

**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
<b>Eligible*</b>	0	<b>967</b>
Not Eligible	0	163
Decline		14.27%
Scheduled/Completed		66.91%
Pending		10.55%
Unable to Contact		8.27%
<b>County of Residency</b>	Goal	1/25/2022
Cumberland	<b>56%</b>	83%
Hoke	<b>28%</b>	12%
Robeson	<b>16%</b>	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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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/>).



## 2022 Support for Local Communities: Transitions

**Join us virtually for an opportunity to reconvene and collaborate with your local early learning partners to develop/improve transition strategies/plans.**

*Transition Goal in NC: All young children birth through age 8 and their families are engaged and supported as they transition between home, early care and education programs, and schools. Early care and education programs and schools collaborate so that they are ready to support all children effectively and engage with families and each other within the context of the community to plan transitions that meet the diverse needs of all children and families.*

In 2022, the NC Division of Child Development and Early Education, NC Department of Public Instruction, NC Partnership for Children, NC Early Childhood Foundation, the SERVE Center at UNCG, and EducationCounsel will support local communities in collaborating to create/update transition plans that meet requirements for all community partners and create an opportunity for meaningful coordination and collaboration. We listened to your feedback about the importance of having additional regional meetings with dedicated time to collaborate with local partners in order to provide the best possible experiences and services for young children and their families.

Building a strong foundation for learning takes all of us working together. With its requirements to engage early learning stakeholders, the Every Student Succeeds Act provides an opportunity to engage community partners to support our children in fulfilling their potential and strengthen the birth-through-third grade continuum. In addition, NC Senate Bill 740 directed the Department of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Department of Public Instruction and any other interested agencies, to work together to develop and implement a statewide vision for early education. As part of that work, the bill directs the departments to devise a way for preschool programs to prepare a preschool to kindergarten transition plan for all children enrolled in the NC Pre-K program. DHHS in consultation with the NCDPI, is piloting a standardized method for Pre-K teachers to collect evidences of learning and document children's learning statuses in the five (5) domains of learning and development. This method leverages a subset of the widely held expectations from North Carolina's Foundations for Early Learning and Development, which align vertically with the construct progressions measured by North Carolina's Early Learning Inventory. And finally, NC Senate Bill 387 includes NC's Read to Achieve Program requirements to administer formative assessments to children at the conclusion of their participation in the NC Pre-K program and share the results with the child's kindergarten teacher at the beginning of the next school year.

Along with requirements and opportunities in ESSA and NC Senate Bills 740 and 387, there are transition requirements in all of our early childhood programs. It begins with aligning strategies. No matter where you sit, you develop/implement transition plans for young children and their families. LEAs, Head Start grantees, Smart Start local partnerships, and many other community organizations develop transition plans for children and families as they enter in and exit various programs and services.

What would be possible if we aligned these plans and our work to create a system that builds a strong foundation of learning for all children in our communities? What would be possible if districts





had support to collaborate across systems to focus on transitions and all the pieces that fall underneath such as family engagement and professional development? We are committed to doing just that.

**JOIN US! Build your team and attend a virtual regional meeting.** Please talk with your local team members and plan your registration/attendance. Although registration allows individuals to register, please be sure your team is communicating and planning to attend as a team. The focus of this meeting is local coordination/collaboration; therefore, team attendance is vital for optimal success. Many of you developed local teams several years ago when this work began and meet regularly. If you don't currently have a local team, now is the time to form your team. Meetings will focus on reconnecting with local partners since the pandemic, requirements/opportunities related to transition, a panel discussion, and support to begin development/updates to local transition plans.

### Suggested Attendees

- Superintendent or designee
- Title I Director
- Partnership for Children Executive Director or Program Director
- Head Start Director or Agency Executive Director
- CCR&R Representative
- NC Pre-K Administrator
- Early Intervention/Preschool Coordinators (and/or Exceptional Children's Director)
- Elementary Director/Principal
- Teacher: Preschool & Kindergarten

Other Early Learning Partners to consider (various positions associated with young children and their families)

- Homeless Education Liaison
- DSS Director or Early Childhood Subsidy Representative
- Public Library Children's Services Administrator
- Health Department – Child Services Representative
- Private Child Care Administrator/Teacher
- Parental Organization Administrator

Please register for the meeting scheduled in your [NC State Board of Education Region](#). (\*Note: We know that some of you work in multiple counties. We will use the county you select in the registration process for placement in a breakout room to plan with one of your local community teams.) If for some reason your team is not able to meet on the scheduled date, please contact Carla Garrett at [cgarrett@serve.org](mailto:cgarrett@serve.org) to discuss. Please know that in order for a team to attend a meeting outside of the assigned State Board of Education region, the entire team will need to agree to the change.

