

**Board of Directors Meeting  
(Virtual Meeting)  
Thursday, January 28, 2021  
President's Report**

**A. North Carolina Partnership for Children (NCPC) Updates / DCDEE Updates / Legislative Updates**

1. **NCPC** – Network meetings with executive directors have shifted to once weekly with topical agendas.
  - We are in contract for 100% allocation with carry-forward funds effective 12/31/2020.
  - **State Expansion of Child Care Health Consultants – contracts will run through NCPC.** Contracts are now in process. Our effective date is projected to be February 1, 2021 with the Health Department as the hiring agency. The budget is being prepared for submission.
2. **DCDEE** – Continue to monitor updated guidance for child care programs and NC PreK operation.
  - As of December 2020, approximately 90% of programs were open with 60% of their pre-pandemic enrollment. Enrollment varies across the state from very low (20%) to some programs being closed to fully enrolled. On average, child care providers are facing a 47% increase in operating costs during the pandemic.
  - Due to rising numbers of COVID cases, we continue to limit face to face visits. Virtual options continue to be provided. Regional staff, TAs and Child Care Health Consultants have been asked to provide TA to programs around Health & Safety guidelines. Licensing consultants have been doing modified annual compliance visits along with electronic review of needed records. No ERS Assessments are being conducted at this time.
  - NC PreK – site monitoring is in progress with providers. Information sessions have been conducted on the monitoring and self-assessment tool.
3. **Federal Level** – Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA), signed December 27. The legislature is in session and will be working on allocations. **DCDEE** plans to hold several open forums/meetings to hear feedback for how to utilize the **anticipated \$338M for child care relief** under CCDBG funding.
4. **Local Level – Support to programs**
  - Candy Scott, VP for Programs, continues to represent the Partnership on the **Healthiest Cities and Counties Challenge grant**. Candy is working specifically on the Food Policy Council and getting information out regarding the community assessment.
  - Program staff collaborating with Health Department and Child Care Health Consultants on getting information out to child care providers about the COVID-19 vaccine.

**B. Grant Opportunities/Updates/RFPs**

1. **Infrastructure Project:** The contract has been signed with WxProofing LLC for construction. Pre-construction conference meeting scheduled for February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Plans are in process for relocating staff impacted during construction. Having additional conversations with the banks for financing quotes to bring to Executive Committee.
2. **RFA for PDG Regional Grants for Family Connects through NCPC is due February 1.** Carolina Collaborative Community Care (4C) has been designated the hiring agency for the Family Connects activity contingent on funding.

3. **Blue Cross/Blue Shield RFP** – To support grassroots efforts to promote equitable Early Childhood Systems. After attending the information session, it was determined that we are not eligible for this grant.
  4. **Junior League grant:** Applied for materials for the Diaper Bank.
  5. **CDBG RFP, City of Fayetteville** – exploring as a potential infrastructure grant under the Community Development Strategy around rehabilitation of public and community facilities. Due February 21.
- C. COVID-19 Updates**
1. **PFC implemented its HR 110 Communicable Disease Policy on Monday, March 16. Building closed to general public March 30 and this status continues.**
  2. **Phase 3 Extension:** We are implementing procedures and protocols following federal and state health and safety guidelines for returning to work. On January 27 the Governor extended modified Phase 3 through February 28 including the curfew from 10:00 pm – 5:00 am. All of our operations are completed by 9:30 pm. North Carolina’s trends are stabilizing but still high with community spread. Schools continue to have the option to function under three different plans. Most of our child care programs are open and operating under enhanced health and safety standards. The emphasis is to limit travel and gatherings.
  3. **PFC Guidelines:**
    - a. Staggered schedules continue, determined by supervisors by department to manage business and programmatic functions. Staggered schedules may include a combination of teleworking and on-site work.
    - b. Staff primarily teleworking include TAs and Professional Development staff and staff who are in high-risk categories.
    - c. The Consolidated Appropriations Act allowed for voluntary continuation of FFCRA Paid Sick Leave available for those staff who meet the criteria. To support staff who contract COVID or have to care for a family member with COVID, we are opting to continue this leave. Tax credits for the leave are handled through our payroll system. The CAA also gives employers the option to allow participants to roll over all unused amounts in their health or dependent care flexible spending accounts from 2021 to 2022. Employers can also allow participants to make election changes, including new elections, to their FSA benefits. We are working with Health Equity to put these options in place to assist staff.
    - d. Masks provided to all staff to reinforce the 3 Ws. PFC Staff, Tenants and their clients, and contractors (i.e. cleaning and security) must complete a screening questionnaire for COVID-19 prior to entry into the building. Staff screening questionnaire applies to staff coming into the office or doing limited work in the field representing PFC.
    - e. Enhanced cleaning of the building throughout the day continues.
    - f. The building is restricted to PFC staff, tenants and tenant clients by appointment only. Access is Monday-Friday during the hours of 8:30 am – 6:00 pm with extended hours two evenings a week until 9:00 pm and one Saturday each month from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. The building remains closed all other weekends and PFC recognized holidays through Phase 3 Executive Orders.
    - g. Limited utilization of conference room space for groups of no more than 10 people continues under the modified Phase 3 extension. Screening procedures, the 3 Ws and cleaning procedures

must be followed by all participants including the facilitator of the group.

- h. Virtual options for contact with families and providers continue. Limited face-to-face contact with families and providers done with supervisor guidance when dictated to complete deliverables. In those cases, procedures for 3 Ws and screening are followed.
- i. Per Policy HR 110, President maintains regular contact with Board Chair for review and continuation of services. Regular communication going out to Board and staff. Decisions are made based on federal and state guidance and mandates.
- j. Email Updates and DHHS Guidance documents posted on website: [ccpfc.org](http://ccpfc.org).

#### D. PFC Updates

- 1. **Audit** -We received our draft audit reports. There were no findings. As soon as we receive the finalized documents they will be posted on our website and sent out to Board.
- 2. **Proposals have been received for the next three-year Smart Start allocation period.** Allocation Review teams had their first meeting on January 12. Presentations will be done during the February 9 meeting. Final Recommendations from the teams will be made during the March 9 meeting from 2:00-5:00 pm.
- 3. **ACH payment** – We continue to move towards utilization of ACH to pay DSPs, NC PreK providers and Dual-Subsidy providers. The goal is to have everyone in these categories on ACH for the new fiscal year.
- 4. **Staff Thank You**

#### E. Events

- 1. **Board and Committee Meetings:** Meetings conducted virtually at least through the duration of the COVID emergency due to space limits of conference rooms for social distancing. We are assessing any additional equipment needed to be able to have a virtual option along with face-to-face meetings.
- 2. **All Staff Virtual meetings:** Scheduled the second and fourth Wednesdays, 2:30-3:30 pm through the duration of the COVID-19 emergency.