

**CCR&R Advisory Committee Meeting
AGENDA**

Quorum (33%) = 4 (Total Board Members = 11)

Thursday, November 14, 2024
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Multipurpose Conference Room

Be the driving force...

- I. **Welcome, Determination of Quorum, & Call to Order – Darlisha Warren, Chair**
- II. **Approval of Minutes**
 - A. September 12, 2024*
- III. **President’s Report – Mary Sonnenberg, President**
- IV. **Financial Updates – Carole Mangum, Grants Manager**
- V. **Update – Enhancing Resources & Support Systems for Neurodivergent Children with the Organization**
- VI. **Department Report & Matters for Discussion – Julanda Jett, Vice President of Programs**
 - A. Seeking New Committee Members
 - B. Department Updates:
 - Workforce Development
 - C. SOAR Community Coalition – **Wanda Wesley**
 - D. Bylaws Review/Recommendations - Discussion
- VII. **Division Reports –**
 - A. Family Services
 - NC Pre-K – **Ar-Nita Davis, Programs Manager**
 - Consumer Education & Referral – **Sheila Rowe, Program Manager**
 - B. Provider Services
 - Kaleidoscope & Library – **Mary Welch, Program Manager**
 - Technical Assistance & Trainings – **Mary Welch, Program Manager**
 - Region 5 (B3QI, HSB, School-Age, FCC) – **Sheila Rowe, Program Manager**
- VIII. **Adjournment: Next Meeting is Thursday, February 20, 2025 at 9:00 am (in-person & hybrid)**

* Action Item



Partnership for Children of Cumberland County, Inc. (PFC)
CCR&R Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2024 (9:04 am – 10:35 am)
Be the Driving Force



MEMBERS PRESENT: Darlisha Warren, Patricia Eaton, Dr. Rondell Bennett, Dr. Alexis Blue-Wilson, Angela Crosby, Cathy Everett, Katherine (Katie) Lada, Iris Pierce, & Wanda Wesley MEMBERS ABSENT: Tre’vone McNeill, Jennifer Lopez, & Christopher Williams NON-VOTING ATTENDEES: Mary Sonnenberg, Julanda Jett, Tamiko Colvin, Ar-Nita Davis, Sheila Rowe, Carole Mangum, Marie Lilly, Haja Jallow-Konrat, Ayesha Neal, & Dr. Annabeth Knight			
AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION & RECOMMENDATION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
I. Call to Order	Darlisha Warren, Chair, welcomed all attendees, determined that a quorum was met and called the meeting to order. The scheduled meeting of the CCR&R Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, September 12, 2024 and beginning at 9:04 am pursuant to prior written notice to each committee member. Tamiko Colvin was Secretary for the meeting and recorded the minutes.	Called to Order	None
II. Approval of Meeting Minutes	The minutes of the June 13, 2024 scheduled meeting were previously distributed and reviewed by the committee members. The Chair asked for corrections. Hearing none, the committee consented and the minutes were approved. Katherine Lade and Angela Crosby motioned and approved.	Approved	None
III. President’s Report	Mary Sonnenberg, President, provided an overview of the Partnership’s President Report (report provided).	None	None
IV. Financial Updates	Carole Mangum, Grants Manager, provided an overview of the Financial Report for the Programs Department (report provided).	None	None
V. Bylaws	Julanda Jett, Vice President of Programs, gave an overview the Bylaws for the CCR&R Advisory Committee. The Bylaws will be periodically reviewed. We are requesting feedback and/or changes regarding the function of the CCR&R Committee to have discussion & determination by the end of the fiscal year. (Bylaws provided)	None	None
VI. Discussion – Enhancing Resources & Support Systems for Neurodivergent Children with the Organization	Mary Sonnenberg, President and Julanda Jett, Vice President of Programs initiated the conversation regarding neurodivergent children & their families within the community and how to further assist their needs with support and resources. Mary Sonnenberg provided an overview of the data for our service area, to include, early intervention indicators, IFSPs, & IEPs.		



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	<p>Haja Jallow-Konrat (Board Chair), Ayesha Neal (former Board Chair), Wanda Wesley, Katherine Lada, & Dr. Annabeth Knight (Methodist University) joined the conversation and gave their feedback.</p> <p>Recommendation and Resources mentioned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C.O.L.O.R.S. • CDSA (referrals for intervention) • Child Access Meeting • Advocacy Training • Developmental or Autism Testing • Speech and Physical Therapy • Kaleidoscope • Parent Education/Training and/or Information Sessions • Resource Fair • Sensory Room (Dorothy Gilmore Recreation Center) • Radio Stations (FSU & WIDU) • Informative Literature (at clinics, health department, childcare programs, library, hospitals, DSS, outreach events, mental health, churches, etc.) • Social Media • Grant/Funding <p>Collaboration: due to lack of funding, Dr. Annabeth Knight of Methodist University offered the assistance of several Capstone Project students with outreach events, such as Little Land, in May 2025.</p> <p>A workgroup will be developed and meet bi-monthly.</p>		
<p>VII. Department Reporting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Committee Members Required Documents B. Department Updates C. Materials Grant Updates D. SOAR Community Coalition 	<p>Julanda Jett, Vice President of Programs, provided a report for the Programs Department. The report included the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Committee Members Required Documents due to Tamiko Colvin B. Department Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Hire/Staff Changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ebony Peterkin, Regional Caseworker ○ Makalia Stewart, Regional Caseworker ○ New Family Child Care Consultant starts October 1st • Current Openings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provider Services Coach (1) – currently interviewing 	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>



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	<p>C. Materials Grant- Julanda Jett, Vice President of Programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving forward to improve the quality for cohort 2 & 3 • No assessments will be conducted at this time due to Hold Harmless • 15 facilities for FY24-25. <p>D. Soar Community Coalition – Wanda Wesley</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting today at the Child Advocacy Center at 3:00 pm (222 Rowan Street) • Fun in the Sun at the Health Department on Saturday, September 14th at 10:00 am to 3:00 pm • September 18th – Welcome new Director for the Child Advocacy Center at 8:00 am • November is Harvest Awareness Month <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Body Safety Trainings for 3-4 year olds at different centers ○ November 15th – Annual Prevention Luncheon with Special Guest Amanda Love • New brochures are coming soon 		
<p>VIII. Division Updates</p> <p>A. Family Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NC Pre-K <p>B. Provider Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kaleidoscope & Library • Technical Assistance & Training • Consumer Education & referral • Region 5 (B3QI, HSB, & School-Age) 	<p>A. Family Services:</p> <p>Ar-Nita Davis, Program Manager, gave the updates for NC Pre-K (report provided):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY24-25 NC Pre-K Program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of Sites: 55 ○ Number of Classrooms: 87 • FY24-25 School Year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SchoolMint Applications: 2,292 ○ NC Pre-K Application System <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Applications Received: 2,386 - Waitlist: 243 • FY24-25 NC Pre-K Allocation (1412) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Private Sites (915): 888 ○ Cumberland County Schools (CCS): 384 (54) 434 ○ Head Start: 90 • FY 24-25 NC Pre-K Program Requirements and Guidance-August 2024 High Impact Changes (attached) • Teaching Strategies (TS Gold) changed to SmartTech • Professional Development Opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NC Pre-K Conference at FTCC on August 14th-15th • Current & Upcoming Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NC Pre-K New Provider Training Systems 	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upcoming Events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NC Pre-K Administrator’s Meeting – September 19, 2024 at 12:00 pm ○ Cumberland County Department of Public Health: Fun in the Sun on September 14th at 10:00 am-3:00 pm B. Provider Services: Mary Welch, Program Manager, provided the updates for Kaleidoscope & Library, Technical Assistance, and Trainings (report provided). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kaleidoscope Play & Learn – meets three times a week. Registration is online. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Providing indoor play groups twice a week: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tuesdays: 9:30 am at Clark Park and 2:00 pm the The Partnership Lending Library - Thursdays: 9:30 am at Fascinate-U Children’s Museum - All play groups are free. Currently recruiting families. • Lending Library – currently closed to the public. Coaches are providing services to providers & families, such as laminating, die-cut, and delivering resources. Mary Welch & Shontina Purdie are the poc. • Technical Assistance – currently recruiting for new programs. • Outreach Opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fun in the Sun Event at the Health Department on September 14th • Leadership Academy: FCCH (Kathleen Hoffler) & Centers (Vivlica Rodgers) * Iris Pierce, Fort Liberty Child & Youth Services, added that she referrals families to the KPL program. Sheila Rowe, Program Manager, gave the updates for Region 5: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumer Education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New Hires: Still in Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ebony Peterkin started July 15th - Makalia Stewart started September 4th ➤ Will collaborate with community partners for outreach events ➤ Faciliate Choosing Quality training ➤ Share resources with parents ➤ Update providers information in the WorkLife System (WLS) Database 		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Region 5: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Birth to Three (B3QI) – 2 Specialists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working with 14 childcare programs ○ Healthy Social Behavioral (HSB) – 3 Specialist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working with 17 childcare programs ○ Lead Coach, Mary Anders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working with 11 childcare programs ○ Regional Coach- Vianey Graham <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working with 8 childcare programs ○ FCCH Consultant – Kathleen Hoffler <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mentoring group for FCCHs Leadership Academy. Scheduled for September 14th - Working with 18 childcare programs - New Consultant hired – Whitney Krisch starts October 1st ○ Outreach Events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Little Land on the Farm at the Cumberland County Fair - 2024 Breast Feeding Fair at The Health Department (Ebony Peterkin) ○ Professional Development Opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Michelle Glacken & Tonya McCall attend the NCIMHA Conference, September 18th-19th - Tonya McCall attended the NCAEYC Conference September 20th-21st. She presented a training during the conference - Michelle Jones attended the Inside a Child’s Mind on September 5th 		
IX. Information	The next CCR&R Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2024 at 9:00 am.	None	None
X. Adjournment	As there was no further business, the Chair noted the meeting adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 am.	Adjourned	None