\*Teams are encouraged to gather together in one location to attend the regional virtual meeting, if team members feel comfortable and safe doing so.



State Board of Education Region	Date	Time	Register Now: Space is limited
Northwest	February 9, 2022	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	<a href="https://uncg.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlsdOuvpjspEt0xMYRALD9uXl2FyYpututp">https://uncg.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlsdOuvpjspEt0xMYRALD9uXl2FyYpututp</a> Deadline February 2
Southwest	February 10, 2022	2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	<a href="https://uncg.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcqu6vpz8pGNamy8-TgrmAZO2Vb-LZp4Ga">https://uncg.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcqu6vpz8pGNamy8-TgrmAZO2Vb-LZp4Ga</a> Deadline February 3
Piedmont-Triad	February 11, 2022	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	<a href="https://uncg.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMtfuqtqT0tG9VaiSlk28HLH-mKkM4rYlcj">https://uncg.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMtfuqtqT0tG9VaiSlk28HLH-mKkM4rYlcj</a> Deadline February 4
Sandhills	February 28, 2022	12:00 pm - 2:00 pm	<a href="https://uncg.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0rdOuurTlqG9bShPWJJOhAXzQiFoCBOHV0">https://uncg.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0rdOuurTlqG9bShPWJJOhAXzQiFoCBOHV0</a> Deadline February 21
North Central	March 1, 2022	12:00 pm - 2:00 pm	<a href="https://uncg.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlpfu-srzwE9QQeU85Fff_I9_V149-MLxu">https://uncg.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlpfu-srzwE9QQeU85Fff_I9_V149-MLxu</a> Deadline February 22
Northeast	March 3, 2022	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	<a href="https://uncg.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0qcuioqTkuGt3A0SLnfj-vvJsid9AzkUNO">https://uncg.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0qcuioqTkuGt3A0SLnfj-vvJsid9AzkUNO</a> Deadline February 24
Southeast	March 7, 2022	12:00 pm - 2:00 pm	<a href="https://uncg.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUvcumogjwpE9IGNMz99ejuPK8-ZxnPcCHc">https://uncg.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUvcumogjwpE9IGNMz99ejuPK8-ZxnPcCHc</a> Deadline February 28
Western	March 10, 2022	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	<a href="https://uncg.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUkceCvpj0iH9bHnwcYQp7HMwg9zI64_1By">https://uncg.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUkceCvpj0iH9bHnwcYQp7HMwg9zI64_1By</a> Deadline March 5

In preparation for the meeting, please review and have access to the following documents:

- LEA/Head Start MOU
- Local ESSA Plan
- Local Community Transition Plan

It is the intent of the NC Transition Pilot Initiative, as well as the focus on transition within the statewide ESSA Early Learning work, to include strategies and practices for successfully transitioning all children and their families into kindergarten and creating a shared understanding among early childhood programs, schools, administrators/directors, and families of what children should experience between early childhood programs and schools. This statewide initiative supports local coordination/collaboration and preparation for future work on a systems approach to early childhood coordination.



For more information, contact:

<p><b>Carla Garrett</b>  <a href="mailto:cgarrett@serve.org">cgarrett@serve.org</a>          The SERVE Center at UNCG</p>	<p><b>Dr. Kristi Snuggs</b>  <a href="mailto:Kristi.snuggs@dhhs.nc.gov">Kristi.snuggs@dhhs.nc.gov</a>          NC Division of Child Development and Early Education</p>	<p><b>Macy Jones</b>  <a href="mailto:Macy.jones@dpi.nc.gov">Macy.jones@dpi.nc.gov</a>          NC Department of Public Instruction-Head Start State Collaboration Office</p>
<p><b>Amy Cubbage</b>  <a href="mailto:acubbage@smartstart.org">acubbage@smartstart.org</a>          North Carolina Partnership for Children</p>	<p><b>Muffy Grant</b>  <a href="mailto:mgrant@buildthefoundation.org">mgrant@buildthefoundation.org</a>          NC Early Childhood Foundation</p>	<p><b>Elysa Cash</b>  <a href="mailto:Elysa.cash@educationcounsel.com">Elysa.cash@educationcounsel.com</a>   <b>John Pruette</b>  <a href="mailto:John.pruette@educationcounsel.com">John.pruette@educationcounsel.com</a>          EducationCounsel</p>