

**President's Report**  
**NC Pre-K Planning Committee and Board of Directors**  
**Charles Morris Room/ Hybrid**  
Thursday, August 22, 2024

**A. NCPC/DCDEE Updates / Legislative Updates**

**1. NCPC**

- Contract for FY25 executed. Subcontracts for Direct Service Providers (DSP) and contractors executed.
- Year-end fiscal reporting has been submitted along with our reversion check. The Programmatic data reporting was completed by the July 31 deadline.
- Mandatory Annual DSP training conducted on August 12.
- Marta Hester, NCPC's Public Policy Director, is working to develop priorities for the General Assembly's Long Session. Part of this focus is on some of the legislative requirements for Smart Start.

**2. DCDEE**

- **Southwestern Child Development Commission (SWCDC)** has reimbursed PFC through June [Core & HSB] and July [B3QI] for our four **Region 5** contracts. Preparation of FY25 contracts is in process. Currently, payments are flowing more quickly.
- **NC Pre-K:** Contract for FY25 executed. Sub-contracts for providers are in process. The new school year starts next week. An advance for services has been requested.

**3. State Level**

- The Governor signed Senate Bill 426, which included the Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) Modifications recommended to the Child Care Commission to update QRIS and create additional pathways for licensed child care facilities to earn star-rated licenses. The Child Care Commission is drafting proposed child care rule language to implement the new requirements. Hold Harmless provisions have been extended, and star-rated license assessments will be conducted by provider request only until the QRIS rulemaking process has been completed. Star-rated license assessments are still required for new child care programs. The legislation also provides a pathway for child care programs currently accredited through approved accrediting bodies to move to a 3 or 5-star license if they are not already at this star level. Providers that fall under this pathway may now submit a request to DCDEE for this alternative pathway.

**4. Federal Level**

- **DOL (Department of Labor) Overtime Rule** – The first court case granted a delay to only Texas for the Overtime rules. The Partnership has done its due diligence in assessing the impact of the higher salary thresholds on our employees. We have addressed those staff impacted by the first change in salary levels. We will continue to monitor this, with the next salary change set to occur in January.
- New bipartisan legislation in the U.S. Senate seeks to expand child care availability through tax credits and workforce support. The [Child Care Availability and Affordability Act \(S. 4874\)](#) would renew and increase tax credits and deductions for child care-related expenses, including refundability of the child and dependent care credit so that more low-income families could benefit. The [Child Care Workforce Act \(S.4880\)](#) would create a grant program to help attract and retain child care workers and expand the quality and affordability of care.
- **Fiscal Year 2025 funding for Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and Related Agencies (LHHS) was approved and released by the House Appropriations Committee.** The proposed funding includes \$194.4 billion, a cut of \$24.6 billion (or 11%) below the fiscal year 2024

level. Highlights include increased funding for Child Care Development Block Grants (CCDBG) to \$8.7 billion (to provide vouchers for working families to have child care), \$12.3 billion for Head Start (an increase of \$25 million above the 2024 level and \$244 million below the 2025 request), \$1 billion for Maternal and Child Health programs (a decrease of \$152 million below the 2024 level and \$216 million below the 2025 request with elimination of funding for the Healthy Start program).

- **The Senate Appropriations Committee set proposed funding levels for child care and early learning programs for LHHS agencies for FY 2025** on August 1. Funding provisions for child care and early learning include a \$2.3 billion increase over FY 2024. Highlights include \$10.35 billion for CCDBG (an increase of \$1.6 billion over FY24), \$12.97 billion for Head Start (a \$700 million increase over FY24), Preschool Development Grant Birth Through Five (PDG B-5), \$315 million (same as FY24) and increasing funding by \$5 million for CCAMPIS after it was eliminated in the House.

#### B. Grant Opportunities/Updates/RFPs

- Met with the City of Fayetteville on July 11 to discuss the status of grants. Reviewing City of Fayetteville ARPA and CDBG grants for continued funding, regulations, and viability.

#### C. Staff Updates

- **Welcome to Joseph White, IT Engineer. Joseph started with PFC on August 21.**
- **Open positions are on the PFC website with a link to Indeed.** If you have any questions, please contact Anthony Ramos ([aramos@ccpfc.org](mailto:aramos@ccpfc.org)).
- **Lunch Plate Sale Fundraiser – September 26 from 11 am – 2 pm.** Lunch options will include hot dogs or vegetarian chili bowl with choice of sides including baked beans, potato salad, or chips. Proceeds from the sale will benefit staff team development opportunities. This fundraiser follows the Board's Executive Committee meeting.
- **Flu Shot Clinic – September 26 from 11 am – 1 pm.** The clinic includes Board members & tenants.

#### D. Events

- **NC Pre-K Let's Get Enrolled** launched January 17, 2024, for 2024-2025 school year applications. Please share the URL: [ccpfc.org/letsgetenrolled](https://ccpfc.org/letsgetenrolled). **We are still taking applications for the new school year. While many of our sites are full, some programs still have openings. Please continue to get the word out. If you would like to put a yard sign at your home or business, please see Ar-Nita for a sign.**
- **Fayetteville 2024 Community Choice Awards** – we are in the final three again this year. The final award ceremony will be at the Crown Complex this evening. Haja Jallow-Konrat and Mary Sonnenberg will attend and represent PFC.
- **Kindness Awards** nominations began on August 19. The webpage is [ccpfc.org/kindness](https://ccpfc.org/kindness). Nominations will be taken from the public. **The Kindness Awards** event will be held **on November 14** in the evening.
- **State of the Community**, hosted by the Chamber of Commerce, is August 29, 2024, from 11:30 AM -1:30 PM. Board members Tre'vone McNeill, Dr. Patricia Fecher, Dr. Connelly, and Ebone Williams will attend with staff members Mary Sonnenberg, Sharon Moyer, Pamela Federline, and Michelle Downey.
- **Little Land: Down on the Farm** makes a return. We are grateful to Lisa Childers and the Cumberland County Fair Committee for allowing us to participate in the fair again this year. The fair dates are August 30th through September 8. The ribbon cutting will be on August 30. Please get in touch with Shaun Savarese ([ssavarese@ccpfc.org](mailto:ssavarese@ccpfc.org)) if you're interested in helping out at the event.
- **Smart Start Month** – The State of North Carolina will proclaim September as Smart Start Month. We will promote this with media releases and social media posts. Please make sure you follow us on Facebook and share our posts.
- **Little Land: Big Play for Families** – February 15, 2025. Thank you to Haja for being our first sponsor and sponsoring Sensory Land. We need your help in soliciting vendors and sponsors. You can find all the information online at [ccpfc.org/vendor](https://ccpfc.org/vendor), [ccpfc.org/sponsor](https://ccpfc.org/sponsor), and downloadable flyers, posters, etc. are at [ccpfc.org/lldownloads](https://ccpfc.org/lldownloads).