

**Executive Committee (Acting on Behalf of Board)**  
**(Virtual Meeting)**  
**Thursday, June 24, 2021**  
**President's Report**

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

**1. NCPC**

- Contract information has been submitted to NCPC. We will be going into contract at 100% of our current allocation effective July 1.
- **State Expansion of Child Care Health Consultants** – Interviews for the positions continue. NCPC has received written confirmation that the expansion project will be funded for a second year. Details will be forthcoming.
- **PDG Grant for Regional Pilots for Family Connects** – 4C has hired the 8 nurse home visitors. All documents needed for implementation are in process. Anticipate home visits to be offered late August/early September.
- **Family Engagement & Leadership RFA is being released on June 25 for Cohorts 1 & 2.** The deadline for applications will be July 26. This grant is funded by federal PDG funds.
- The penalty for Cash/In-kind match has been waived for FY 20-21 due to COVID.

**2. DCDEE – Continue to monitor updated guidance for child care programs and NC Pre-K operation.**

- **NC Pre-K Contract for FY 21-22** signed and executed!
- As of June 15, 2021, approximately 97% of the state's child care facilities are open and fully operating. Enrollment numbers vary locally and across the state. There are newly licensed programs with temporary licenses and others in process with inspections prior to receiving temporary licenses.
- Face-to-face TA and Professional Development in all topic areas will resume effective July 1, 2021. During face-to-face TA and training, masks must be worn as required in the ChildCareStrongNC Public Health Toolkit; however, there will be no limitation on the length of time spent in the classroom or the number of TA visits conducted each day. In addition, the TA Specialist will contact the facility administrator prior to the visit to gauge comfort levels and ensure priorities are met during the visit.
- Voluntary Temporary ERS Assessment Process announced. These are a COVID-19 modified approach to the ERS. Available June 15 – December 31, 2021. The process will be open to eligible programs and additional guidance will come from DCDEE and NCRLAP.
- NC Pre-K Summer Learning Program – part of the provisions set by the legislature with Decembers COVID relief funding. Final guidance has come out on the program and we are awaiting the contract amendment to our FY 20-21 contract to cover this program. The amendment will go through August 23. As the contract administrator we will be paying the providers for the services
- Vaccine access has expanded widely. As the Region CCR&R Lead we are periodically requested by DCDEE to collect data from programs across the region on vaccinations of child care providers.
- Current Operational grants will continue to be provided to all private, licensed child care centers and homes that are open to serve children and families.
- Under the ARP, operational grants will continue but will be by application. Guidelines and systems for monitoring for these grants are being developed. They are anticipated to be available in the fall.
- Parent fees for subsidy are being waived through October. Our dual-subsidy programs will follow suit with waving parent fees.

3. **NC General Assembly** – In session, continue to address COVID Relief actions with passage of the American Rescue Plan Act.
  - Senate budget released this week. A summary of highlights of the Senate budget is attached to the President’s Report.
  - House budget still to come and then conference committee. It is anticipated that the budget process will go into August. There is much activity around Early Childhood initiatives.

4. **Federal Level** – Proposals for COVID-19 recovery
  - a. **American Rescue Plan** – \$1.3B for child care released to NC last week. \$520M for CCDF Flexible Funding; \$805M for Child Care Stabilization Funding. Guidance still coming. Available to spend FY21, 22, 23. Plans for these funds in place or being integrated into budget proposals.
  - b. **Juneteenth** signed into law as a Federal holiday.

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

1. Continue to research capital grant opportunities.

**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 are reviewing PFC Guidelines and the status of the building being closed to the general public.

1. **Executive Order 220:** We are implementing procedures and protocols following federal and state health and safety guidelines for returning to work. EO 220 was effective June 11 at 5:00 pm and set to expire July 31 at 5:00 pm. This order is an “Extension of COVID-19 Measures to reflect Public Health Recommendations. The State of Emergency continues to be in effect. The vaccine is widely available across the state and approved for 12-year olds and above.
2. **PFC Guidelines:**
  - a. We continue to review additional guidance from CDC, OSHA, DCDEE and others in the coming days to make final plans for re-opening to the public. Our mask and social distancing policies remain in effect as additional guidance continues to be developed. This will be an evolving process.
  - b. Department heads have developed “return to work” plans. These will be adjusted as needed. Staff has been working throughout the pandemic. Staggered schedules and teleworking are part of the “return to work” plans as we adjust for the needs of employees and business operations.
  - c. Coordinating with the Facilities Committee to make recommendations to the Board on operations as restrictions continue to be eased by the State. Tenants were surveyed for input on re-opening.
  - d. FFCRA Paid Sick Leave has been extended to September 30 through the American Recovery Plan for those staff who meet the criteria. We have opted to continue this leave.
  - e. Masks were provided to staff. PFC staff, tenants and their clients, and contractors (i.e. cleaning and security) 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.
  - f. Enhanced cleaning of the building throughout the day continues.
  - g. 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.
  - h. Virtual options for contact with families and providers continue. Face-to-face contact with families and providers will begin in July per DCDEE guidance. Purchases have been made to enhance health and safety in offices.
  - i. Per Policy HR 110, President maintains regular contact with Board Chair for review and continuation of services. Regular communication has gone out to Board and staff. Decisions are made based on federal and state guidance and mandates.

