

**Board of Directors Meeting
 (Virtual Meeting)
 Thursday, January 27, 2022
 President’s Report**

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

1. NCPC

- **Carry-forward funds & New State funds** – Carry-forward funds are in contract, effective 12/31/2021. The new State funds are anticipated to be released to NCPC in March. With the timing of the new funds, spend-down may be difficult. These new funds can be included in carry-forward for FY 22-23.
- **State Expansion of Child Care Health Consultants** – Our current contract was extended to June 30, 2022 as a no-cost extension. Funds were reduced due to lapsed salaries. Health Department has filled two positions. The Health Department has two contracts for providing CCHC services, one through the expansion grant and one through our Smart Start Allocation. There are three positions between the two contracts. Interviews are in process for the third position.
- **PDG Grant for Regional Pilots for Family Connects** – 4C has two nurse vacancies currently and is recruiting. Recruitment of families is currently limited to phone calls into the room. Home visits continue to be virtual. **Eligible births*** are those from Cumberland, Hoke and Robeson Counties. Those births at Cape Fear outside the current catchment area will receive follow-up from PFC staff. This will provide us valuable data as the pilot continues and we look at scaling up the program. Currently the three counties with births outside the catchment area are Harnett, Bladen and Sampson Counties. We are interviewing for the last position we have for this project.

	10/4/2021	1/25/2022
Total Births	0	1130
Eligible*	0	967
Not Eligible	0	163
Decline		14.27%
Scheduled/Completed		66.91%
Pending		10.55%
Unable to Contact		8.27%
County of Residency	Goal	1/25/2022
Cumberland	56%	83%
Hoke	28%	12%
Robeson	16%	5%

- 2. **DCDEE** – Continue to monitor updated guidance for child care programs and NC Pre-K operation.
 - **Region 5** Monitoring Reports have been submitted and are in review.

- Enrollment continues to be down in child care programs and impacted by the ability to hire staff in child care programs.
 - We continue to follow guidance from DCDEE and follow the ChildCareStrongNC Public Health Toolkit. Updated January 13, 2022 (<https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/media/220/download?attachment>). We continue to closely monitor 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.
 - All licensing requirements are back to pre-pandemic standards and applicable during monitoring visits by the DCDEE Consultants. DCDEE State Consultants are limiting their visits in programs at this time due to the increase in COVID cases.
 - **NC Pre-K site monitoring and state monitoring reports** are in process and due January 28.
 - **NC Pre-K** – the State Budget included 2% rate increases for NC Pre-K as well as \$20M for NC Pre-K start-up, quality and capital expenditures. More information is forthcoming from DCDEE on how this funding will be distributed.
 - **DCDEE received funding for updating database systems, including those used with NC Pre-K.** A survey has gone out to NC Pre-K Contract administrators for feedback as this work begins.
 - **N95 masks:** DCDEE is providing masks to Regional Lead Agencies to distribute to child care providers in the region. Julanda Jett is coordinating the distribution plan with the counties in Region 5. In addition, N95 masks are available through local DSS and Health Departments. We have received 850 masks through DSS that can be distributed to staff, tenants, visitors to the Family Resource Center and child care providers.
 - Vaccines continue to be widely available with active campaigns to increase vaccination rates. Children 5-11 years are now eligible for vaccines.
 - **Approved Stabilization Grants (November 1, 2021):** Eligible, approved providers from the first round have received payments, and reporting is due with each quarterly payment. Programs who have not applied may still apply for Stabilization Grants and can apply at any time and will be reviewed on a rolling basis.
 - Parent fees for subsidy are waived through June 2022. Our dual-subsidy programs follow suit with waiving parent fees.
 - **Regional Meetings focused on Transition strategies:** Information attached. Cumberland County falls in the Sandhills Region on February 28. The recommended team members are listed in the document for the meetings. This work falls within the statewide ESSA Early Learning work.
3. *Leandro* Case – The Court of Appeals ruled on Judge Lee’s order and denied the \$1.7B transfer of funds for implementation of *Leandro*. Additional filings have occurred around Judge Lee’s order.
 4. NC General Assembly – Short session will begin in May. NCPC is coordinating legislative meetings in the Family Connects Pilot regions in March and April. Sharon Moyer is the contact person for these. We will share information as soon as we have dates.
 5. Federal Level
 - **Free individual COVID Rapid Antigen tests** are available – www.covidtests.gov. Four per household are available through this program.
 - **N95 masks** will be available through participating pharmacies and community health centers. Each individual may receive three masks. These are starting to become available.

