

Virtual North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten Planning Committee Meeting

Agenda

Quorum is 13 = 50% + 1 (Total Board Members = 23)

Thursday, March 25, 2021

12:00 pm – 12:30 pm

Zoom Meeting

Be the Driving Force to meet our roles and responsibilities as a non-profit Board by:

- *Providing Oversight* ➤ *Ensuring Adequate Resources* ➤ *Establishing a Strategic Direction*

I. Determination of Quorum & Call to Order – Alana Hix

II. Minutes*

- A. Thursday, January 28, 2021

III. Information^Δ

- A. 2020-2021 Child Placement Update
B. 2020-2021 School Year Modes of Instruction Update
C. Division of Child Development and Early Education COVID-19 Pandemic Relief for NC Pre-K Classrooms^e
D. 2020-2021 Site Monitoring to be completed by March 31, 2021.
E. 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 Program Recruitment Progress: Strengths and Barriers
1. **2021-2022 NC Pre-K Application Drive Thru Event**” Saturday, March 27th and April 24th from 9:00am-11:00am at the Partnership for Children, 351 Wagoner Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28303.
2. **NC Pre-K Recruitment Letters** mailed to 141 households by CC Department of Social Service, Friday, March 12, 2021.
F. Fiscal Update^e

IV. Adjournment – Alana Hix

* Needs Action Δ Information Only ^e Electronic Copy (Hard copies are available upon request) ! Possible Conflict of Interest (Recusals)



Partnership for Children of Cumberland County, Inc.
Virtual North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten Planning Committee Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2021 (12:06 pm to 12:17 pm)
Be the Driving Force



MEMBERS PRESENT: Lonnie Ballard, Lisa Childers, Angela Crosby, Robin Deaver, Terrasine Gardner, Jim Grafstrom, Dr. Meredith Gronski, Alana Hix (D), Brenda Jackson, Cotina Jones, Jami McLaughlin, Tre’vone McNeill, Perry Melton, Ayesha Neal, Steve Terry and Wanda Wesley
MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Pamela Adams-Watkins, Amy Cannon, Sandee Gronowski, Brian Jones, Karen McDonald, Tawnya Rayman and Ebone Williams
NON-VOTING ATTENDEES: Shona Bannister (D), Dr. Marvin Connelly, Jr., Dorothy Adams, Ar-Nita Davis, Pamela Federline, Belinda Gainey, Anna Hall, Michelle Hearon, Julanda Jett, Marie Lilly, Anthony Ramos, Candy Scott, Mary Sonnenberg and Mike Yeager

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION & RECOMMENDATION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
<i>This meeting was held via Zoom due to COVID-19 and the PFC building being closed to the public.</i>			
I. Determination of NC Pre-K Quorum & Call to Order – Alana Hix, Chair	The meeting of the North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten (NC Pre-K) Planning Committee was held via Zoom on January 28, 2021, beginning at 12:06 pm pursuant to prior written notice to each Committee member. Alana Hix, Chair, chaired the meeting, determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order. Belinda Gainey, Executive Specialist, was Secretary for the meeting and recorded the minutes.	None	None
II. Minutes* A. November 19, 2020	A. The minutes of the November 19, 2020 meeting were previously distributed and reviewed by the Committee. Perry Melton moved to approve North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten (NC Pre-K) Planning Committee Minutes from November 19, 2020, as presented. Lisa Childers seconded the motion. Hearing no further discussion, the Chair put the motion to a vote. All votes were unanimous. There were no abstentions. The motion carried.	Motion Carried	None
III. Action Items for SFY 2020-2021* A. Approval for the following 2019-2020 NC Pre-K Sites, resume operation as NC Pre-K sites for the 2021-22 NC Pre-K school year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KinderCare Ramsey • KinderCare Fort Bragg 	Alana Hix presented the following recommendation to the committee: A. Approval is recommended for KinderCare Ramsey and KinderCare Fort Bragg Road to resume participation in NC Pre-K program for the 2021-2022 school year. The two child care programs opted not to participate in NC Pre-K in the 2020-21 NC Pre-K school year due to challenges with the COVID-19 pandemic. The two child care programs were approved to participate as NC Pre-K sites during the last site selection process. Therefore, it is not required for them to go through the site selection process again to participate in the 2021-22 NC Pre-K school year. Lisa Childers moved to approve sites, KinderCare Ramsey and KinderCare Fort Bragg, resume operation as NC Pre-K sites for 2021-2022 school year, as presented. Dr. Meredith Gronski	Motion Carried	None



