

## Executive Committee (Acting on Behalf of Board)

Thursday, December 19, 2019

### President's Report

- A. North Carolina Partnership for Children (NCPC) Updates / DCDEE Updates / Legislative Updates**
- 1. NCPC** – New CAD guidelines for CCR&R Activity were presented at the ED Forum on December 10. There will be a webinar in January and a three-year rollout for implementing the new guidelines. 1000Feathers presented the final version of the **Simple Rules** for engagement within the Smart Start network. These are guidelines to follow in all interactions between NCPC and the network, thus strengthening our work. Work will continue to implement these strategies. The position for NCPC President has been posted. **NCPC's Annual Report** for FY 18/19 to the General Assembly was submitted early December. NCPC's board has approved their **Strategic Roadmap for 2019-2029**. We will be reviewing it for alignment with PFC's strategic plan. NCPC has adopted **Paid Parental Leave** effective January 2020. The **draft Early Childhood Indicators** by county were released this week.
  - 2. DCDEE** –The **Regional contract for Healthy Social Behavior** is under review by DHHS, but should be forthcoming shortly. Regional monitoring was completed by Southwestern Child Development Commission last week. **NC Pre-K** attendance has been submitted through November. Payments have been processed through November for private providers and Action Pathways. Without a state budget, no additional funds beyond current, recurring funds are coming from DCDEE. **The federal Office of Child Care will be conducting an onsite CCDF monitoring visit April 21-23, 2020**. There could be visits out to CCR&Rs and local partnerships. DCDEE is awaiting notification for the federal Preschool Development Grant submitted in November. The **Subsidy freeze for DSS was lifted October 1**. Counties can determine their priorities for funding. **AWARDS** wage supplements for teachers who work with infants and toddlers can now be accessed by Family Child Care Homes effective October 1. Regulatory Rules around Environmental Health will require childcare centers to **test all drinking water** within one year, new centers on application. This will then have to be done every three years. This will fall under Sanitation inspections. There is a recommendation (not requirement) for vaccinations and flu shots for childcare providers.
  - 3. NC Legislature** – Bills to watch (S212/S634/H882): there is still discussion around the workforce development bills and proposals that will take concerns of providers into consideration. The legislature is expected to go back in session January 14.
- B. Leandro Report** – Two years ago, the parties agreed to settle the case. In order to reach a settlement, the court ordered a comprehensive report. The court-directed WestEd report was released last week. The report offers extensive recommendations to improve education in North Carolina, including substantial new investment in early childhood programs at a total of more than \$1 billion over the next eight years. The total projected cost of the settlement is \$8 billion. In addition to the WestEd report, a separate Leandro Commission report will go to the courts. Once these reports go to the courts and are reviewed, a court order

will be issued. The case revolves around the state's responsibility to ensure a sound and basic education for all North Carolina children. Later court rulings included early childhood education and recommendations cover early childhood as well as K-12 education.

**C. Grant Opportunities/Updates**

1. **Infrastructure Grant Opportunities:** Due to changes at the state and federal level in the Community Block Development Grant through the City of Fayetteville's Economic and Community Development Department, this will most likely not be an option for the Partnership. We are investigating other funding sources, including the Golden LEAF Foundation and the Cannon Foundation. Steve Fleming continues his assessment of building needs and once his report is available, this will help inform future grant applications. We expect the report by the end of December.

**D. Healthy Opportunities Pilots – RFP.** These pilots will present a chance to test and evaluate the impact of providing select evidence-based, non-medical interventions related to housing, food, transportation and interpersonal safety to high-needs Medicaid enrollees. Pilots will operate in two to four geographic regions of the state. Our partner, Carolina Collaborative Community Care (4C) will be applying, with the intent of covering a seven county region including Cumberland, Robeson, Harnett, Hoke, Sampson, Scotland and Richmond. This work has the potential to mesh with the work we are doing with Family Connects. The RFP will be due in January and 4C is requesting letters of support. In addition, we will be reaching out to our counterparts in the Smart Start network to submit letters of support for this regional effort.

**E. Events**

1. **NC Pre-K Recruitment Day – Save the date! Saturday, February 29, 2020, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm at the Cumberland County Health Department.** All hands on deck. More details to come.