

Board of Directors Meeting (Virtual Meeting) Thursday, February 24, 2022 President's Report

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

1. NCPC

- **New State funds** – 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.
- **NCPC** – Annual Submission of Activities opens next week. Final submission is due at the end of April. Budgets for FY 22-23 will be reviewed as part of this process.
- **NC Pre-K** – Precontracting documents have been submitted for FY 22-23. Budgets will be due in the next month. Site Selection is in process.
- **State Expansion of Child Care Health Consultants** – Our current contract was extended to June 30, 2022 as a no-cost extension. The Health Department has two contracts for providing CCHC services, one through the expansion grant and one through our Smart Start Allocation. Staff are in the process of required training. Interviews are in process for the third position.
- **PDG Grant for Regional Pilots for Family Connects** – 4C has one nurse vacancy 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. In addition, there is interest from Moore County. PFC's positions are now fully staffed.

	10/4/2021	1/25/2022		2/15/2022	
Total Births	0	1130		1367	
Eligible*	0	967		1169	
Not Eligible	0	163		198	
Decline		138	14.27%	155	13.26%
Scheduled		647	66.91%	449	38.41%
Completed				348	29.77%
Pending		102	10.55%	140	11.98%
Unable to Contact		80	8.27%	77	6.59%
County of Residency	Goal	1/25/2022		2/15/2022	
Cumberland	56%	83%		83%	
Hoke	28%	12%		11%	
Robeson	16%	5%		6%	

2. **DCDEE** – Continue to monitor updated guidance for child care programs and NC Pre-K operation.
 - Enrollment continues to be down in child care programs and impacted by the ability to hire staff in child care programs. The number of available slots in child care facilities (Family Child Care Homes and Centers) decreased by 1,072 from January 2019 through December 2021.
 - We continue to follow guidance from DCDEE and follow the ChildCareStrongNC Public Health Toolkit. Updated February 21, 2022 (<https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/media/220/download>). The update reflects that individual contact tracing and exclusion from child care after an identified exposure are no longer a statewide requirement or recommendation. DHHS and DCDEE are changing strategies to better balance prevention efforts with the goals of supporting and providing access to quality early care and learning, allowing parents and caregivers to get back to work. There will be additional guidance coming out following Governor Cooper’s February 17, 2022 announcement regarding masks.
 - All licensing requirements are back to pre-pandemic standards and applicable during monitoring visits by the DCDEE Consultants. Facilities are starting to go through modified ERS assessments.
 - **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.
 - **N95 masks:** Provider Services and Region 5 staff have been distributing masks across our eight-county region. Reference distribution of Region 5 masks and PFC staff
 - Vaccines continue to be widely available with active campaigns to increase vaccination rates. Children 5-11 years are now eligible for vaccines. Boosters are recommended for those who are eligible.
 - **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. Region 5 staff has been tasked with following up with those who did not apply.
 - 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:** Cumberland County falls in the Sandhills Region on February 28. PFC staff will be in attendance. This work falls within the statewide ESSA Early Learning work.
3. NC General Assembly – Short session will begin in May.
4. Federal Level
 - Approval of the COVID vaccine for children under 5 has been delayed pending additional data.

B. Grant Opportunities/Updates/RFPs

1. Continue to research capital grant opportunities.
2. Cumberland County has released their RFP process for non-profit organizations for ARP funds. Staff attended the information session on January 24. Funds are by reimbursement. Staff recommendation at this point is to not apply.
3. The City of Fayetteville’s CDBG proposals – submitted proposal for Phase 2 of the infrastructure project by the January 28 deadline.

C. COVID-19 Updates

PFC implemented its HR 110 Communicable Disease Policy on Monday, March 16, 2020. The building reopened to the public on January 3, 2022. We continue to review PFC operations based on updated federal, state and local health and safety guidelines. 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. The Governor announced new mask guidance on February 17. Businesses may continue to require masks as part of operating.
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 Schools has moved to optional masking and the County health abatement for masks was rescinded effective February 21. It is still recommended to wear masks indoors in areas of high transmission. Cumberland County Government is continuing to require masks in county buildings as well as on public transportation.
- b. Telework agreements have been 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. We re-opened to the public effective January 3. COVID precautions, including masking in all common areas and cleaning of high touch areas, continue. The focus continues to be on services by appointment. Current hours remain in place with the ability of tenants to request additional hours of service. We have added Saturdays from 8:00 am – 1:00 pm in addition to the one Saturday a month from 8:00 am – 3:00 pm.
- f. The KIOSK check-in system at the front desk is now operational.
- g. 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 Casandra Smith, Caseworker for Family Support, January 31, Lokia Washington, Program Support Specialist for Family Connects, February 14 and Amanda Hamilton, Full-time Information Assistant, February 21.
2. **Position openings posted: website link** (<https://www.indeed.com/cmp/Partnership-For-Children-of-Cumberland-County>)
 - Caseworker, Family Services
 - Program Specialist, Family Services
 - Information Assistant (part-time), FRC
3. **Infrastructure Project:** We are working with Steve Fleming on the design for Phase 2.

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 are looking at options for in-person gatherings as we go into the summer.
3. **NC Pre-K Recruitment continues.** Applications for the 21-22 school year continue to be online. There is a drop box outside the front door for families to drop off applications. The new multi-program application for the 22-23 school year is functioning. An email invitation to apply was sent to more than 500 families who expressed interest. The marketing campaign, Let's Get Enrolled, will begin once the letsgetenrolled.com URL goes live. Right now, the application is on our NC Pre-K page: ccpfc.org/ncprek.
4. **Drive-Through Truckload of Hope Diaper Bank: 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. We are planning other events for the fall, including bringing back The Soiree. Sharon Moyer (smoyer@ccpfc.org) will have more information in upcoming meetings.