President's Report
NC Pre-K Planning Committee and Board of Directors
Charles Morris Room/ Hybrid
Thursday, October 31, 2024

A. NCPC/DCDEE Updates / Legislative Updates

1. NCPC

- This month's sample story is from 1st Quarter reporting to NCPC. See attached.
- NCPC is facilitating meetings with the CCR&R Council to discuss the CCR&R RFA that has been released by DCDEE. A network meeting was held with Executive Directors on October 29 to identify additional concerns and gather input from the network.
- The NC General Assembly allocated a \$10 million, nonrecurring appropriation to NC DHHS for NCPC to distribute to Smart Start Local Partnerships that serve counties in the Hurricane Helene FEMA disaster area. LPs can use the funds for affected child care centers and family child care homes to provide assistance in reopening and maintaining operations, including, but not limited to, cleaning, repairs, and relocating.

2. DCDEE

- **CCR&R RFA for Core services has been released. Proposals are due by January 7.** PFC staff attended the Pre-application session by DCDEE on October 24 along with other partners from across the state. Questions were due to DCDEE by October 24 and answers will be posted on the DCDEE website October 31. Letters of Intent to Apply are due by October 31 but are not required to respond to the RFA. The full proposal is on the DCDEE website under "What's New". The RFA has 4 regions designated (vs. the current 3). The map of the 4 regions is attached. The key request by participants on the October 24 information session was to delay the RFA due to the disaster status in the western part of the state, the implementation of the new QRIS guidelines and the significant change in the regions. There are many questions still to be answered regarding what a new CCR&R system would look like and the impact on the existing CCR&R Council and the Region leads in existence. A short turn-around of the RFA would not allow for the system changes that need to be put in place. PFC staff are staying abreast of the meetings and discussions around the RFA.
- **DCDEE sent out an announcement via email mid-afternoon Wednesday (October 30) that the CCR&R RFA for Core Services has been postponed and will be released at a later date.** Continued discussion and planning need to occur in anticipation of the RFA being released in the future. PFC will continue to be involved in the discussions around the CCR&R system.

3. State Level

- The General Assembly has passed state legislation for Hurricane Helene Disaster Relief assistance, for a total of \$877 million thus far. Governor Cooper released his comprehensive proposal for funding Hurricane Helene relief and recovery in western North Carolina. The General Assembly will reconvene in late November and could consider some parts of the Governor's proposal then, in another session in December, or in early 2025.
- Governor Cooper issued an executive order making several temporary changes to unemployment benefits during the Hurricane Helene state of emergency, which currently extends through March 1, 2025. These benefits include all nonprofit employees who have been affected by Hurricane Helene.

4. Federal Level

- Congress is currently in recess until mid-November. December 20, 2024 is the deadline to reach a deal on the FY 2025 appropriation bills.

B. Grant Opportunities/Updates/RFPs

- New scope and budget were submitted to the City of Fayetteville for the ARPA grant. Contracting for new scope and budget is with the City for their processes.
- The City of Fayetteville contract for the CDBG funds for Phase 3 of the Building Project has been executed to extend the contract through June 30, 2025.

C. Staff Updates

- **Whittney Krisch, Family Child Care Consultant, who started on on October 1 and Taylor Lawton, Program Support Specialist for Family Connects who started on October 8.**
- **Congratulations! to Carolin Hardy, who was promoted to the full-time Information Assistant role, effective October 26.**
- **In addition, Dottie Adams has made the decision, with our full support, to take over the current vacant MAC Coordinator role.** Her experience and expertise in MAC allows her to seamlessly take over the MAC position. We are working to fill the resulting vacant positions in the fiscal department with an eye on cross-training and succession planning.
- **Open positions are on the PFC website with a link to Indeed.** If you have any questions, please contact Anthony Ramos (aramos@ccpfc.org).
- **Lunch Plate Sale Fundraiser – September 26 was very successful and raised \$980. Thanks to everyone who participated.**

D. Events

- **Building Construction Status:** We are in the process of contracting for the vehicle accident repair project and completion of Phase 2 of the building renovations. We expect mobilization for the work to occur in the next week. Additional information on impact on parking and grounds will be sent out by Jeremy Julch.
- **NC Pre-K Let's Get Enrolled:** Please share the URL: [LetsGetEnrolled.com](https://www.letsgetenrolled.com). We are still taking applications for this school year. While many of our sites are full, some programs still have openings. Please continue to get the word out. **Believe it or not, we are already planning for the launch of applications for the 2025-2026 school year after the first of the year.** More details to come.
- **Kindness Awards:** There is limited space here for support, but if you would like to be part of the event by greeting guests as they arrive, please contact us at events@ccpfc.org. Event date is November 14 at 6:30 pm.
- **Giving Tuesday:** We are proud to be part of the Cumberland Community Foundation's Giving Tuesday event again this year. If you have not made your board donation, please do so between November 25 and December 4. The webpage, which is still in process, is ccpfc.org/givingtuesday. PLEASE keep an eye on our social media and share...share...share!
- **Barnes & Noble Book Drive:** begins on November 1. Please stop by Barnes and Noble and buy a book to donate to PFC. This is an important part of our outreach and literacy efforts.
- **Little Land: Big Play for Families:** We still need your support in seeking vendors and sponsors and spreading the word. Please visit ccpfc.org/littleland for downloadable images and vendor and sponsorship links. We have secured many of our return activities and are looking forward to the NC Zoo and PBS Rootle attending. Event date is February 15, 2025 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm.

