for public comment at the end of the meeting.

Meeting Minutes: Motion was made by Al Whiteside and seconded by Leslie Anderson to approve the minutes from May 5. Vote was unanimous to approve.

Old Business:

- Grantee updates: FY2020 year did not end as we had anticipated and resulted in changes to our grantees' programs. We are still working with a couple of the organizations to get final performance reporting. Within the next week or so, the dashboards should be updated with the final data for FY2020. We are working with organizations for FY2021 and are in the process of finalizing the contracts. Rachael met with Executive Committee in July about multi-year contracts. Two projects were provided multi-year grants (Buncombe County Schools and YWCA). Two other multi-year projects were funded that are multi-year projects, but all funding is in this fiscal year (Irene Wortham Center and OnTrack). The FY2021 contracts are moving through the process. A couple of contracts are awaiting approval by the organizations' boards, etc. but there are no concerns with any of the contracts.
- Jasmine, Al and Max from Communications attended the groundbreaking ceremony yesterday for the Buncombe County School/Verner project at Emma. Plan is for the modular units to arrive in October, and they hope to open their doors in 6-8 months for up to 100 children.

New business:

- Election of 2021 officers: Al Whitesides and Leslie Anderson suggested keeping the officers the same. Philip Belcher requested to be replaced as Secretary. The Committee would like to diversify the officer roles. Jasmine requested committee members consider if they would like to serve or whom they would like to see in these roles. The officers for FY2021 will be elected during the September meeting.
- Committee vacancies and nomination process: We currently have two vacancies (one seat is the retiree position and the other is a community-at-large position). The vacancies have been posted, and we have received 9 applicants so far. The positions are appointed by the Commissioners, but the Committee needs to determine the process for selecting the two candidates to present to the Commissioners to appoint. Rich Johnston, Leslie Anderson, Al Whitesides and Jane Hatley volunteered to be on the selection committee.
- FY2021 Roadmap:
 - Rachael presented the draft roadmap for FY2021 for the ECE Committee and then offered the Committee an opportunity to provide feedback.

- Jane Hatley found the site visits helpful and would like to do virtual site visits. Dr. Susan Mims agreed with Jane; the site visits were very helpful, and she agrees that virtual interactions would be great (i.e. a virtual tour, a virtual meeting, etc.).
- Dr. Mims suggested focusing the entire September meeting on equity in Early Childhood and weaving equity into the other meetings as well, e.g. the meetings addressing as the funding process review, funding priorities, and funding strategies.
- Leslie likes to see grantee performance reporting included quarterly so the committee is more knowledgeable about the grantees' performance.
- Jane would like a speaker to provide local and national perspectives on the issues we're facing. Would like to include the Communication and Community Engagement team in the Community Engagement event. In the past, the attendees generally represented grant applicants; the committee would like to include a broader range of participants. Would like to include parents and get their feedback about what is working, what is not working and other input. Would need to consider moving the event to the evening to include working parents. Would like to consider a virtual town hall to reach more people.
- Currently, centers are seeing a significant increase in their costs due to COVID. We might need to consider general operating grants for the coming year. Dr. Mims inquired about whether CARE funds are available for centers and whether grantees need technical assistance. There is an infrastructure in place through Mountain BizWorks and Self Help. Several childcare centers received PPP funding. The September ECE Grantee Cohort call could focus on this.
- County staff will send a calendar invite with the proposed dates for the meetings. November's regular meeting falls on Election Day, so that meeting will be rescheduled.

Announcements:

- August 11 at 5:30 pm via Zoom, "Let's Talk COVID Back to School and Learning" event. Superintendents from Buncombe County Schools and Asheville City Schools, Director of Student Services from both school systems, Board chairs, etc. will be there to discuss supportive services for parents and students and how to decrease disparities during the pandemic. Staff will share the link to the event with the Committee.
- Max spoke with John DeWitt at the groundbreaking event yesterday, and John is going to give Max a tour next Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.; others can join if they would like.

Public Comment: There were no public comments.

Next meeting: September 1, 2020