

President's Report
Executive Committee (Acting on Behalf of Board)
Charles Morris Room
Thursday, July 31, 2025

A. NCPC/DCDEE Updates / Legislative Updates

1. NCPC

- Special Stories feature Child Care Health Consultants, Consumer Education, Kaleidoscope Play & Learn, and Community Engagement's First Impressions Team.
- Our contract with NCPC has been executed for FY26.
- NCPC continues collaborative discussions regarding the State CCR&R RFP. The RFP has not been released at this point.
- NCPC's Public Policy Update for July 30th is attached.

2. DCDEE

- **Region 5** contract amendments are in process. We have received our amendment for CORE. Budgets have decreased for the special projects (HSB and B3QI).
- **Our NC Pre-K contract has been executed.** We are waiting for the forms requesting monthly reimbursement and an advance on service funding.

3. State Level

- The General Assembly returned to Raleigh this week to override Governor Stein's vetoed legislation. All bills were overridden. State Legislators also passed a mini budget or budget conference report – HB 125, Continuing Budget Operations (<https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookup/2025/H125>) that will now be sent to Governor Stein for review and signature. Both the House and Senate have adjourned and will return on August 26th.
- August 12th will be a **Child Care Day of Action**. Materials with various ways to participate will be provided in the next week. Be on the lookout for them.
- For details of the session thus far and federal updates, refer to the NC Center for Nonprofits' July 18th and 25th Public Policy updates.

4. Federal Level

- We continue to monitor changing policies and updates and stay in close contact with our grant funders. The NC Center for Nonprofits update also covers federal issues.

5. Local Level

- The quarterly collaborative meeting between DSS, the Health Department, and PFC will be held on August 22nd at 9:00 a.m.
- Our meeting with the Joint City and County Liaison Committee to provide information about child care access and affordability is still being rescheduled.

B. Grant Opportunities/Updates/RFPs

- Cumberland County Commissioners voted in June to include our request for \$300,000 to support the Family Connects program in their budget. The contract is in development.
- City of Fayetteville CDBG Grant for Building Renovations—The shop drawings have been approved and we are waiting for the Notice to Proceed to be issued. This is contingent on materials being delivered. We hope to start in September.
- City of Fayetteville ARPA projects – Workforce development cohort recruited and moving forward.

Tb tests and criminal background checks are in process. The first reimbursement for Family Connects visits was received in June.

C. Staff Updates

- **NC Pre-K Program Specialist - now recruiting.** If you are interested in or would like to refer a candidate to this full-time, data-entry position, supporting our NC Pre-K application and enrollment efforts, please submit your/their resume and a brief letter of interest to aramos@ccpfc.org.
- **Farewell to Makalia Stewart, Regional Caseworker.** Makalia will be returning to the classroom this fall to teach kindergarten at Walker-Spivey Elementary School. We wish her the best as she shares her drive and passion for children's growth and development in her classroom and with her colleagues at the school. Her last day with PFC was July 25.
- **Farewell to Mary Welch, Program Manager.** Mary has given PFC an impressive, impactful and memorable 17 years of service to our community and organization in a variety of roles in the Programs Department. We wish her well as she starts the next journey in her professional life, whether it is back to school, counseling or some unknown adventure. Her last day will be August 1st. We will be celebrating her service on July 31st at 3:00 pm – please join us if you are able.
- **Congratulations to Sheila Jones on 25 years of service to the Partnership for Children!** Sheila was recognized for her long tenure at PFC at our All-Staff meeting on July 23rd.

D. Events/Recognitions

- **NC Pre-K Let's Get Enrolled – Applications for the 2025-2026 school year are still being accepted.** Please share the URL: LetsGetEnrolled.com. We still have spaces available in our private child care NC Pre-K sites.
- **2025 Community Choice Awards in Fayetteville –** We made it to the TOP Three for Best Nonprofit. We will be in attendance when the awards are presented on August 20th. Keep your fingers crossed!
- **Little Land on the Farm—**We will once again be involved in the County Fair from August 30 to September 9, 2025. We will need volunteers. If you are interested, contact Daniele Malvesti Petti at dmalvesti@ccpfc.org.
- **September will be Smart Start Month across the state.** We are integrating the Annual Kindness Awards into the month to highlight the supporters from our community. Nominations can be made at ccpfc.org/kindness.
- **Grilled Cheese Festival—**Save the date for November 15, 2025, at Dirtbag Ales. We are excited about this new event. Ticket, vendor, and sponsorship information is available at ccpfc.org/cheesy Please share our event on social media.
- **Little Land 2026 – Save the date for March 14, 2026.** More details to come.

Child Care Health Consultant:

Due to the recent increase in measles cases across the United States, the Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) Lead Licensing Consultant collaborated with the Child Care Health Consultant (CCHC) to conduct an informational training session on measles for child care facilities throughout Cumberland County. As a result of this collaborative effort between DCDEE, the Cumberland County Epidemiology Department, and CCHC, we successfully raised awareness and provided education on measles prevention and response to over 97 early childhood professionals.