1st Quarter – Provider Services – Networking & Community Resources

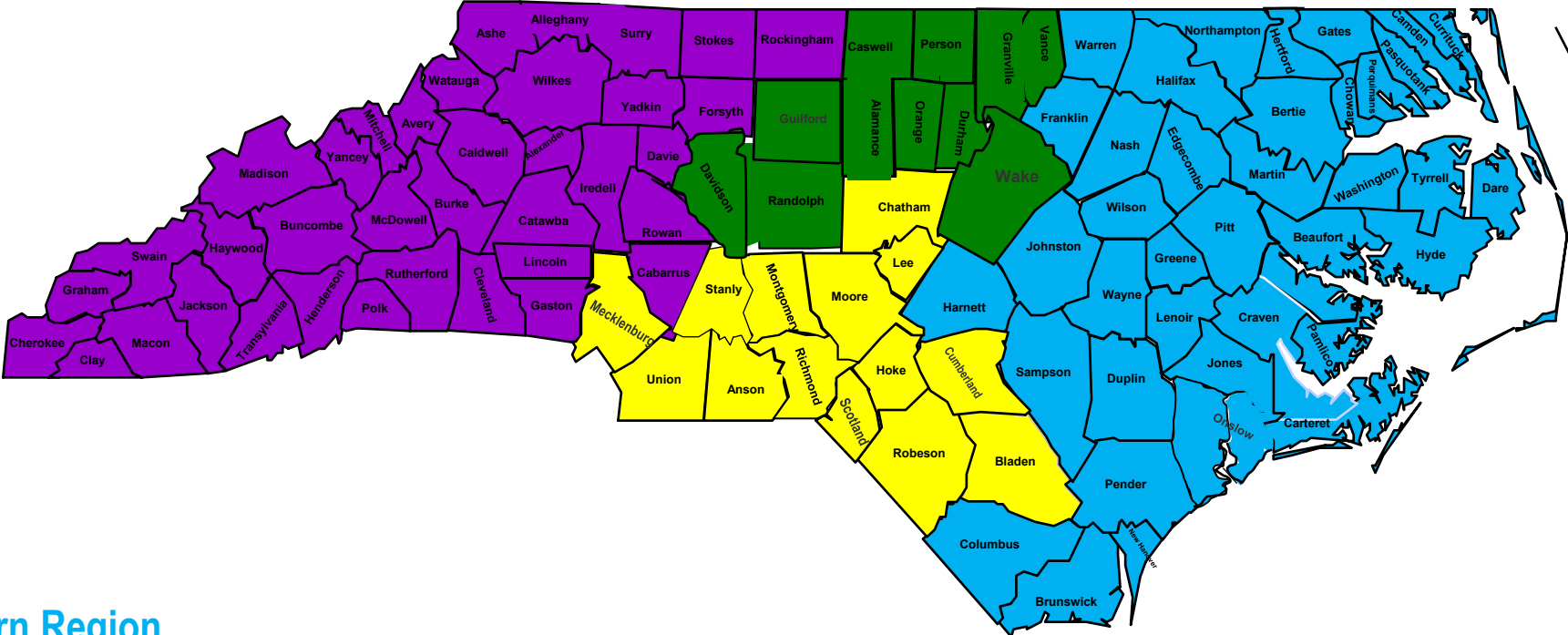
In quarter one, a provider came to the office seeking help with registering for trainings. As I was talking and walking her through how to register, she started to cry. She shared she was an emotional wreck. She was scheduled for a mental health appointment and the day of the appointment they cancelled the appointment and rescheduled her an appointment that was 30 days away. She also shared she had an upcoming medical procedure and was having trouble with her insurance covering the medical device she would need after her surgery. This provided me with the opportunity to assist her in another yet different way. I was that listening ear she needed. Because she shared this information with me I was able to connect her with the Better Health agency. I called the Better Health office and confirmed they had the medical equipment she would need after her surgery. After leaving my office, she was able to go there and speak with the lady I spoke with and got what she needed. Not only did she get what she was inquiring about but she was also able to get another piece of medical equipment she forgot she would need. She called back crying and thanked me for assisting her. She stated she was at her wits ends with going back and forth trying to find a business that accepted her insurance. I followed-up with the provider after her surgery. She again thanked me for caring and for helping her.

Because of the relationship we had formed, a few day later she emailed me asking if I knew of an agency that could assist her with her rent. I connected her with one of our Family Support caseworkers.

She came to our agency for help with registering for trainings in which she was able to register for. In addition, we were able to address some of her other concerns by connecting her with other community resources.

ATTACHMENT A

CCR&R Regional Services Map



- Eastern Region
- South Central Region
- North Central Region
- Western Region

Current Demographics by Region

Region	Counties	CC Program	Staff	Children Enrolled in Care
Eastern	38	1,127	10,092	55,012
South Central	14	1,298	10,099	56,390
North Central	11	1,109	12,010	64,939
Western	37	1,411	10,615	53,624



STATE HEALTH POLICY

Is NC Pre-K dying? Providers say low funding makes it hard to keep up.

With rising costs, some providers can't afford the steep requirements and inadequate reimbursement rates associated with the preschool program.



by **Grace Vitaglione**

October 30, 2024



NC Pre-K classrooms are operated in public schools as well as private providers and Head Start Centers. Credit: Shanna Trim, Flickr Creative Commons

By Grace Vitaglione

Cassandra Brooks owns [Little Believer's Academy](#), which has locations in Garner and Clayton. She operates three NC Pre-K classrooms. But rising costs and stagnant resources have made it hard for her to do business.

“Every day is just so stressful,” she said.

NC Pre-K serves eligible 4-year-old children, based on criteria such as being at or below 75 percent of the state median income of [\\$66,312 for a family of three](#) in 2024. A child with certain risk factors, such as experiencing developmental delays or being a member of some military families, may also be eligible. The goal is to prepare at-risk kids for K-12 education so they don't fall behind their peers.

The high-quality program has steep provider requirements that aren't cheap to fulfill. Lead NC Pre-K teachers must hold a [certain license](#), and each classroom must have at least one teacher and a teacher assistant.

Those high standards and qualified teachers are what set the program apart, leading to [lasting benefits](#) for children — in particular those who have experienced adversity, according to [decades of research](#) on early childhood learning.

NC Pre-K providers are partially reimbursed by the state for the program and must come up with other funding to cover the full cost. But the state reimbursement rates and other sources of funding haven't increased enough to keep pace with rising costs and inflation, providers say. As a result, some providers are feeling compelled to leave the program.

And as the pressure on the state's system for supporting young children increases with the sunset of federal pandemic-era funds that bolstered wages and benefits, some fear the state's early childhood care and education programs — subsidies for low-income kids, NC Pre-K and other child care supports — are in danger of fracturing.

Child care is essential to support the workforce, and NC Pre-K is sometimes the only chance an at-risk child may have at being prepared for K-12, said Sherry Melton, lobbyist and consultant for the [NC Licensed Child Care Association](#). Both programs are vital, she argued.

While the child care system received heightened attention during the legislative session in 2024, NC Pre-K is also in need of support to keep more providers from leaving, advocates said.

'A good foundation'

Recruiting people who meet NC Pre-K's teacher requirements and offering them a competitive wage can be difficult for providers.

Brooks lost a couple teachers to the K-12 system, where they likely found better benefits. She doesn't blame them for trying to better support their families, but it's frustrating for her as a business owner. Private providers like her often find themselves in competition with public schools for highly qualified teachers.

She receives some money from Wake County and applies for grants. Brooks also relies on tuition payments from non-NC Pre-K children to keep the bills paid.

Still, her margins are tight.

But Brooks hangs on, in part because she believes in the mission of NC Pre-K, despite the challenges. Her daughter went through NC Pre-K when Brooks was a single mother, and the experience helped both of them. Now, her daughter works as a nurse.

“I believe that was a good foundation for her,” she said.

Increased costs, stagnant reimbursements

The NC Pre-K system is complicated. It encompasses public and private providers, differing rates of reimbursement and multiple streams of funding.

Public schools and Head Start centers may also offer NC Pre-K, but private centers receive higher state reimbursement because public schools and Head Start centers can rely on other sources of funding, such as [Title I](#) and [Head Start](#).

But not all schools and Head Start centers receive the same amount of federal funding, and some of them, too, struggle to keep their NC Pre-K classrooms open.

Currently, the [reimbursement rate for a private NC Pre-K provider](#) is \$719 per child per month, while it’s \$496 for a public school provider and \$420 for Head Start center.

State reimbursement rates for private providers have only increased about 10 percent from the maximum rates created in 2012, depending on the teacher’s qualifications, according to [Department of Health and Human Services records](#). Meanwhile, public school and Head Start providers received about a 5 percent increase.

Providers say those increases don’t come close to accounting for the [nearly 40 percent inflation in costs since 2012](#). Currently, state money covers about half the cost of an NC Pre-K slot on average, said Neil Harrington, research director at the nonprofit advocacy organization [NC Child](#).

In 2012, those dollars went a lot further.

Many private providers want to participate in NC Pre-K because, like Brooks, they believe in the mission. But it’s hard to weigh that against financial stability when the rates are so low, the lobbyist Sherry Melton said. As a result, the program is losing providers.

“NC Pre-K is dying,” Melton said.

