

Executive Committee (Acting on Behalf of Board)
(Virtual Meeting)
Thursday, February 25, 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.
 - **State Expansion of Child Care Health Consultants – contracts will run through NCPC.**
Contracts are now in process. The Health Department has posted the positions.
 - 2. DCDEE** – Continue to monitor updated guidance for child care programs and NC PreK operation.
 - Approximately 95% of centers and 93% of Family Child Care Homes 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. Pre-pandemic there were 41,000 teachers and staff, now there are 39,000.
 - We continue to limit face to face TA visits to issues related to health and safety concerns. Programs will begin to get cited on health and safety violations in March. Virtual options continue to be provided.
 - NC PreK – site monitoring is in progress with providers. Recruitment is ongoing for this year and recruitment has started for School Year 21-22.
 - Vaccine access has been expanded to child care providers and teachers as the first part of Group 3 Essential workers, effective February 24. Smart Start Partnerships and CCR&R Regional Leads are assisting getting information out to providers regarding the vaccine and coordinating with local entities giving the vaccines. Cumberland County Health Department has opened up appointments for child care providers and teachers through their online appointment system.
 - While DCDEE is determining how to utilize the new COVID related funds, they are getting out operations grants to open sites March & April and covering parent fees for parents receiving subsidy. The state has received \$336M in funds for child care supports that must be utilized by September 2022.
 - 3. Federal Level** – Additional funding is being considered with negotiations in process. Vaccine supplies are increasing. Additional options for sites for vaccinations are starting to increase (i.e. Rural Community Health Centers, Walgreens, CVS, etc.).
 - 4. Local Level – Support to programs**
 - **Healthiest Cities and Counties Challenge grant** - Candy is working on getting information out regarding the community assessment. For more information on the community assessment survey, contact Candy (cscott@ccpfc.org).
 - Program staff collaborating closely with Health Department and Child Care Health Consultants on getting information out to child care providers about the COVID-19 vaccine. Kudos for everyone pitching in to support our child care providers.

B. Grant Opportunities/Updates/RFPs

1. **Infrastructure Project:** The contract has been signed with WxProofing LLC for construction. Staff impacted during construction are in process of moving offices; moves to be completed by March 5. Having additional conversations with the banks for financing quotes at Executive Committee.
2. **We are the recipient of one of three PDG Regional Grants for Family Connects through NCPC.** We submitted a revised budget on February 19 to increase the number of births served, and thus the number of nurses to be hired. Carolina Collaborative Community Care (4C) has been designated the hiring agency for the Family Connects activity. Robeson and Hoke Counties are our collaborative partners for this grant. The effective date for the contract is March 1. The kick-off for the pilots is March 10 from 9:00-noon. The other counties that received the grant are Henderson and Watauga. Eight counties will be covered through this pilot.
3. **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) RFP, City of Fayetteville** – Submitted request for funding to assist with the Infrastructure Project on February 19.

C. COVID-19 Updates

PFC implemented its HR 110 Communicable Disease Policy on Monday, March 16. Building closed to general public March 30 and this status continues. As the vaccine becomes more readily available and federal and state health and safety guidelines are updated, we will review PFC Guidelines and the status of the building being closed to the general public.

1. **Executive Order 195:** We are implementing procedures and protocols following federal and state health and safety guidelines for returning to work. On February 24 the Governor eased restrictions as NC trends continue to improve and vaccine distribution increases. EO 195 takes effect February 25 at 5:00 pm and expires March 26 at 5 pm. The order lifts the Modified Stay at Home Order and ends the curfew. The number of people who may gather indoors increases from 10 to 25, while 50 remains the limit for outdoors. Many businesses, venues and arenas will have increased occupancy both indoors and outdoors. Most schools will have in person options starting next week. Most of our child care programs are open and operating under enhanced health and safety standards. Face coverings are still required.
2. **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. The Governor continued to encourage such operations where feasible to reduce spread.
 - 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. We have opted 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 offering both.
 - 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.

D. PFC Updates

1. **Audit** -We received our draft audit reports. There were no findings. We are still waiting for the finalized documents. Once received, they will be posted on our website and sent out to Board.
2. **Proposals are being reviewed for the next three-year Smart Start allocation period.** Final recommendations for allocations from the review teams will be made during the March 9 meeting from 2:00-5:00 pm. These recommendations will then be taken to the Board of Directors for action for Fiscal Year 21-22.
3. **ACH payment** – The process is going relatively smoothly in paying our DSPs, NC PreK providers and Dual-Subsidy providers. We are working on notifications to recipients of their ACH payments.

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.
3. **NC Pre-K Drive-through Application Days: February 27, March 27 and April 24** from 9:00 – 11:00 am at the Partnership. Applications for School year 21-22 are online NOW!
4. **Drive-Through Truckload of Hope Diaper Bank: March 13, April 10, May 8 and June 12** from 8:30-10:30 am. Volunteers needed. Contact Daniele Malvesti (dmalvesti@ccpfc.org) if you can assist.