

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Acting on Behalf of Board)
(Virtual Meeting)
Thursday, August 26, 2021
President's Report

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

1. NCPC

- **Carry-forward funds** – We anticipate these being available for contract amendment late October/November.
- **State Expansion of Child Care Health Consultants** – Unfortunately the nurse turned down the offer for the CCHC position. More interviews are scheduled this week and the Health Educator positions are posted. NCPC has received written confirmation that the expansion project will be funded for a second year. Our current contract is being extended to November 30.
- **PDG Grant for Regional Pilots for Family Connects** – All nurses are trained. The MOU has been signed between Cape Fear Health Systems, 4C and PFC. Cape Fear Valley Health System is requiring vaccinations of their staff, vendors and contractors. The Family Connects project falls under this requirement. Business Associate Agreements (BAAs) were received and signed by 4C and PFC on August 23, 2021. We are waiting for Cape Fear Valley to sign the agreement for full execution. With visitor restrictions, alternatives for recruitment includes phone calls to families on the floor. We have met with Cape Fear staff to coordinate recruitment. Marketing materials have been developed and approved. Family Connects visits will be done virtually initially.

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

- **Region 5 Contracts** – Contracting information has been submitted for our Core contract. We are currently making requested revisions to the budget. We are waiting on our Infant/Toddler and Healthy Social Behavior contracting information.
- Enrollment continues to be down and impacted the by ability to hire staff in child care programs.
- DCDEE allowed face-to-face TA and Professional Development in all topic areas 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. We are closely monitoring conditions in child care programs.
- Due to increased cares of COVID, virtual training for SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) and EPR (Emergency Preparedness & Response) has been extended until October 15.
- NC Pre-K Summer Learning Program – 345 children were served through this program. We have closed out needed documentation to access our administrative funds for the activity.
- Interim Guidance has come out for NC Pre-K for the new school year. Programming must occur in person. Guidance includes information should a program have COVID-19 exposures or cases. Classrooms will be reimbursed based on allocation of slots, not attendance for August – November. At this time, reimbursement will change to attendance basis beginning in December. The 12-week time limit for Long-Term Substitutes has been waived and contractors will not be required to assign a lower per-child rate for classrooms who must hire lower Long-Term Substitutes.
- Vaccines are widely available with active campaigns to increase vaccination rates.

- 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. Draft guidance has been shared in informational meetings.
 - Parent fees for subsidy are waived through October. Our dual-subsidy programs will follow suit with waiving parent fees.
3. **NC General Assembly** – The House passed their budget. The budget has moved to Conference Committee. The Cumberland County delegation is represented on the Conference Committee with Senators Ben Clark and Kirk DeViere and Representatives John Szoka, Marvin Lucas and Billy Richardson.
- There is much activity around Early Childhood initiatives, including increases to funding for Smart Start. The House budget had recurring dollars funding the Smart Start increase. An amendment to the House budget included statewide WAGES. Both budgets included 2% rate increases each year of the biennial budget for NC Pre-K.
4. **Federal Level** – With the increase in COVID cases, the CDC issued new guidance recommending wearing of masks, regardless of vaccination status, indoors in areas where rates are substantial. The recommendation is for everyone in K-12 settings to wear masks, regardless of vaccination status. Boosters have been recommended for those who are immunocompromised. On Monday, August 23, 2021 the FDA gave full approval of the Pfizer COVID vaccine for people 16 and older, making it the first of three COVID-19 vaccines to be upgraded from emergency use authorization (EUA) to full approval. The most recent recommendation to come down from the federal level, pending approval, is for everyone to receive boosters. This plan is still pending.

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, 2020. Building closed to general public March 30 and this status continues. As COVID-19 numbers increase with the Delta variant and federal, state and local health and safety guidelines are updated, we continue to review PFC operations.