From 2019-20 to 2023-24, the total number of NC Pre-K sites decreased by about 4 percent, or an overall loss of 48 sites, according to DHHS data. On average, about 5 percent of NC Pre-K sites leave the program every year — many are replaced by new sites, but not all, a spokesperson said.

Theresa Roedersheimer, the executive director of the [NC Early Childhood Foundation](#) who formerly worked at the DHHS Division of Child Development and Early Education, said while the program may not be in the grave, there could be fewer spots in the private sector if providers are forced to leave because of rising costs and inadequate resources.

“I don’t want to say it’s going to hit rock bottom, or that it’s just going to disappear,” she said. “As time continues, you could see the number of available spots start to go down.”

That could have downstream effects on the children who would otherwise be served. Reading proficiency — in particular — and graduation rates from later grades could dip in areas with fewer programs, she said.

‘Novel’ program

Former Gov. Mike Easley campaigned on establishing a state-funded pre-kindergarten effort focused on unserved, at-risk 4-year-old children, said John Pruette, formerly the executive director of the Office of Early Learning at the N.C. Department of Instruction.

Pruette played a large role in how the program was rolled out. More at Four, which later became NC Pre-K, was established in 2001 with very high program quality standards.

At the time, the program was “really novel” in terms of involving multiple child care and education entities, Pruette said.

Kenneth Dodge is a professor in public policy, psychology and neuroscience at Duke University. When NC Pre-K first rolled out, he and other researchers followed the children in counties with NC Pre-K through high school graduation and compared those children with those in counties without NC Pre-K.

Those [researchers](#) found that greater investments in the NC Pre-K program were associated with positive effects on fifth-grade academic achievement scores. Average funding for a full high-quality pre-K program for a particular child resulted in about 6 percent more students graduating from high school in counties where the program was supported, compared with counties with no funding at all, he said.

The impact is partly because of the program’s standards, Dodge said. If it weren’t of high enough quality, NC

Pre-K would be “wasting money.”

Another novel aspect was putting all kids into these high-quality preschool classrooms together, no matter who was picking up the tab.

The state gives a slot to an eligible child, and they can bring that funded slot to any certified NC Pre-K classroom. That way, a family who may not be able to afford preschool otherwise could access it if they wish.

That’s likely been another reason behind the success of NC Pre-K, Dodge said. He noted that having classrooms with state- and privately funded kids meant that all the students benefited from NC Pre-K’s high quality standards and curriculum, better preparing them to learn.

If a county were to lose its NC Pre-K program, Dodge said, “I would certainly predict that the (high school) graduation rates for those cohorts of children would go down slightly.”

Funding not keeping up

There are 91 local agencies across the state that oversee NC Pre-K classrooms in their areas, while the overall program is administered by the state Division of Child Development and Early Education.

For example, Wake County Smart Start oversees the NC Pre-K sites in that county.

State appropriations for NC Pre-K overall have remained fairly stagnant since 2011, with the median state funding being around \$125 million in that period, according to [data from the Office of State Budget and Management](#), despite the fact that federal funds have crept up.

NC Pre-K: Certified Budget FY 2011-12 through FY 2024-25 (all \$ in millions)

Program	Source	FY 2011-12	FY 2012-13	FY 2013-14	FY 2014-15	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25
NC	State*	128.1	128.1	140.5	125.7	126.7	126	147.8	100.9	105.8	113.2	114.8	125.6	125.7	125.7
Pre-K	Federal				19.8	17.5	19.5	6.7	62.9	67	69	69	69	75.2	75.2

*State funding includes NC Education

Lottery receipts

Sources

BD307, Budget Code 14420, budget fund

133400/fund code 1330

State appropriations to the NC Pre-K program have remained fairly constant since 2011. Credit: NC General Assembly

Part of the state funding for the program comes from the NC Education Lottery, which [saw its annual](#)

revenues top \$1 billion in 2023.

Nonetheless, lack of funding and resources has led the program to have an extensive waiting list throughout the 2010s.

Legislators tried to reduce the waitlist for NC Pre-K by funding over 1,700 additional slots in the **budget for fiscal year 2017-18, just a fraction of the more than 33,000 children eligible** that year.

But 44 counties turned down that expansion money in 2017, **according to a national report**. The next year, 34 counties turned down expansion money. The big barrier to expansion, the researchers found, was inadequate revenue and resources, largely because of rising operating costs and stagnant state reimbursement rates. That was even with the additional dollars on the table.

Melton also said many providers just couldn't afford to hire additional teachers to teach more kids and still cover all their other operating costs.

Rep. Donny Lambeth (R-Winston Salem) said advocacy groups and counties asked legislators to increase slots over the years, and the General Assembly has been able and/or willing to add more or less to the system, depending on the year.

“Getting something, with more covered, is better than nothing,” he wrote over email.

But the state doesn't generate enough income to provide much more than covering that basic inflation, he said.

Running the program

More than 600 NC Pre-K sites statewide are operated by public schools, or 53 percent of the total sites in 2023-24, **according to DHHS data**. Over 400 are operated by private/nonpublic centers, and almost 150 are operated by Head Start centers.

A percentage of the state's allocation to a county or region for NC Pre-K goes to the local agency that delivers the program, such as the local Smart Start partnership, to cover administrative costs.

The current rate of 6.8 percent for administration is too low to adequately deliver a program with strict requirements like NC Pre-K, said Stacey Bailey, NC Pre-K program director at **Buncombe Partnership for**

Children.

The lack of administrative funding creates instability in the program, she said.

Administrative funds can **go toward** recruiting new NC Pre-K providers, developing transportation plans and reaching out to sign up the children who are hard to reach but may need intervention the most.

FOLLOW OUR COVERAGE OF STATE HEALTH POLICY



N.C. Legislature's Helene relief bill contains several health-related measures



by [Grace Vitaglione](#) October 25, 2024



NC is aging; here's how the state government wants to address that



by [Grace Vitaglione](#)

October 24, 2024



Doctor's lawsuit tests constitutionality of how NC regulates health care facilities



by [Anne Blythe](#) October 23, 2024

Keeping up with the costs of today

As it was initially conceived, NC Pre-K was designed to be only partially funded by the state, Pruette said. When it was created, the legislature was unlikely to approve a fully state-funded program, so having local contributions was crucial to gaining lawmakers' support.

In the early days of the program, the state NC Pre-K team helped communities find resources for local contributions and demonstrated how to combine funds to support the full cost of the program, Pruette said. Some communities were able to jump on the effort, while others needed more hand-holding.

That early group of state NC Pre-K leaders earmarked state reimbursement rates by community — typically,

more support went to communities with fewer resources, and rates were adjusted year by year. They hoped that would equalize program funding across the state, Pruette explained.

After the program moved to DHHS, the Division of Child Development and Early Education created a statewide rate structure beginning in fiscal year 2012-13 based on provider type instead of what a community could pony up to help. The division based the rates on the average cost for a site to meet NC Pre-K requirements and worked with a subgroup of the [NC Pre-K Advisory Committee](#) to set the rates, a spokesperson explained.

That meant taking into account the other sources of funding available to public schools and Head Start centers that private providers didn't have access to.

Pruette said he doesn't disagree with that reasoning, but it's not as cut and dried as it may seem.

NC Pre-K was far from perfect during his time — funding was an issue from the beginning, Pruette said. That's why the program's early leaders had to come up with those creative strategies to leverage what resources they had.

But those 11-year-old solutions may not be able to keep up with today's demands, he said.

Disparity across the state

Relying on donations to support NC Pre-K isn't always sustainable, said Janet Singerman, president and CEO of [Child Care Resources Inc.](#), a child care resource and referral agency based in Charlotte. Political and public will to support the program is also necessary, she said.

That means the program is subject to disparities in available community resources and support.

For instance, providers in Buncombe and Wake counties receive county money to supplement their NC Pre-K programs. Stacey Bailey from Buncombe County said they were able to stabilize their programs coming out of the pandemic because of those county dollars.

But the county could decide to put that funding elsewhere in the future, she noted. In the wake of Helene damage, there's likely to be a lot of competing interests.

In Wake County, it's become harder in the past couple years to incentivize private providers to stay in NC Pre-

K, even with county support, said Gayle Headen, executive director of [Wake County Smart Start](#).

“We are beginning to see a shedding of providers who have been with us for quite some time,” she said. “It is because of that business decision for them.”