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	seconded the motion. Hearing no further discussion, the Chair put the motion to a vote. All votes were unanimous. There were no abstentions. The motion carried.		
IV. Information ^A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Alana stated that all child care sites are operating on either traditional or hybrid model. Cumberland County Schools, Head Start and Spainhour are all remote learning only. B. Ar-Nita Davis reported that for 2020-2021, there are no allocation updates. C. Currently there are 1,119 children placed in the NC Pre-K program, with 138 on a waiting list. Parents of those on the waiting list have not provided all the needed documentation. Follow-up with parents is being made. D. The 2020-2021 Site Monitoring Tool is due Friday, January 29, 2021. Desktop monitoring will begin once these Self-Assessments are reviewed. E. CCS and Head Start have both reviewed the new NC Pre-K application and asked for edits. The application will be translated into Spanish. Recruitment is being done via the Fayetteville city bus, door to door, direct mailing and other avenues. F. Mary Sonnenberg provided the fiscal update. PFC is in full contract; sites are being paid by allocation, not enrollment. PFC is moving towards ACH for payment to providers. NC Pre-K marketing is being partially funded by the Admin funding through one of the contract amendments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None None None None None None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None None None None None None
V. Adjournment	As there was no further business; the chair announced the meeting adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 12:17 pm.	Adjourned	None

Submittal: The minutes of the above stated meeting are submitted for approval.

Secretary of Meeting

Date

Approval: Based on Committee consensus, the minutes of the above stated meeting are hereby approved as presented and/or corrected.

Committee Chair

Date

NC Pre-K Program Guidance - COVID-19 Crisis

COVID-19 Pandemic Relief for NC Pre-K Classrooms

March 2, 2021

This guidance document is intended to provide information to NC Pre-K programs and Contracting Agencies regarding COVID-19 Pandemic Relief funding for NC Pre-K classrooms.

It is the responsibility of the NC Pre-K Contracting Agencies to ensure that this guidance is shared with all NC Pre-K programs.

I. Purpose

In the fall of this year, we shared our intentions to provide additional resources to NC Pre-K programs during the COVID-19 pandemic to support the provision of services to children with an emphasis on in-person instruction. As part of that effort, and our continued commitment to supporting the financial stability of the NC Pre-K program, the Division of Child Development and Early Education will provide **COVID-19 Pandemic Relief** to NC Pre-K classrooms. Funding will be made available for all eligible NC Pre-K classrooms that have provided access to direct services. Classrooms that provided in-person instruction to mitigate the effects of the pandemic and further stabilize the program may qualify for an increased amount of Pandemic Relief funding.

NC Pre-K programs are encouraged to use this funding to purchase materials and supplies for the NC Pre-K classrooms such as, but not limited to:

- Technology for NC Pre-K staff and/or children (e.g., tablets)
- Curriculum and assessment materials
- Classroom materials (manipulatives, books, puzzles, consumables, etc.)
- Professional development for NC Pre-K staff

II. Classroom Eligibility Requirements for NC Pre-K Pandemic Relief Funding

In order to be eligible to receive COVID-19 Pandemic Relief funding the NC Pre-K classroom **must have 1 or more allocated NC Pre-K slots** in the NC Pre-K Plan database **as of February 15, 2021**.

- Classrooms that have been allocated slots by February 15, 2021 will receive Pandemic Relief funding regardless of child enrollment/attendance or teacher qualification.
- Classrooms that are allocated slots **after** February 15, 2021 will **not** receive Pandemic Relief funding regardless of child enrollment/attendance or teacher qualification.

III. Classroom Eligibility Requirements for Supplement for In-Person Services

At the end of January, NC Pre-K contracting agencies completed a survey regarding the provision of in-person instruction for each NC Pre-K classroom with allocated NC Pre-K slots. The purpose of this survey was to identify NC Pre-K classrooms that provided in-person instruction to NC Pre-K children **prior to January 31, 2021**.

