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
  o Motion to approve by Carol Steen. Seconded by Al Whitesides. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Old Business

• Southwestern Child Development/Valley Child Development
  o 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
  o Evaluation Orientation taking place on Thursday 2/8 at 3pm to go over the application review process
  o Scoring Tool
  o Software
  o Methodology
  o 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 11th at 8am.

• NC ELI & mClass Data Review (presented by Burnett Walz, Strategy & Innovation department)
  o 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

Meeting materials are posted online at www.BuncombeCounty.org/Grants
• Dogwood Health Trust ECE workforce development projects (presented by Tricia Wilson, Dr. Ereka Williams, Stephen Blount, and Victoria Brownlee)
  o ECE Grantmaking 2020-2023 (in 18 county footprint):
    ▪ 46 partners
    ▪ 62 grants totaling $23,080,581
  o Grants to partners in Buncombe County
    ▪ AB Tech
    ▪ Colaborativa La Milpa
    ▪ Verner Center for Early Learning
  o 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 9th at 5pm. Staff will upload applications into reviewers’ grant portal dashboards on Monday, February 12th.

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

Meeting materials are posted online at www.BuncombeCounty.org/Grants