#### D. PFC Updates & Highlights

1. **Staff departing** – We wish Janice Hanner, one of our parent educators with the ACE program, well as she moves on to other endeavors.
2. **Infrastructure Project:** Construction under way with WxProofing LLC. Estimated completion date – July 15. The windows are being installed! Providing First Bank with requested information to process loan. Continue to research capital grant opportunities. During the construction project, the Multi-purpose Meeting room is off the schedule as office furniture and files are being stored there.
3. **2021 Cultivating NC Early Childhood Equity Champions – Cohort 2:** This is a guided learning experience focused on promoting equity using a trauma-informed approach in NC early childhood education systems. We are pleased to announce that we have a team from PFC selected to participate. Congratulations to **Julanda Jett, Mary Welch and Valerie Miller** for being selected.
4. **Triple P Training:** Members of our ACE team have participated in Triple P training with the Health Department. We are excited to add Triple P to our repertoire of parent education resources for families. Congratulations to **Stephany Jackson, Janice Hanner and Tavares Wilkerson** for this accomplishment.
5. **HSB Specialists** are wrapping up assessments and reporting for the Fidelity Coaching work that has been done this year.
6. **The audit process has begun.** We have received our engagement letter and initial lists of materials to be submitted to the auditors. **Marie Lilly** leads the fiscal team and efforts for the audit. Thanks to all team members who must submit requested documentation. It is truly a full organization effort of being “audit ready” every day that keeps us in compliance with our monitoring requirements.

#### E. Events

1. **Board and Committee Meetings:** Meetings have been conducted virtually through the duration of the COVID emergency due to space limits for social distancing. Equipment is being upgraded to be able to have a virtual option along with face-to-face meetings in the Charles Morris Room.
2. **All Staff Virtual meetings:** Scheduled the second and fourth Wednesdays, 2:30-3:30 pm through the duration of the COVID-19 emergency. We are evaluating the meeting schedule moving forward.
3. **NC Pre-K Drive-through Application Day: June 26** from 9:00 – 11:00 am at the Partnership. **July 24 Application Day** scheduled at **Westwood Shopping Center**. If you can help with the July 24<sup>th</sup> event contact Ar-Nita Davis ([adavis@ccpfc.org](mailto:adavis@ccpfc.org)). **Applications for School year 21-22 are online NOW!** Our new drop box has been installed by the front door.
4. **Drive-Through Truckload of Hope Diaper Bank: July 10, August 14, September 11, October 9, November 13, December 11 and January 8** from 8:30-10:30 am. Volunteers needed. Contact Daniele Malvesti ([dmalvesti@ccpfc.org](mailto:dmalvesti@ccpfc.org)) if you can assist.
5. **Everyone have a safe Fourth of July holiday.**

## Early Education Highlights of the Senate Budget Include:

### Smart Start

- \$15 million in non-recurring state funds for Smart Start for both years of the biennium.

### NC Pre-K

- 2% rate increase supported by \$1.7M in recurring state funds for FY 21-22 and FY 22-23 with the intention of supporting salaries for NC Pre-K teachers in private child care programs.
- \$20 million in non-recurring federal state-level ARPA funding to support to support start-up and capitol grants for communities with child care deserts or low-performing or high poverty school districts.
- No additional funding for slot expansion.

### Child Care Subsidy Assistance

- \$503M from the federal child care ARPA funding to support families on the child care subsidy wait list, cover parent co-payment fees through the year, and allows for retention bonuses for the child care workforce.
- \$16 million in federal Child Care Entitlement To States grant, which unless designated, becomes part of the child care subsidy assistance program.

### Other Child Care Action

- Child Care Lead Abatement: \$150M in non-recurring funding for lead abatement in child care programs and public schools.
- NC Community College Child Care Grant Program: \$1.5M in nonrecurring funding in both fiscal years to help students pay for child care expenses.
- Hold Harmless Child Care Ratings bill (S570): includes the bill as it passed the Senate, but no appropriation for the workforce pipeline provisions.