1. **Executive Orders:** We have implemented procedures and protocols following federal and state health and safety guidelines throughout the pandemic and in planning for work in the field and building. EO 220 and 224 outline state recommendations for the general public, business and school districts as well as requirements for state employees.
2. **PFC Guidelines: A summary of operational guidelines in place at this time is attached for board action.**
 - a. We continue to review additional guidance from CDC, OSHA, DCDEE as well as local government mandates as we provide services to families and children through PFC and tenants. Our mask policies will remain in effect as additional guidance continues to be developed. This has been and will continue to be an evolving process. The City of Fayetteville implemented a fifth amendment to their State of Emergency Declaration for a mask mandate effective 5:00 pm on August 20, 2021. County Commissioners met on August 24 and voted unanimously to implement a mask mandate. Details are being developed and the mandate could go into effect as early as 5:00 pm on August 25, 2021.
 - b. Department heads developed “return to work” plans. 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. 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.
 - d. Vaccination for PFC staff: We are not requiring vaccination at this point, but are strongly encouraging it and supporting staff to do so. Policies are being reviewed as potential requirements come down from funders or partners. Staff who are vaccinated are to provide documentation to HR of their vaccine status.
 - e. Virtual options for contact with families and providers continue, with face-to-face contact with families and providers available July 1 per DCDEE guidance. Purchases have been made to enhance health and

safety in offices and for work in the field.

- f. 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, state and local government guidance and mandates.

D. PFC Updates & Highlights

1. **Position openings posted: website link** (<https://www.indeed.com/cmp/Partnership-For-Children-of-Cumberland-County>).
 - a. Case Worker, Family Services
 - b. Parent Educator (2), ACE Program
 - c. Provider Services Coach
 - d. Library Program Specialist, Provider Services
 - e. Community Support Specialist, Family Connects
 - f. Program Support Specialist, Family Connects
 - g. Part-time Information Assistant, FRC Front Desk
2. **Infrastructure Project:** Phase 1 of the project has been completed. Impacted areas have been painted and new carpet installed. Staff is moving back into their offices. Provided First Bank with all additional requested information. The appraisal has been completed. Anticipate closing on loan in the next few weeks. Continue to research capital grant opportunities. The Multi-purpose Conference Room remains off the schedule for use while office moves are completed.
3. **Audit preparation in progress.** The second list of files was received and submitted to the auditors. **Marie Lilly** leads the fiscal team and efforts for the audit. The annual audit package is due to NCPC and is being prepared.
4. **Quarterly Provider Virtual Information Session was held August 19 from 6:30-8:30 pm. Well attended.**
5. We will kick off our **United Way Campaign** in September.

E. Events

1. **Board and Committee Meetings:** Meetings have been conducted virtually through the duration of the COVID emergency. Equipment to upgrade the Charles Morris Room for hybrid meetings has been installed. We are still working out the procedures for equipment use. We will continue to monitor rates of COVID cases to determine when Board is in person with a hybrid option can begin.
2. **All Staff meetings:** We will continue virtual meetings as we monitor rates of COVID cases. Meetings have moved to the fourth Wednesday of the month from 2:30-3:30 pm
3. **NC Pre-K Recruitment continues. Applications for School year 21-22 are online NOW!** Our new drop box has been installed outside the front door. **Please help get the word out. The workgroup formed to work on a Universal Application for Pre-K services had its first meeting August 25, 2021.**
4. **Drive-Through Truckload of Hope Diaper Bank: 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) if you can assist.
5. **Readers Choice Awards Gala: We made it to the TOP THREE!** The event will be on August 27, at 6:00 pm at the Crown. Dr. Meredith Gronski and Marie Lilly will represent PFC at the event. Keep your fingers and toes crossed!
6. **We Care Wednesday at the Woodpecker's game, September 1 starting at 5:30 pm at Segra Stadium.** The Diaper Bank of NC will be on site for a diaper drive during the event. For more information and to volunteer at this event contact Sharon Moyer (smoyer@ccpfc.org).
7. **Little Land** (a family outreach event and fundraiser): **Now schedule for May 14, 2022, 10:00 am-2:00 pm at the Crown Arena. More details to come.** For information or sponsorships, contact Sharon Moyer (smoyer@ccpfc.org). We will be looking at virtual outreach activities as the rates of COVID-19 continue to increase.