Consumer Education and Referral:

I received a call from Ms. Johnson, a grandmother seeking support for her pregnant granddaughter, who is also a young soldier. Drawing from information I had gathered during an outreach event the previous month at Fort Bragg, I was able to provide her with resources specifically geared toward military families in need of infant items. During our conversation, I casually invited Ms. Johnson and her granddaughter to attend the Department of Health's Community Baby Shower, where I was scheduled to be a vendor. Two weeks later, on the morning of the event, Ms. Johnson called to confirm their attendance and expressed excitement about meeting in person. At the event, I had the pleasure of meeting both Ms. Johnson and her granddaughter. They were able to take home valuable baby essentials, including two cases of diapers and wipes, a welcome basket, and an infant car seat—items they won through raffles held at the event. Ms. Johnson gave me a warm hug and sincerely thanked me for taking the time to connect her family with helpful resources. She expressed her gratitude and mentioned she would stay in touch moving forward.

Kaleidoscope Play and Learn (KPL):

This quarter has come with great excitement. A previous family who was a part of KPL made an appearance after their children completed NC Pre-K. The family stated that through attending KPL their children were prepared for school and excel in social skills. The family was excited to share that through the programs offered through the Partnership, their child is well on their way to academic success as they enter kindergarten. Also, with the KPL being offered at PFC, it has allowed families to utilize another resource available through PFC, Lending Library.

Community Engagement:

FIRST IMPRESSIONS TEAM: Exemplifying Our Core Values One Guest Experience at a Time

Our First Impressions Team serves as the welcoming face of our organization and plays a crucial role in cultivating meaningful relationships and building genuine connections with our guests, visitors, and tenants. Carolin Hardy and Monique Snedeker are often the first points of contact—whether in person at our Family Resource Center, over the phone, or through digital platforms. Their warmth and professionalism set the stage for a positive experience, ensuring that everyone feels valued and connected right from the beginning.

This team is essential to our organization, serving approximately 3,500 guests, visitors, and colleagues each quarter. As the first point of contact, they are dedicated to creating an inviting atmosphere. Every interaction, whether in person, over the phone, or online, is designed to leave a lasting positive impression. The First Impressions Team understands the importance of meaningful connections and works tirelessly to ensure that our guests feel valued and appreciated.

Public Policy Updates

7/30/2025

State legislators returned to Raleigh this week to override legislation vetoed by Governor Stein. All fourteen (14) bills vetoed by the Governor were overridden. State Legislators also passed a mini budget or budget conference report. House Bill 125, *Continuing Budget Operations*, will now be sent to Governor Stein for review and signature. While budget negotiations are ongoing through the Budget Conference Committee, the 2025 Appropriations Act is still pending.

A second General Assembly Appointments bill was also enacted, Session Law 2025-2026, extending Tembila Covington's appointment on the NC Partnership for Children's Board until December 31, 2027.

Vetoed Bills Not Overridden by the House (yet):

- **SB 50** – *Freedom to Carry NC*→ Veto overridden by Senate; placed on House calendar for 8/26/25
- **SB 153** – *NC Border Protection Act*→ Veto overridden by Senate; placed on House calendar for 8/26/25
- **SB 227** – *Eliminate DEI in Public Education*→ Veto overridden by Senate; placed on House calendar for 8/26/25
- **SB 558** – *Eliminate DEI in Public Higher Education*→ Veto overridden by Senate; placed on House calendar for 8/26/25
- **HB 96** – *Expedite Removal of Unauthorized Persons*→ Placed on House calendar for 8/26/25
- **HB 171** – *Equality in State Agencies / Prohibition on DEI*→ Placed on House calendar for 8/26/25

Bills Becoming Law (Senate and House Overrides):

- **HB 193** – *Firearm Law Revision*→ Session Law 2025-81
- **HB 318** – *The Criminal Illegal Alien Enforcement Act*→ Session Law 2025-85
- **HB 402** – *Limit Rules with Substantial Financial Cost*→ Session Law 2025-82
- **HB 805** – *Prevent Sexual Exploitation of Women and Minors*→ Session Law 2025-84
- **SB 266** – *The Power Bill Reduction Act*→ Session Law 2025-78
- **SB 416** – *Personal Privacy Protection Act*→ Session Law 2025-79
- **SB 254** – *Charter School Changes*→ Session Law 2025-80
- **HB 549** – *Clarify Powers of State Auditor*→ Session Law 2025-83

Both the House and Senate have adjourned and will return on August 26, 2025, in accordance with the adjournment resolution: [S772v3.pdf](#)

For more information on each of these bills, please see the Smart Start Network Public Policy Update on Friday, August 1, 2025.

TURN YOUR LOVE FOR READING INTO ACTION!



The Cumberland County Literacy Council welcomes educators, education students and librarians in the community to volunteer!

Benefits for children when they participate in literacy events:

- Exposure to Diverse Books and Ideas
- Social Interaction and Community Building
- Better Listening and Communication Skills
- Encouragement of Empathy and Emotional Awareness
- Increased Memory and Concentration
- Enhanced Motivation to Read
- Improved Reading and Language Skills

Benefits for parents/guardians when they participate in literacy events:

- Confidence in Supporting Learning at Home
- Insight into Child's Learning and Interests
- Greater Awareness of Literacy Milestones and Needs
- Stronger Parent-Child Bond
- Modeling the Value of Reading
- Building a Support Network



CCLC Ambitions:

- Hosting storytimes at every library in Cumberland County, every week before the anniversary of our first year
- Standing up Bilingual storytimes
- Be the community calendar for all literacy events & support other literacy programs
- Impact! Goal of 100 Literacy Ambassadors in the first year

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