New Hanover County Schools operates eight NC Pre-K sites and oversees all the county’s sites. That program receives some county money as well, but it’s not enough.

It’s a struggle to keep NC Pre-K classrooms afloat and maintain high quality, according to Shannon Smiles, director of [Early Childhood Education at New Hanover County Schools](#).

Rural communities, in particular, may struggle with finding local funds.

The [Southwestern Child Development Commission](#), a nonprofit that focuses primarily on seven western North Carolina counties, had to pull back from operating NC Pre-K programs. Rates didn’t cover the cost of care, and it was challenging to find and retain qualified teachers, said interim Executive Director Lori Jones.

Supporting all providers

With few resources in the system, some providers feel as though they’re left to fight over crumbs. A 2023 [report from the nonpartisan American Institutes for Research](#) found that some of North Carolina’s local NC Pre-K committees — who decide which sites in the area get NC Pre-K slots — may decide to give more slots to a public school system because those slots are cheaper and therefore can serve more kids with less money.

But all three types of providers are crucial for NC Pre-K to work, Pruette said, as well as keep the child care system intact.

The mix of providers differs in every county. Having some of each kind is important to give parents options, Bailey said.

For example, a family that has an NC Pre-K eligible 4-year-old and a 3-year-old could receive care for both kids at a private center, she said. Likewise, a family with a second grader and an eligible NC Pre-K child could choose a public school provider where both kids could attend.

Private centers may also be able to provide extra child care hours before and after the NC Pre-K school day,

which only lasts six and a half hours. Many parents work longer than that, Bailey noted.

But some private providers end up making hard decisions based on their budget.

Verner Center for Early Learning in Buncombe County receives county and other government money, CEO Marcia Whitney said. She would like to hire more teachers than the nonprofit center's budget allows, and it's become harder to find qualified teachers.

Children's life experiences have also changed since the COVID-19 pandemic, meaning many need more support from teachers and may have more developmental or behavioral needs, she said. But the center has had to make "deep cuts" since pandemic-era federal funds dried up.

"If we were a for-profit corporation, we would not be operating NC Pre-K," she said.

KEEP UP WITH THE LATEST



Is NC Pre-K dying? Providers say low funding makes it hard to keep up.



by [Grace Vitaglione](#) October 30, 2024



Four more N.C. hospital systems cancel old medical debt judgments



by [Michelle Crouch](#) and [Charlotte Ledger](#) October 29, 2024



Rising temperatures in Durham leaving many behind

 by [Will Atwater](#) October 28, 2024



Robeson County parents say schools are failing their children with special needs

BBi by [BorderBelt](#) October 27, 2024

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PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY, INC.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Board Responsibility

*The review of the financial statements is the responsibility of the Committee and Board Members of PFC.
The detailed financial reports have been provided to you via email or via the PFC website and will be provided electronically during the meeting.*

September 30, 2024

ONLY THE HIGHLIGHTED ITEMS NEED TO BE REPORTED.

1 Balance Sheet

- a. The cash balances; investments and liabilities are at the anticipated amounts and are sufficient for the current needs.

2 Smart Start Grant [State Funds]

- a. PFC's Smart Start grant budgets are reflected at 100% of full allocation effective July 1, 2024.
- b. The total allocation for FY2024-2025 at 100% is \$6,832,478, including DSS and WAGE\$.
c. In July 2024, PFC reverted \$309,478.16 for unspent FY23-24 Smart Start Services funds and anticipate to receive back \$307,816.

3 NC Pre-Kindergarten Grant [State and Federal Funds]

- a. PFC is in full contract with DCDEE effective July 1, 2024.
- b. The total FY2024-2025 contract is \$9,854,106 which consists of \$4,580,047 of federal funds and \$5,274,059 of state funds.
- c. The FY2024-2025 contract for NC Pre-K **administrative funds is 24% or \$216,000 less than FY2023-2024.**
The Direct Services funds remained the same.
DCDEE has also deemed certain expenditures such as auto expenses as no longer allowable from the grant funds.
PFC is strategizing ways to sustain this funding stream due to the unexpected timing and unexpected amount of the grant reduction.
- d. Historically this distribution of state and federal funds is amended by DCDEE before or at yearend.
- e. PFC received an advance of 1/10th of the direct services grant in September 2024.
The amount of the total requested advance is \$915,459.
NC Pre-K funds for the July and for the August 2024 FSRs were also received in September 2024.
- f. Due to the amount of federal funds received, the Partnership **will be** audited extensively for fiscal responsibility and federal compliances, i.e. an A-133 audit since we plan to spend at least \$750,000 in federal funds for the fiscal year.
- g. The single audit threshold will increase from \$750,000 to \$1,000,000 effective October 1, 2024.

4 Southwestern Child Development Commission, Inc. [SWCDC] - Region 5 Grants [Federal Funds]

- a. The **Region 5 Core** grant is in contract effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024; and July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.
The grant amount is \$395,367 for each of the two years [\$790,734 total]. **The contract was executed on August 28, 2023.**
An additional \$10,933 of reversion distribution funds will be added to the original budget amount for FY24-25.
The total budget will then be \$406,300. Once the amended budget is approved, a contract amendment will be in process.
- b. The Region 5 **Birth to Three Quality [B3QI] Initiative** grant is in contract, effective August 1, 2024 through July 31, 2025.
The grant amount is \$166,977. **The contract was executed on August 29, 2024.**
An additional \$15,499 of reversion distribution funds will be added to the original budget amount for FY24-25.
The total budget will then be \$182,476. Once the amended budget is approved, a contract amendment will be in process.
- c. The Region 5 **Healthy Social Behaviors [HSB]** grant is in contract effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.
The grant amount is \$268,003. **The contract was executed on August 27, 2024.**
- d. The Region 5 **Family Child Care Project [FCC]** grant is in contract effective September 1, 2023 through February 14, 2024 ; and February 15, 2024 through February 14, 2025. **The contract was executed on September 25, 2023.**
The grant amount is \$81,584 for the 5.5 months contract period and \$186,900 for the 12 months contract period.
DCDEE has approved a request from SWCDC to extend the FCC TA contract to 6-30-2025 to align more closely with the other CCR&R contracts.
This extension has been approved as a no-cost extension, and SWCDC will be utilizing existing dollars through reversions to redistribute funds to ensure that all agencies have the appropriate funds needed to cover costs for their contracts through June 30, 2025.

5 All Funding Sources

- a. The cash balance at month-end is as projected and is sufficient for the requirements of the upcoming month and at yearend.

PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY, INC.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

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September 30, 2024

6 Unrestricted State Revenues (USR) - Fund 208

- a. The goal is to continue to use these funds only when other funding streams cannot be used or are not available.
- b. On May 13, 2024, PFC management redeemed the Lumbee Bank CD#4 as approved by the Board. The maturity date was May 18, 2024. A new Lumbee Bank CD#5 with a higher yield and a shorter term was purchased. The redeemed Lumbee Bank CD#4 of \$209,427.38 plus interest earned of \$9,737.24 was used to purchase the new CD#5 for \$219,164.62 which is a 5-month CD with an interest rate of 4.88% and **matures on October 13, 2024**. Research has shown that a new CD with a higher interest rate will be the best option at the time of maturity. PFC will follow this option.

- c. The cash equivalent balances in Fund 208 consists of the following at the end of the month:

PNC Bank Money Market Account	70,091.27	<i>Does not include interest earned in Fund 899 ; \$100,000</i>
Lumbee Bank - Certificate of Deposit #5	219,164.62	<i>New CD purchased on May 13, 2024; Matures on October 13, 2024</i>
Lumbee Bank - Certificate of Deposit #6	-	<i>New CD purchased on XXXXXX; Matures on XXXXXX</i>
Lumbee Bank - Checking Account [from investments]	200.00	<i>Deposited \$100 initially; deposited \$25 in FY20-21; and deposited \$50 in July 2023.</i>
First Bank Money Market Account	100,000.00	<i>New account opened on November 27, 2023.</i>
Morgan Stanley E*TRADE Account	118,000.00	<i>Gains/Losses are not reflected in the financial statements</i>

507,455.89

Interest Earned - Fund 899	
PNC Bank Money Market	31,745.36
Lumbee Bank - CD #5	-
First Bank Money Market	2,971.64
	34,717.00

Investments - Fund 208	507,455.89
Interest Earned - Fund 899	34,717.00
TOTAL INVESTMENTS PLUS INTEREST	542,172.89

- d. There is currently a sufficient balance in the operating funds portion of the USR funding stream for the current fiscal year. As expenditures are realized that are in excess of the current cash balance, Management will determine if transfers are necessary.

