

**Called NC Pre-K Planning Committee &
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Acting on Behalf of Board)
Charles Morris Room/Hybrid
Thursday, February 23, 2023
President's Report**

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

1. NCPC

- **State Expansion of Child Care Health Consultants** – The amendment on the Expansion grant extending the contract through June 30, 2023 has been executed. DCDEE will be posting an RFP for the next cycle. NCPC is preparing to submit.
- **Federal PDG Grant for Regional Pilots for Family Connects** – The amendment for extending the contract through November 30, 2023 has been executed. This is the final year of PDG funding. The Community Foundation funding for the Community Alignment Specialist position ends December 2024. State level meetings are occurring around sustainability beyond the PDG funding for the Family Connects Pilot sites. Data summary attached. The goal is to continue regional services.
- **ASA and Budget preparation** – we are working with NCPC staff as we begin planning for the upcoming fiscal year.
- **ROR (Reach Out and Read)** – We continue to work with the NC ROR program, 4C, our DSP for this activity, and the physician practices during this transition of ending Smart Start funding for this program.
- **NCPC monitoring and our annual audits are in process of draft reviews and finalization.**

2. DCDEE

- DCDEE is doing testing for the roll-out of the \$20M for NC Pre-K start-up, quality and capital expenses. We anticipate additional information in March.
- **NC Pre-K**
 - a. The Contract amendment has been executed for rate and administrative increases as well as LETRS (required literacy training for NC Pre-K programs) stipends for participating staff from Head Start and private sites. The projected date for executed amendments is the end of January. We will then execute subcontract amendments with the providers as soon as we have our executed contract. The amendment is effective July 1, 2022 and payments to the providers will be retroactive to the beginning of the school year. The amendment will also include the funding for stipends for staff from private sites and Head Start who are participating in LETRs training. Subcontract amendments are being prepared as well as retro-payment of the rate increases.
 - b. We continue to meet regularly with NC Pre-K Directors for work on NC Pre-K processes for school year 23-24.
 - c. Precontracting information has been submitted to DCDEE for the upcoming fiscal year.
 - d. Desktop monitoring documents for NC Pre-K have been requested by DCDEE.

3. Local Level

- **Child Care Stakeholder Community Meetings** with local and state lawmakers, child care providers and other leaders and stakeholders: The last meeting was held January 31. We will be summarizing the concerns and continue working with our elected officials.

4. **State Level** – The General Assembly is in session. This is the long session determining the biennial budgets. Court filings have been submitted on behalf of the State Controller and House Speaker Tim Moore and Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger around the State Supreme Court ruling on Leandro for full funding for Years 2 & 3. Attached is the legislative agenda from NCPC.

B. Grant Opportunities/Updates/RFPs

1. City of Fayetteville ARPA funding – Submitted Scope and timeline modifications to city staff. Finalizing the Amendment for execution. Based on Census data, the qualified census tracts have been expanded, adding a few more eligible programs. A virtual information session was held February 21. Contingent on the executed scope modification, we hope to make the first round of awards in April.
2. Cumberland County Nonprofit Fiscal Recovery Assistance Program – we are finalizing determination to apply for the Occupancy category for utilities. Applications are rolling.

C. PFC Updates & Highlights

1. **Position openings posted: website link** (<https://www.indeed.com/cmp/Partnership-For-Children-of-Cumberland-County>). Please go to our website for new postings and share opportunities. There are programmatic postings.
2. **Farewell** – Lydia Wiles, Quality Assurance Specialist II. Due to the upcoming reassignment of her husband, Lydia will be moving. Lydia leaves after 6 ½ years of service. She has effectively blended remote work to meet the needs of the Planning and Evaluation Department during the last two years. We wish she and her husband well with this next assignment.
3. **Vaccine Update:** The Partnership will sunset the COVID vaccine requirement effective March 31, 2023. Enhanced cleaning and hand sanitizer stations will continue to be available as are masks upon request as health and safety protocols. In addition, we continue to consult with federal, state, and local health authorities for ongoing guidance on communicable diseases.
4. **Infrastructure Project:** Pinam Construction started their work on February 13 as planned. They are in the process of demolition. Initial schedule reviewed in Board Meeting. More details will continue to be provided as work proceeds.