Contracting agencies responded to the following question based on the guidelines below:

- **Did this classroom provide ANY face to face instruction (traditional/in-person or hybrid) to NC Pre-K children AT ANY POINT this school year?**
 - If the classroom provided any amount of in-person/face to face instruction to some or all NC Pre-K children at any point during the 2020-2021 school year, please respond “yes”.
 - If the classroom has operated in a fully remote mode all year with NO in-person instruction for NC Pre-K children, please respond “no”.
 - If the classroom has not provided instruction to any NC Pre-K children this year (no children have been enrolled), please respond “no”.

NC Pre-K classrooms that were reported as providing in-person instruction to NC Pre-K children **prior to January 31, 2021** will receive an additional 25% supplement to the COVID-19 Pandemic Relief funding.

If you are concerned that you have reported this information inaccurately, please contact your NC Pre-K Program Policy Consultant by **Friday, March 5, 2021**.

IV. Funding Amounts

- a) NC Pre-K classrooms that meet the eligibility criteria described in Section II will receive Pandemic Relief funding in the amount of \$3,452 per classroom.

Example: Hope County has 51 total classrooms. 36 classrooms meet the eligibility criteria for Pandemic Relief funding as outlined in Section II but do NOT meet the eligibility criteria for the additional supplement as outlined in Section III. (36 classrooms x \$3,452= \$124,272)

- b) NC Pre-K classrooms that provided in-person services as described in Section III will receive Pandemic Relief funding plus an additional 25% supplement for a total relief amount of \$4,315 per classroom.

Example: Hope County has 51 total classrooms. 15 classrooms meet the eligibility criteria for Pandemic Relief funding as outlined in Section II **and** meet the eligibility criteria for the additional supplement as outlined in Section III. (15 classrooms x \$4,315 = \$64,725)

V. Contract Budget Amendment

- COVID-19 Pandemic Relief funding will be added to each NC Pre-K contracting agency's Direct Services funding through NC Pre-K Contract Amendment 2 effective July 1, 2020.
- Contractors will not need to send in a Line Item Budget** as this funding will be placed in the direct services budget category in the contract amendment.
- The funding breakdown will be included in the budget narrative as outlined below:

Example: Funds budgeted for Pandemic Relief funding for 36 classrooms (36 classrooms x \$3,452= \$124,272); and Pandemic Relief Funding Plus Supplement for In- Person Services for 15 classrooms (15 classrooms x \$4,315 = \$64,725) for a total Pandemic Relief funding amount of (\$124,272 + \$64,725= \$188,997).

VI. Payment Distribution

Contracting agencies will request the additional funds as part of the reimbursement process for March services and will be responsible for distributing relief funding to NC Pre-K providers.

The NC Pre-K Plan and NC Pre-K KIDS database systems have been modified to capture appropriate funding amounts for all eligible classrooms. NC Pre-K programs and contracting agencies will submit March attendance and reimbursement requests following **all usual processes**. DCDEE staff will be responsible for entering the relief funding for each classroom in the NC Pre-K Plan and ensuring the amounts are accurately reflected on the March Summary of Attendance forms.

Who to Contact?

NC Pre-K Classroom Eligibility Criteria	Janessa Nieves, NC Pre-K Manager janessa.nieves@dhhs.nc.gov
Payment Distribution Process (as it relates to NC Pre-K Plan or NC Pre-K KIDS)	
In-person Instruction Survey Responses	NC Pre-K Program Policy Consultants Frances Minton (<i>North East</i>) Jennifer Griffith (<i>West</i>) francis.minton@dhhs.nc.gov jennifer.griffith@dhhs.nc.gov (919) 604-7626 (919) 609-6921
	Jeanne Barnes (<i>South East</i>) Sharon Stukes (<i>Central</i>) jeanne.barnes@dhhs.nc.gov sharon.stukes@dhhs.nc.gov (919) 814-6357 (704) 594-0151
Payment Distribution Process (as it relates to FSR submission)	NC Pre-K Budget Staff dcdee_ncprekfsr@dhhs.nc.gov
Contract Budget Amendments	Candice Bailey, Contracts Manager candice.bailey@dhhs.nc.gov