B. Grant Opportunities/Updates/RFPs

1. Continue to research capital grant opportunities.
2. Golden Leaf – based on our consultation with their program staff, our projects are not eligible. They do not have an early childhood focus.
3. Cumberland County has released their RFP process for non-profit organizations for ARP funds. Staff attended the information session on January 24.
4. The City of Fayetteville’s CDBG proposals are due January 28. We will be submitting a proposal for Phase 2 of the infrastructure project.
5. Cumberland Community Foundation Giving Tuesday Challenge: We were the recipient of \$6,280. This was a

significant increase from what we received last year. The funds are restricted to use for our Diaper Bank activity.

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. Clients may be served by appointment only. As COVID-19 numbers increase with the Omicron variant (or decrease) 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. The state continues to be under a state of emergency.
2. **PFC Guidelines: A summary of operational guidelines was presented to Executive Committee and approved at the August meeting.**
 - a. We continue to review additional guidance from CDC, OSHA, EEOC, and 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. Cumberland County continues to operate under a mask mandate indoors across the county, including all municipalities.
 - 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. Telework agreements are in the process of being updated for any staff whose work plan continues to include teleworking.
 - c. Vaccination for PFC staff: The Board of Directors adopted a vaccine mandate for staff, inclusive of accommodations for requested religious or medical exemptions. All staff complied by the January 4 deadline.
 - d. Virtual options for contact with families and providers continue, with face-to-face contact with families and providers available per DCDEE guidance. Purchases have been made to enhance health and safety in offices and for work in the field.
 - e. With our front desk being fully staffed, we opened to the public effective January 3. COVID precautions, including masking in all common areas and cleaning of high touch areas, will continue. The focus continues to be on services by appointment. Current hours remain in place and meet the needs of tenants at this time. We are working on activating the KIOSK check-in system.
 - 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. **New Staff:** Welcome to Terrance Forbes, IT Technician and Tiffany Reece, Coach. They both started on January 4. Casandra Smith, Caseworker will join the staff on January 31.
2. **Position openings posted: website link** (<https://www.indeed.com/cmp/Partnership-For-Children-of-Cumberland-County>)
 - Caseworker, Family Services
 - Program Specialist (2), Family Services
 - Parent Educator, ACE Program
 - Library Program Specialist, Provider Services
3. **Infrastructure Project:** We are working with Steve Fleming on the design for Phase 2 so that the RFP can be released.

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 have had a few small hybrid meetings and continue to tweak the system. 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 continue monthly virtual meetings due to the size of our staff. We had our holiday celebration virtually at the All Staff meeting on December 15.
3. **NC Pre-K Recruitment continues. Applications for School year 21-22 continue to be online.** There is a drop box outside the front door for families to drop off applications. The workgroup formed to work on a Universal Application for Pre-K services continues to meet to get this system in place for recruitment for the 22-23 school year. **The new application for the 22-23 school year will be live by February 18. An “interest” form (<https://ccpfc.org/ninja-forms/87rdsb/>) is live on our website now so that parents can get the link to the application as soon as it goes live. Parents can also find the link on the NC Pre-K page on our website:** ccpfc.org/ncprek.
4. **Drive-Through Truckload of Hope Diaper Bank: February 12, March 12, April 9, May 14 and June 11** from 8:30-10:30 am. Volunteers needed. Contact Daniele Malvesti (dmalvesti@ccpfc.org) if you can assist. We are working on a new check in system using Eventbrite.
5. **Little Land** (a family outreach event and fundraiser): Has been postponed at this time due to COVID and our target population not being eligible for vaccines at this time. We are planning other events for the fall, including bringing back The Soiree. More information will be coming soon. Sharon Moyer (smoyer@ccpfc.org) will have more information in upcoming meetings.
6. Cumberland County was featured in a town hall about “Keys to Economic Recovery from COVID-19” at Fayetteville State University. The town hall will air on ncIMPACT on PBS January 31 at 7:30. It will also be posted on the PBS website following the airing: <https://www.pbsnc.org/watch/ncimpact/#TownHalls>
7. WRAL article: The Pandemic and our children: how COVID-19 affected kids across NC (<https://www.wral.com/coronavirus/the-pandemic-and-our-children-how-covid-19-affected-kids-across-nc/20040560/>).