D. Events/Community Outreach

1. **Board, Committee Meetings and All Staff Meetings:** A variety of meeting options are being utilized. Please refer to your meeting invites for the format of the particular meeting.
2. **All Staff Team Development Day:** Monday, March 27 – an afternoon of team building activities. The Raging Rooster Food Truck will be on site from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm as a lunch option. Please join us for lunch if you are able.
3. **Tenant Meetings:** An in-person tenant meeting was held February 21 at 5:30 pm in Conference Room B. While it was a small group in attendance, we were able to provide building and event updates and get to know those in attendance better. Tenant meetings are scheduled quarterly.
4. **Drive-Through Truckload of Hope Diaper Bank: March 11** from 8:30-10:30 am. Volunteers needed. Contact Daniele Malvesti (dmalvesti@ccpfc.org) if you can assist. This will be the last monthly distribution. After consideration of how to more widely support families in Cumberland County, the Diaper Bank of NC will be working with several organizations to function as open sites so that diapers are more widely available to families. We will still coordinate with the Diaper Bank through this transition and for referrals for resources. The Truckload of Hope was an innovative collaboration to bring diapers to our area and has grown to the point that a more permanent and equitable distribution will meet the needs of families better. We will be providing and linking information to the new sites with our families.
5. **Little Land: Big Play for Families:** This expo-style event focuses on outreach to our target population of young children and their families. **The event will be on Saturday, March 25 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm at the Crown Expo Center.** This is an outreach event under our Smart Start Community Engagement Activity. While it is not primarily a fundraiser like Soiree, we do have sponsors who have donated funds in support of the mission of the Partnership for this event. If you want to volunteer or have a booth, contact Sharon Moyer or Daniele Malvesti.

Family Connects, North Carolina Southeastern Region

Data verified through Dec, 2022 by Family Connects International

	Program Start Date 10/4/2021	10/4/2021 - 10/31/2022	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	10/4/2021 - 1/31/2023
BIRTH DATA						
Total Births	0	3595	288	311	254	4766
Eligible*	0	3071	261	280	219	4106
Not Eligible	0	524	27	31	35	660

CASE STATUS BY DELIVER DATE

Scheduled	0	2421	195	183	173	2972
Scheduling Rate - 75% Goal	0%	72%	68%	65%	0%	72%
Decline	0	371	20	20	0	411
Decline Rate	0%	11%	8%	7%	0%	10%
Completed	0	1426	103	94	95	1718
Completion Rate - 80% Goal	0%	59%	53%	52%	0%	58%
Pending (Changes daily)	0	0	3	69	46	118
Pending Rate - Goal 0%	0%	0%	1%	25%	21%	0%
Unable to Contact - Closed	0	554	43	7	11	615
Unable To Contact Rate	0%	17%	16%	3%	0%	17%
Population Reach - 60% Goal	0%	43%	39%	34%	0%	42%

COMPLETED VISITS

County of Residency						
Cumberland - 56% Goal	0%	86%	84%	86%	85%	86%
Hoke - 28% Goal	0%	9%	8%	6%	8%	9%
Robeson - 16% Goal	0%	5%	8%	8%	6%	6%

Data pulled on 2/16/2023

These numbers change daily. Goal is to have 0 in Pending and keep Unable to Contact as low as possible.

These numbers are provided by Family Connects International usually about 60 days after end of month.



2023 Legislative Session Priorities

Increase Smart Start Network Funding by \$30 Million Annually

Established in 1993, Smart Start grew to have a budget of \$231 million in SFY 2000-2001 with the goal of meeting the needs of children, families, and providers in North Carolina. Due to external factors, the budget is \$157 million in SFY 2022-2023, 68% of our previous funding.

Now more than ever, there is a need for additional funding for Smart Start to support North Carolina's youngest children.

