

DRAFT MINUTES

Committee Members in attendance: Al Whitesides, Brandy Bowman, Chevaun Letman, Jane Hatley, Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, Kidada Wynn, Kit Cramer, Leslie Anderson, Mistie Reising-Cogbill, Philip Belcher, Rich Johnston, Susan Mims, Wendy Wieber

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

Welcome and agenda review by Jasmine Beach-Ferrara.

Virtual meeting reminder: Identify yourself when speaking. All votes will be conducted by roll call. 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: Al Whitesides made a motion to approve the minutes from November 17. Jane Hatley seconded motion. Vote by roll call vote was unanimous in approval.

Old Business

- Reflections on virtual site visits: Committee’s site visit feedback was compiled and shared in the meeting materials. The information includes feedback for other committee members and for grantees. Thanks to all the committee members who participated. We have received great feedback from grantees who expressed gratitude for the committee’s time.
- The FY21 Committee Roadmap has been revised. The changes are highlighted for review. The major changes include a recommendation to not meet in January. We had added a presentation to Commissioners in January, however that has been moved to later in the spring so it isn’t so early in the process.
- Updates from County Commissioners: On December 10, the Commissioners will be holding their budget planning session/retreat. Newly elected commissioners will be participating. Jasmine, Al and Robert will be presenting a proposal. In the proposal, the \$851k for ACS will be moved back to the general allocation and will not come from the ECE grant budget. They will also discuss the idea of elevating the strategy of creating high quality pre-k slots in a way that is informed by equity and in a way where we could assess impact on children who participate in those slots. There would essentially be 2 prongs for funding: one for the expansion of high quality pre-k slots, and one for funding allocated for more general needs. It would be up to the committee to define what would be elevated (i.e. NC PreK slots – which are 4 year olds, or some other definition). Previously, the committee defined “Emphasis in the fund is given to preschool and pre-kindergarten. This is not associated with “NC Pre-K,” which is a program of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education.” They will also discuss growth of the fund over time. After the Commissioners discussion, it will come back to the ECE Committee. The link for the Commissioners workgroup will be published online for anyone who wants to join. Staff will share a summary email after the Commissioners meet next week.

- Grant Process Recommendations: Staff presented recommendations based on the Equity In Grant making meeting from November. The document outlining the recommendations is included in the meeting documents. The ad hoc sub-group revised the application and scoring guide. The application has been paired down and simplified. The new scoring guide will focus on the overall application instead of each individual question. It also will allow the committee to focus more on the project instead of on the writing.
- There was a discussion around the equity questions/scoring. It was suggested to edit the equity question to: “Describe your organization’s equity strategy and how that is reflected in the proposed project.” It was suggested to possibly make a section header “Diversity, Equity and Inclusion” with sub-questions.
- For scoring: Is there a way to offer bonus points to past grantees based on previous successes with grant funds? The committee was concerned this would have a negative impact on equity.
- It was suggested to have the language from the resolution that established the fund available for committee members to review before scoring applications.
- Staff will make edits to the application and scoring guide and send to the committee for review before it goes live.

New Business

- Presentation to Board of Commissioners has been moved to March.

Announcements

- There were no announcements

Public Comment

- There was no public comment

Next Meeting: There will be no meeting in January. Next meeting is February 2 at 1:00 pm.