7 Cash and In-kind Report

- a. The 19% match requirement reflected on the monthly report is reflected at 100% of the full allocation, and **does NOT YET** include the prior year reverted funds.
- b. PFC's Leadership Team, staff and Board members will continue to discuss and implement strategies to meet our match requirement.
- c. PFC did not meet the 19% match requirement for FY2324, FY2223, FY2122, FY2021, FY1920, FY1819, FY1718 nor for FY1617.
- d. Since the 19% required match was not met for the FY ended June 30, 2024, there will be no contribution to the PFC endowment.
- e. Income from **fundraisers** are to be reflected at the net amount only and after the event is over. Therefore, receipts from sponsors and donors will not be reported for Cash and In-kind purposes until such time.

The support you need to help children succeed.



PFC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization supported by public and private funds through Smart Start, NC Pre-Kindergarten, tax-deductible donations, and grants.

BYLAWS

**Adopted by Board of Directors
December 8, 1994**

Revisions

March 28, 1996	November 25, 2008
March 27, 1997	March 26, 2009
November 21, 1997	June 26, 2009
March 22, 1999	August 28, 2009
July 29, 1999	September 18, 2009
February 3, 2000	March 31, 2011
November 30, 2000	May 30, 2013
May 31, 2001	May 29, 2014
July 26, 2001	March 24, 2016
January 30, 2003	April 28, 2016
May 29, 2003	July 28, 2016
July 29, 2004	June 29, 2017
September 29, 2005	May 24, 2018
January 25, 2007	January 17, 2019
September 27, 2007	
July 31, 2008	

Approved by Board of Directors – March 25, 2021

**BYLAWS
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at any meeting. The vote of a majority of the directors voting on any matter at a meeting of the Board at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board on that matter unless the vote of a greater number is required by law or by the Articles of Incorporation or bylaws of this Corporation. Votes by proxy are prohibited.

The Chair's presence may satisfy the requirements for quorum at any meeting, Board or committee, and will vote only in the event of a tie vote. The chairs of each committee will also satisfy the requirements for quorum and will only vote in the event of a tie vote at committee meetings. Each officer, Board director, and committee member is held accountable to the Conflicts of Interest policy as listed in Article VI of these bylaws and must abstain from voting when such conflicts arise.

Section 10. Parliamentary Rules: All meetings shall be conducted in an open, orderly, and fair manner and in accordance with the *Modern Rules of Order – Most Current Edition* published by the American Bar Association circa 1999.

Section 11. Compliance with State Requirements: So long as the Corporation receives funding from the State of North Carolina, it shall conduct its operations, including its meetings, in a manner comparable to Article 33C of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes "The Open Meetings Law," Chapter 132 of the General Statutes "The Public Records Law."

**ARTICLE V
COMMITTEES**

Section 1. General Committee Guidelines: The committee structures, except the Executive Committee, act within the authority as delegated by the Board. Committee membership and participation may include both Board directors and non-Board participants, with the exception of the Board Development Committee and Human Resource Committee. These committees shall consist of both current and former Board directors and non-Board participants. Non-Board participants shall have all rights and privileges of Board directors except a vote at Board meetings. Non-Board participants shall have voting rights within the committee process only.

Committee activities are viewed as funnels for the deposit of ideas, interests, and issues for full discussion. Committees should seek opportunities to collaborate with other committees, groups, individuals, agencies, and organizations. The committee process is an open forum supporting full discussion of issues and concerns in preparation for recommendations to the full Board.

All standing committees, special committees, and sub-committees, shall abide by all regulations listed in these bylaws with particular note to Article IV Sections 1-7 and Sections 9-12 with regard to meetings. Due to the fact that all committees recommend action on matters to the Board and have no final approval authority, with the exception of the Executive Committee, and because holding these groups to the strict quorum requirements listed herein which from time to time causes delays in the approval process, quorum for committees, special committees, and sub-committees shall be defined as one-third or 33% of active membership with the exception of the Executive Committee, Finance Committee, Human Resource Committee, and Board Development Committee. Quorum for these committees as stated shall be 50% of the active membership. Quorum for the North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten Committee shall be 50% of active membership plus one. Quorum shall be determined at the beginning of a meeting for all items requiring action.

Section 2. Committees and Membership: The Chair and/or Board may from time to time establish such standing committees, special committees, sub-committees, or workgroups as it deems necessary to assist the Board in carrying out its duties and responsibilities to the Corporation

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on a continuing basis. Standing committees will include but are not limited to Executive Committee, Board Development Committee, Human Resource Committee, Finance Committee, Planning and Evaluation Committee, Community Engagement and Development Committee, Child Care Resource and Referral Advisory Committee, Facility and Tenant Committee, and North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten Committee.

The Chair, with input and assistance from the President, shall appoint committee members to each standing committee. The Chair shall review committee membership each year and make new appointments as necessary. The Chair will appoint each committee Chair to serve for that year. Committee Chairs will appoint Vice-Chairs. In order to have full Board participation, the Chair may appoint each Board director to one or more committees. Each member of a committee holds office until his successor is elected, or until he resigns or is removed from the committee. A member of a committee may succeed himself. The Chair, committee chair, or President may invite additional individuals with expertise in a particular area to meet with and assist the committee. Such advisors shall not vote or be counted in determining the existence of a quorum and may be excluded from any closed session of the committee.

Section 3. Executive Committee: The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chair, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, the immediate past Chair, standing committee chairs, Cumberland County School Superintendent (or designee) and may include two other directors of the Board to be appointed by the Chair and approved by the Board. If the immediate Past Chair is unable or unwilling to serve, the Board of Directors may approve the service of another Past Chair in the place of the immediate Past Chair. The Executive Committee shall have and may act in the capacity of the Board between meetings of the Board except when acting in matters of bylaws revisions, Board director or officer nominations, and except as limited by N.C.G.S. 55A-8-25. The Executive Committee shall not have the authority to reverse decisions previously made by the full Board. The Chair shall present a report to the Board of the actions taken in its place by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may also present a Consent Agenda for the Board's approval as outlined in Article IV Section 8.

The Executive Committee meets bi-monthly or as called by the Chair to review operational, programmatic, and financial matters. It may deal with urgent situations that cannot wait for the next full Board meeting, specific questions referred to the committee by the Board, issues that need preliminary discussion and refinement before the Board considers them, or routine matters that do not require full Board disposition. The Executive Committee is charged with the responsibility of establishing, implementing, and reviewing the bylaws where appropriate. All revisions to these bylaws or Articles of Incorporation are to be approved by the Board with ten days written notice of the review of said revisions.

The Executive Committee will work in conjunction with the Human Resource Committee and the Chair when selecting a President. The Executive Committee members are also responsible for assessing the performance of the President by providing confidential written input to the Chair (utilizing the evaluation tools and methodology recommended by the Human Resource Committee and approved by the Board). The Chair will provide this data to the Executive Committee in a summarized report. The President works closely with this committee and members serve as his/her principal support and sounding board.

Section 4. Board Development Committee: The Board Development Committee is chaired by the Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect of the Board and membership is limited to six current and former Board directors. The Board Development Committee members must have a minimum of one year Board experience. The President works closely with this committee to provide input on

**BYLAWS
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organizational needs and to identify Board leadership. The Board Development Committee meets as called by the chair. In the event the Board Development Committee Chair is removed from office or resigns, any officer may call a meeting for the purposes stated herein.

The Board Development Committee identifies, recruits, and proposes directors and officers to the full Board. The Board Development Committee leads the Board in identifying the type of directors and officers the Corporation needs. With the assistance of the President, the Committee develops written descriptions of directors and officers responsibilities and creates a plan for identifying prospective directors and officers. Once the process is under way, the Committee plays an active part in cultivating new directors and officers, screens candidates, and recommends candidates to the full Board for approval. In addition, it may plan and conduct orientation for new directors and officers, and organize continuing education programs that enhance knowledge of governance responsibilities in general and this Corporation in particular.

