

**Board of Directors Meeting
(Virtual Meeting)
Thursday, September 30, 2021
President's Report**

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

1. NCPC

- **Carry-forward funds** – Planning in progress for recommendation of use of funds. Recommendations will go to Board Committees in October and November.
- **State Expansion of Child Care Health Consultants** – One nurse position has been offered. 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. Cape Fear Valley Health System requires vaccinations of their staff, vendors and contractors. The Family Connects project falls under this requirement. Business Associate Agreements (BAAs) fully executed. Staff met with Cape Fear Valley Women's unit for introduction. Recruitment has begun for home visits. 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. Our Infant/Toddler contracting information has been prepared and submitted. We are waiting on Healthy Social Behavior contracting information.
- Enrollment continues to be down and impacted the by ability to hire staff in child care programs.
- We continue to follow guidance from DCDEE and follow the ChildCareStrongNC Public Health Toolkit. We are closely monitoring conditions in child care programs and contact the facility administrators prior to visits to gauge comfort levels and ensure priorities are met during the visit.
- Due to increased cases of COVID, virtual training for SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) and EPR (Emergency Preparedness & Response) has been extended until October 15. Most licensing requirements are back to pre-pandemic standards and applicable during monitoring visits by the DCDEE Consultants.
- Interim Guidance came 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. The 21-22 Program Guidance for NC PreK has been released to contracting agencies.
- Vaccines are widely available with active campaigns to increase vaccination rates.
- Current Operational grants will continue to be provided through October to all private, licensed child care centers and homes that are open to serve children and families.
- Under the ARP, the process will change and Stabilization Grants will be by application. Guidelines and systems for monitoring for these grants have been developed. Training for providers will begin next week. The two categories for Stabilization Grants are for Fixed Costs and Compensation. There are a

variety of things that the Fixed Costs grants can cover. There will be a base amount with additional amounts based on Star Level, %age of Infants and Toddlers served, community demographics and Subsidy demographics. The Compensation grants are optional and can cover teacher and staff bonuses or increasing staff base and/or increasing benefits. Applications for these grants begin in October.

- Parent fees for subsidy are waived through December. Our dual-subsidy programs will follow suit with waiving parent fees.
- 3. Leandro Case - The Commission met and passed a resolution in support of funding years 1 and 2 of the recommendation. (<https://www.ednc.org/2021-09-28-commission-on-sound-basic-education-urges-action-on-leandro-plan>) Judge Lee gave the legislature until October 18 to take action.
- 4. NC General Assembly – The budget is in Conference Committee. See comparison of the budgets attached.
 - 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 WAGE\$. Both budgets included 2% rate increases each year of the biennial budget for NC Pre-K.
- 5. Federal Level
 - The CDC continues to recommend 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 September 22, the FDA amended the emergency use for the Pfizer vaccine to allow for use of a single booster dose, to be administered at least six months after the completion of the primary series in those 65 and older, those 18-64 at high risk for severe COVID-19 and those 18-64 who frequent institutional or occupational exposure to COVID-19 puts them at high risk of serious complications of COVID-19.
 - **American Family Plan** – Funds for universal Pre-K (3 & 4-year olds), expanded child care subsidies, workforce support, extends expanded child care tax credit to 2025. Continues to be in negotiation.

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. Policies have been reviewed and updated through our Board Committee process.

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 was presented to Executive Committee and approved at the August meeting. It is attached.**
 - 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. This has been and will continue to be an evolving process. The City of Fayetteville and Cumberland County have both implemented mask mandates.
 - 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. Vaccination for PFC staff: Policies have been reviewed by Leadership Team, the Board HR Committee and are on the agenda for today’s board meeting. We are monitoring requirements as they come down from OSHA, EEOC as well as funders and partners. Staff who are vaccinated have been asked to provide documentation to HR of their vaccine status. Our current rate of vaccination among staff is 70%.
 - d. 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.

- e. 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. **New Staff:** Michelle Jones joined the staff on September 20 as a new Healthy Social Behavior Specialist for our Region 5 activity.
2. **Position openings posted: website link** (<https://www.indeed.com/cmp/Partnership-For-Children-of-Cumberland-County>)
 - Case Worker, Family Services
 - Program Specialist (2), Family Services
 - Parent Educator (2), ACE Program
 - Provider Services Coach
 - Library Program Specialist, Provider Services
 - Community Support Specialist, Family Connects
 - Program Support Specialist, Family Connects
 - Part-time Information Assistant, FRC Front Desk
 - IT Technician
3. **Infrastructure Project:** Phase 1 of the project has been completed and final payments are being processed. First Bank has asked for additional documents from our tenants. We are working on this request so we can move to closing. Anticipate closing on loan in the next few weeks. Continue to research capital grant opportunities.
4. **Audit package has been submitted to the auditor and NCPC.** We anticipate additional requests for files and records. Marie Lilly leads the fiscal team and efforts for the audit.

E. **PFC FY 21/22 United Way Campaign** – You can access our pledge form [here](#). We are also having a food drive as part of the campaign. Donations of food are due to the PFC offices by November 10. They will be donated to Fayetteville Urban Ministry.

F. 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. **We are continuing to recruit children. The workgroup formed to work on a Universal Application for Pre-K services continues to meet.**
4. **Drive-Through Truckload of Hope Diaper Bank: 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 WON!** Dr. Meredith Gronski and Marie Lilly represented PFC at the event. This is our fourth year in a row winning.
6. **Little Land** (a family outreach event and fundraiser): **Now scheduled 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.