Our Ask:

- ✓ Request a recurring, unrestricted appropriation of \$30 million to increase our appropriation to continue elevating and responding to early childhood needs in each county.

Why this Investment:

- ✓ While needs have increased, Smart Start is currently underfunded and does not meet 25% of the statewide need for children (birth to age five) based on the Needs Formula as required in NC General Statute.

IMPACT: With more funding from the NCGA in our SFY22 appropriation, the Smart Start Network was able to invest in more comprehensive solutions for young children, including 12% more funding in family support; 10% more in prenatal, newborn, and early health services; and 7% more for early care and education.

IMPACT: According to a Duke University study on long term impact conducted in 2018, investments in Smart Start and Pre-K are associated with long-term positive outcomes and more children can benefit by participating.

Increase Funding to Dolly Parton Imagination Library by \$1.5 Million Annually

Smart Start received \$7 million in recurring funds in 2017 to increase access to Dolly Parton Imagination Library (DPIL) books. This investment leveraged Smart Start's community roots and resulted in rapid expansion with over 13.5 million book distributions. The percentage of eligible children enrolled has grown from 8% in 2017 to 49% in 2022.

Our Ask:

- ✓ Request appropriation of an additional \$1.5 million annually to continue program support to Smart Start Local Partnerships, meet increasing book costs, and address waitlists.

IMPACT: Currently, NC's statewide enrollment is 296,221 (50% of eligible children). According to results of a recent Smart Start DPIL Survey, the percentage of families reading daily increased from 41% of families before DPIL to 62% of families after DPIL. Approximately 45% of families indicate they would be unable to purchase the same types of books without DPIL.

Why this Investment:

- ✓ \$1.5 million increase annually is requested to meet the current average 300,000 enrollment, which is 50% of eligible children.
 - Currently, 54 of the 75 Smart Start Local Partnerships need continued funding for program support such as hiring staff and increasing outreach for continued program expansion (\$850,000)
 - Approximately 300,000 children will receive books monthly with book expenses averaging \$630,000 monthly and \$2.10 per book (\$7,565,000)
 - NCPC provides DPIL program management and evaluation (\$85,000)

Allow 10% Administrative Allowance for Smart Start and NC Pre-K

Our Ask:

- ✓ Allow 10% aggregate administrative cap for Smart Start infrastructure.
- ✓ Increase NC Pre-K admin from 6% to 10%.

Why this Investment:

- ✓ These requests are aligned with the federal “de minimis rate” of 10% and would better enable Smart Start Local Partnerships and NC Pre-K administrators to find and retain qualified staff and operate more effectively and efficiently. Currently, 46 Smart Start Local Partnerships are NC Pre-K administrators.

Increase Investments in Early Education and Family Support Services

Our Ask:

- ✓ Provide extension of \$300 million in stabilization grants for compensation to early education providers through June 2025.
- ✓ Expand technical assistance services and behavioral health supports for early childhood teachers.
- ✓ Provide dedicated funding to expand Child Care WAGE\$ to early care and education providers in all 100 counties.
- ✓ Increase child care subsidy reimbursement rates and incorporate a statewide subsidy floor.
- ✓ Increase opportunities for Smart Start to invest in home visiting and parenting education programs in all 100 counties.

Why this Investment:

- ✓ The end of federal stabilization grants for early childhood teachers’ compensation will cause a funding cliff. Continued increased compensation for retention and quality early care and education is needed.
- ✓ Increasing competency-based technical assistance will support high-quality early care and education, retention of teachers, relationship-based teacher coaching, and enhance outcomes for young children and their families.
- ✓ Beyond one-time federal funding, early education providers must receive higher compensation for recruitment and retention.
- ✓ Improving subsidy rate structure will help child care programs cover the cost of care while keeping costs lower for working families.
- ✓ Access to home visiting and parenting education programs is a critical strategy to promote infant, maternal, and child health, safe home environments, and access to services. These opportunities support parents during the critical first months and years of their child’s life.



The North Carolina Partnership for Children

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