The Board Development Committee may recommend guidelines for Board director contributions, to insure 100% donations from the Board of Directors.

Section 5. Human Resource Committee: The Human Resource Committee is chaired by a Board member and is composed of a minimum of five current and former Board Directors. The Human Resource Committee will meet a minimum of quarterly or as called by the committee chair. The Human Resource Committee may work with the Finance Committee, President, Vice President of Finance and Human Resource Manager.

The Human Resource Committee advises the President on personnel policy issues and develops personnel policy guidelines for approval by the Board. The Human Resource Committee recommends the tools and methodologies to be used in the performance evaluation of all Corporation staff. The Human Resource Committee also keeps the Board informed about labor-related legislative issues at the national, state, and local levels.

In general, the Human Resource Committee will focus its work on policy issues and avoid becoming involved in staff hiring, promotion, and evaluation matters that are the responsibility of the President. The Human Resource Committee works with the Executive Committee and the Board Chair in selecting and evaluating the President.

Section 6. Finance Committee: The Finance Committee is chaired by the Board Treasurer. Committee members total a minimum of eight with five Board directors and three non-Board participants. The Finance Committee meets bi-monthly or as called by the chair, and works with the President in carrying out its responsibilities as directed in these bylaws.

The Finance Committee receives, reviews, and recommends proposals for funding to the Board and participates in the interview process with potential grantees. The Finance Committee reviews and presents the Corporation's annual budget for Board approval. Budget amendments and revisions will be processed through the Finance Committee. Rare instances may occur where immediate action may be taken by the Executive Committee or full Board. The Finance Committee will participate in developing and implementing policies and procedures for proposal review, developing and reviewing a financial policy manual, and oversight of contracts management. The Finance Committee will also provide oversight for investment funds.

Monthly statements of income and expenditures for the Corporation are reviewed and the Finance Committee presents a financial report to the Board. The Finance Committee ensures compliance with state, federal, and non-profit regulations regarding fiscal management and works with the President in carrying out its responsibilities as directed in these bylaws.

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Section 7. Planning and Evaluation Committee: The Planning and Evaluation Committee is chaired by a Board director and is comprised of a minimum of eight members to include non-Board participants. The Planning and Evaluation Committee will meet a minimum of quarterly or as called by the chair and works with the President in carrying out its responsibilities as directed in these bylaws.

The Planning and Evaluation Committee advises the Board of the comprehensive evaluation of all contractees. The Planning and Evaluation Committee reviews progress reports, performance audits, and data collected for the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the North Carolina Partnership for Children. The Planning and Evaluation Committee reviews all requests for proposals and proposals received for planning and evaluation services. The Planning and Evaluation Committee also determines if evaluation services meet Corporation expectations and provides evaluation reports to the Board as well as recommendations to the Finance Committee for continuation of activities. The Planning and Evaluation Committee reports to the Board on the regular evaluation of the Corporation and keeps the Board informed of local, state, and national evaluation and research efforts related to the Corporation's purpose.

The Planning and Evaluation Committee assists the Corporation in strategic planning. The Planning and Evaluation Committee facilitates the active participation of the entire Corporation, those internal and external stake holders, and the planning process. The Planning and Evaluation Committee considers national trends, opportunities, research, best practices, and external realities in relation to the current vision, mission, goals, board policies, structures, services, and outcomes for the Corporation, and makes recommendations for strategic changes. The Planning and Evaluation Committee holds generative discussions of emerging issues and assures overarching positions of the Corporation remain in alignment to the changing environment.

Section 8. Community Engagement and Development Committee: The Community Engagement and Development Committee (hereafter referred to as the CED Committee) is chaired by a Board director. Committee members total a minimum of six with two Board directors and four non-Board participants. The Committee will meet a minimum of quarterly or as called by the chair and works with the President in carrying out its responsibilities as directed in these bylaws.

The Community Engagement and Development Committee (CED) leads the Board's participation in community engagement and fund development. The CED Committee recommends policies for community engagement and fund development and provides opportunities for Board involvement in these activities. The committee will recommend plans and procedures, advise and support staff in their efforts to strengthen the early childhood system through stewardship of local resources, community engagement, strategic communication, volunteer recruitment and opportunities, outreach and education, plans, procedures, and community relations.

Section 9. Child Care Resource and Referral Advisory Committee: The Child Care Resource and Referral Advisory Committee (hereafter referred to as the CCR&R Advisory Committee) is chaired by a Board director. Membership consists of a minimum of 12 representatives (including: agency representatives, a Department of Social Services representatives, business representatives, community representatives, parent representatives, a military representative, and child care provider representatives) to include Board directors and non-Board participants. The CCR&R Advisory Committee will meet a minimum of quarterly or as called by the chair and works with the President in carrying out its responsibilities as directed in these bylaws.

The CCR&R Advisory Committee shall assist in recommending policy, budget planning, and evaluating and making recommendations for the Corporation's goals. The CCR&R Advisory Committee members shall have an understanding of child care resource and referral services

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department, and be willing to speak on its behalf to the community.

Section 10. Facility & Tenant Committee: The Facility & Tenant Committee is chaired by a Board director. At a minimum the Facility & Tenant Committee should consist of four members, representing expertise in: tenant relations, facilities maintenance and lease negotiations. Membership should include Board and non-Board participants. The Facility & Tenant Committee will meet at least quarterly or as called by the chair and works with the President in carrying out its responsibilities as directed in these bylaws. The purpose and functions of this Committee are:

- (1) To review the exempt function activities performed by current and proposed tenants of the Corporation's office building for suitability and approval of such tenants by the Board;
- (2) To present formal findings to the Board that any current or proposed tenant has as its proper exempt functions purposes which are complementary or similar to those of the Corporation;
- (3) That such current or proposed tenant is suitable for consideration by the Board to become a tenant of the Corporation;
- (4) To make such recommendations to the Board regarding current, potential, and proposed tenants, leases, and leaseholds in the office building(s) owned by the Corporation as such Committee may deem necessary or appropriate;
- (5) To review the purposes and activities of such tenants for continued suitability and compatibility with the activities and purposes of the Corporation, as it may find necessary or appropriate from time to time; and
- (6) To engage in activities incidental to the foregoing.

Such Committee shall also generally review the use and utilization of the Corporation's property, plant, equipment, facilities, and assets for compliance with the Corporation's exempt functions and purposes, as set forth herein and in the Corporation's Articles of Incorporation.

Section 11. NC Pre-Kindergarten Committee (NC Pre-K): The NC Pre-K Committee is co-chaired by the school superintendent (or designee) for Cumberland County and the PFC board chair. The membership consists of the same representatives as the Partnership's Board Directors. The mandated positions includes the co-chairs, a licensed child care center (4- or 5-star license preferred) representative, Head Start program representative, parent of preschool-age children (especially at-risk children) representative, child care resource and referral agency or another child-serving agency representative, Department of Social Services or other child care subsidy funding agency representative, and a public schools exceptional children's preschool program representative. These mandated positions may have designees, unlike the PFC Board which does not consist of any designees. The NC Pre-K designees may have all rights and privileges of the director while in attendance at the NC Pre-K Committee meeting. The designee shall not appear for the director at committee meetings of which the director is a member. The director shall inform the Chair of the NC Pre-K Committee in writing of the designee appointment. The NC Pre-K Committee will meet bi-monthly or as called by the co-chairs.

Purpose of the NC Pre-K Committee: The authorizing legislation for the NC Pre-K Program requires: "a system built upon existing local school boards and systems, private child care providers, and other entities that demonstrate the ability to establish or expand pre-kindergarten capacity." To comply with this legislative mandate, the NC Pre-K Program requires every county (or region) that chooses to participate in NC Pre-K to establish and maintain a County/Region NC Pre-K Committee. The purpose of the committee is to:

CCR&R Programs Updates

Submitted by: Ar-Nita Davis (NC Pre-K Program Manager)

Reporting Period: September 2024-October 2024

Program:	PFC NC Pre-K Program Cumberland County
Number of Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. 2024-202 NC Pre-K Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Number of Sites: 55 B. Number of Classrooms: 87
Programmatic Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. 2024-2025 School Year October 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. NC Pre-K App System Waitlist: 230 B. NC Pre-K Children Placement : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Private Center: 868/888 slots 2. CCS: 434/434 slots filled 3. HS: 90/90 slots filled II. 2024-2025 NC Pre-K Allocation (1412) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Private: 888 B. CCS: 434 C. Head Start: 90 III. NC Pre-Provider Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. NC Pre-K Attendance Training September 3, 2024 B. Challenging Behavior: Early-In Special Education Preschool Shanaira Walker, Early-In Program Specialist (Thursday, Oct 17, 2024) C. ASQ Training for Providers (In Person October 22, 2024) 12:00 PM IV. NC Pre-K Site Monitoring October 31st. At least one annual on-site visit will be made to each NC Pre-K Program site/classroom by January 15th of the program year. V. 12 Weeks Extensions for Teachers (Due Date: November 8, 2024)

CCR&R Programs Updates

	<p>VI. The annual NC Pre-K Fiscal and Programmatic Monitoring Worksheet survey is due by November 15, 2024</p>
<p>Meetings/Outreach Events Attended:</p>	<p>I. Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. DCDEE NC Pre-K, Collaboration meetings with Head Start and Cumberland Schools, B. One Continuum Community C. Racial Equity Workgroup, DSS/PFC/CCHD Quarterly Meetings D. NC Pre-K Monthly Café Meeting. <p>II. Events: Cumberland County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) will host its <i>3rd Annual "Fun in the Sun with Public Health" Fair</i> on Saturday, September 14, 2024</p>
<p>Professional Development opportunities attended or attended by Team</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Nurturing Transitions: Supporting children and families in a new school year, by Amanda Higgins and Sharon Carlson (September 11, 2024) II. ASQ-3 Training with CCS (September 17, 2024) III. NC HRCI Peer Connection - Summer Institute for Systems Change Debrief and Coaching (September 18, 2024) IV. Who's Not At the Table: 3 Key Practices for Engaging Harder-To-Reach Families (October 1, 2024) V. Live webinar: Master Class: Supporting the leadership journey (October 2, 2024) VI. Strengthening Mental Health through Trauma-Responsive Care Train the Trainer (October 15, 2024) VII. Enriching Public PreK Systems through Inclusion of FCC: Field Update (October 16, 2024) VIII. TA Community of Practice (October 22, 2024) IX. Standards of Quality Training Dates October 30-31, 2024 Angela Williams, Casandra Smith & Ar-Nita Davis.
<p>Current and Upcoming Projects:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. NC Pre-K Site Administrators In-Person Meeting, Thursday, November 21st (12:00 PM)

CCR&R Programs Updates

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">B. NC Pre-K New Provider Training on SystemsC. 2024-2025 Pre-K RecruitmentD. 2024-2025 NC Pre-K Professional Learning CommunityE. 2024-2025 NC Pre-K Processes and Procedures (Revising)
Upcoming Events:	N/A

CCR&R Programs Updates

From Mary Welch, Program Manager

Program:	Provider Services Coaches
Site Visits:	<p>PS Coaches continue to provide support to a great number of childcare centers (see below)</p> <p>Material Grants - We are still working with centers and some homes as it pertains to the grant for those sites identified (15 programs). We are projecting to start placing actual orders in January 2025.</p> <p>Continuous collaboration with CCHC (Nicole Richardson & Auxil. Grimes) with different sites</p>
Meetings/Outreach Events Attended:	<p>71st High School ECE Presentation – October 15</p> <p>TA CoP – October 22</p> <p>SS Peer Networking – October 22</p> <p>Reflective Supervision (monthly) Welch</p>
Professional Development opportunities attended or attended by Team:	<p>New Staff Orientation Training with SWCDC (Shontina & Vivlica)</p> <p>NCFELD Mini TtT (Vivlica)</p> <p>ASQ Training (Valerie)</p> <p>LETRS – (Valerie) – Self Paced</p>
Current and Upcoming Projects:	Leadership Academy for Centers - Monthly event with the exceptions of Quarterly Virtual Information Session.

	<p>Recruitment Efforts for TA, KPL and Trainings</p> <p>Workforce Development Program</p>
<p>Upcoming Events:</p>	<p>ERS Overview w/ NCRLAP – November 13th</p> <p>Collaborative Conversations w/ DCDEE – December 5th</p> <p>Quarterly Virtual Information Session scheduled: November 21, 2024</p> <p>February 20, 2025</p> <p>May 15, 2025.</p>
<p>Additional Updates:</p>	<p>Training Calendar for FY 24/25 Currently posted with additional trainings being added throughout Qtr 1 & 2.</p> <p>Calendar for Qtr 3 & 4 will be posted in December.</p> <p>Library - Serving programs with the support of Coaches and Specialists; however, no date of when the library will be open.</p> <p>KP&L - continuously meeting 3x/week:</p> <p>Tuesday – Clark Park (Outdoors) @ 9:30am</p> <p>Thursday – Fascinate U (Indoors) @ 9:30am</p> <p>Thursday – PFC (Indoors) @ 2:00pm</p> <p>New registration and data portal (Sales Force) for KPL. Currently, in the works to build and utilize the same system for the Library.</p> <p>Hiring of the vacant PS Coach position has been put on hold until further notice.</p>

Provider Services Caseload: 40 Sites

C3 Cynthias Cuddling Care

New Life CDC

Amira Amor

Margarita's Charming

Carla's Daycare

Kindercare Learning Center - Owen

Cozy Corner CDC

Nana C's Child Care

1st Start CDC

Miracle Years Child care

Cumberland County Employee Childcare (Little Makers)

Rose Angels

The Phonetic Hall Learning Center

Boojas Playhouse

Mommy Moments

Trinity Child Care II (Cumb Community Dev. Ctr)

Snyder Memorial Preschool & Learning

Kids Will Be Kids

Carpenter's Child Care

Stepping Stones #6

Heavenly Haven CDC II

Pamper Hug's & Luvs

Gracie's Childcare & Learning

Little Beginningz

	Heavenly Haven CDC 1 Stepping Stones #4 Just Like Mom The Children's Courtyard Fayetteville State University Jump Start Burns Child Care Childcare Network 110 Ms D's TLC Unimagineable Heights Learning Alpha Academy A Mother's Touch KIDS Early Learningg Campground Preschool Majestice Childcare and Learning Tiny Treasures
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CCR&R Programs Updates

From Sheila Rowe, Program Manager

Program:	Region 5 1 st Quarter
Site Visits:	<p>HSBs-Healthy Social Behavior Coaches- 50-site visits, 42-unduplicated provider in 17 childcare programs and facilitated 9-HSB trainings</p> <p>Birth-To-Three-Birth To Three Specialist 65-site visits, 32-unduplicated providers in - 14-childcare programs and facilitating Infant/Toddler Safe Sleep & SIDS Reduction in Childcare and Infant/Toddler Zone trainings.</p> <p>Regional Coach- 38- site visits, 29-unduplicated providers, 10-childcare programs and facilitating NCFELD and Basic School age Care</p> <p>Lead Coach- 23-site visits, 26-unduplicated providers, 19-childcare programs and facilitating The School age Connection training.</p> <p>FCCH-Family Childcare Consultant , 48-site visits, 19-childcare programs FCCH-providing observations for 3- Family Childcare Homes that will receive the materials and business tool kit grant and conducting mentorship opportunities monthly with the Leadership Academy for Family Childcare Homes.</p> <p>Regional Caseworkers-Ebony Peterkin- and Makalia Stewart-1st quarter participated in trainings, outreach events, assisted families in-person, via phone and online. 1st quarter-they assisted 123-families with consumer resources and referrals.</p>

Meetings/Outreach Events Attended:	Regional Caseworker- Ebony Peterkin-Empowering Community One Step at A Time-10/6/24 Makalia- Monthly Mom’s Group (Robeson Co.) 10/16/24 Ebony-Miller-Motte College’s Next Level Resource Fair 10/26/24
Professional Development opportunities attended or attended by Team:	Vianey Graham- NCFELD T-tT and Basic School age Care-T-t-T Michelle Glacken and Tonya McCall -T-t-T-Infant Toddler/Zone Makalia-Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening and Support 10/31/24
Current and Upcoming Projects:	
Upcoming Events:	NCRLAP-training on(ITERS and ECERS-3) 11/13/24 Sheila Rowe, Tonya McCall, Mary Anders, Vianey Graham and Karen Gerald from Anson Co.
Additional Updates:	