

CCR&R Advisory Committee Meeting
AGENDA
Quorum (50%) = 6 (Total Board Members = 12)

Thursday, June 4, 2026
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Charles Morris Conference Room

Be the driving force...

- I. **Welcome, Determination of Quorum, & Call to Order – Darlisha Warren, Chair**
- II. **Approval of Minutes**
 - A. February 12, 2026*
- III. **President’s Report – Mary Sonnenberg, President**
- IV. **Financial Updates – Carole Mangum, Grants Manager**
- V. **Organizational & Building Sustainability and Strategic Planning Update (handouts attached)**
- VI. **Neurodivergent Children Resource & Support Workgroup – Julanda Jett, Vice President of Programs**
- VII. **Department Report & Matters for Discussion – Julanda Jett, Vice President of Programs**
 - A. Department Updates:
 - New Committee Chair – Dr. Rondell Bennett
 - Workforce Development Program – cohort 2 Update
 - Lending Library Sensory Room – Soft Opening tentatively scheduled for June 10th
 - Providers Appreciation Banquet Update
 - B. Cumberland County Literacy Council – June 12th at 7:00 pm at Crown Coliseum
 - C. SOAR Community Coalition – **Wanda Wesley**
- VIII. **Division Reports –**
 - A. Family Services
 - NC Pre-K – **Ar-Nita Davis, Programs Manager**
 - Consumer Education & Referral – **Sheila Rowe, Program Manager**
 - B. Provider Services – **Sheila Rowe, Program Manager**
 - Kaleidoscope
 - Technical Assistance & Trainings
 - Region 5 (School-Age & FCC)
- IX. **Adjournment: Next Meeting – Thursday, September 10, 2026 in Charles Morris Confer. Room**

* Action Item



Partnership for Children of Cumberland County, Inc. (PFC)
Hybrid CCR&R Advisory Committee Meeting
February 12, 2026 (9:03 am – 11:15 am)
Be the Driving Force



MEMBERS PRESENT: *Darlisha Warren, *Wanda Wesley, Katherine (Katie) Lada, Angela Crosby, *Dr. Rondell Bennett, & Dr. Alexia Blue-Wilson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Desheka Williams, Christopher Williams, & Sherail Monroe

NON-VOTING ATTENDEES: Ar-Nita Davis, Sheila Rowe, Julanda Jett, Mary Sonnenberg, Kara Walker, & Jendelle Vincent

**Attended in person*

	DISCUSSION & RECOMMENDATION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
i. Call to Order	Darlisha Warren, Chair welcomed all attendees, call meeting to order Thursday February 12, 2026 at 9:04am. Sheila Rowe was the secretary for the meeting and recorded the meeting.	Call to Order	None
ii. Approval of Meeting Minutes	<p>The minutes for November 13, 2025 meeting were distributed and reviewed by the committee members. The Chair asked for any discussion hearing none the committee consented and the minutes were approved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Rondell Bennett & Katie Lada motioned and approved for November 13, 2025 minutes. 	Approved	None
iii. President’s Report	Mary Sonnenberg, President, highlighted important information and dates from the report. (report provided).	None	None
iv. Financial Updates	Mary Sonnenberg, President, provided the financial report for Cumberland County (report provided).	None	None
v. Strategic Planning Update	Julanda Jett, Vice President, and Mary Sonnenberg, President, discussed the Packets containing strategic planning materials that were	None	None



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	<p>distributed; referenced outcomes from the December 11th Board meeting at Methodist University.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective: evaluate organizational operations, identify potential changes, and ensure staff and committee inclusion in planning for the coming year. <p>Five Strategic Pillars</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable and Adaptive Organization Equitable Access and Early Intervention Strong Workforce and Outcomes Authentic Community Voice and Engagement Connected Systems and Strategic Partnerships <p>These pillars closely align with the prior 'four buckets' framework. Cross-pillar collaboration is expected, not siloed responsibility.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members asked to review goals and provide input before June (March 12, 2026 submissions encouraged). 		
<p>vi. Neurodivergent Children Resource & Workgroup</p>	<p>Julanda Jett, Vice President of Programs, provided updates on the workgroup.</p> <p>A. Neurodivergent Workgroup Recruitment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flyer was shared and will be emailed to the committee as well. She shared current participants include CDSA, wellness care, school system, and a parent. Group seeks additional family participants, especially those with successful system-navigation experience. Next meeting: March 11th at 10:00 a.m. at the partnership. Interested members should notify Julanda to receive an invitation 	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>



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<p>VII. Department Report & Matters for Discussion</p> <p>A. Department Updates</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Workforce Development Program - Cohort 2 2. Planning Round Table - Early Childhood Listening Session 3. PFC Library Sensory Room 4. Providers Appreciation Banquet <p>B. Cumberland County Literacy Council</p> <p>C. SOAR Community Coalition</p>	<p>Julanda Jett, Vice President of Programs, provided the report for the Programs Department, the report included the following information:</p> <p>A. Department Updates</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Workforce Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recent cohort of four: one participant relocated (PCS to Germany); three obtained jobs in early childhood. ○ Next cohort: goal of 11 participants; nine vetted; awaiting background checks and TB tests before beginning required trainings. ○ Preference for in-person EDU 119 delivery due to benefits for participants without an early childhood background. ○ Outreach underway via social media, NC Works, and relevant student programs. ○ ARPA funds from the City of Fayetteville restrict participants to Fayetteville residents not currently employed; county grant would allow expansion beyond the city. ○ Contingency plans developed to sustain the program if county funding is not awarded, emphasizing mentorship and practical experience. ○ Eligibility: participants should not have previously worked in child care; having EDU 119 complete reduces program costs. 2. Round Table Listening Session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Early Childhood Listening Sessions: Proposed sessions for licensed centers (2), family child care homes (1), and parents (1) to identify community support needs. 	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Content may include guidance on finding and evaluating quality child care. Sessions will be primarily in the evening; face-to-face.○ Concerns noted about families engaging unvetted caregivers via social media; emphasis placed on parent education about quality and safety standards, including care by relatives. <p>3. Library Sensory Room:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Materials received; coordination with Kaplan needed for imagination station and lighting features.○ Target opening: late March.○ Committee input on design and resources is welcome. <p>4. Provider Appreciation Event:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Date: May 2nd at Fayetteville Technical Community College.○ Semi-formal format: DJ, speaker, professional development components, and heavy appetizers.○ Registration opened early February. Cost for providers is \$10. Committee, board, and staff attendance is encouraged. <p>B. Cumberland County Literacy Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Next meeting: March 10, 2026 at United Way of Cumberland County <p>C. SOAR Community Coalition, Wanda Wesley, provided the updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Efforts underway to engage faith-based organizations to help families attend events. Members with faith-based contacts asked to share information with Julanda or Wanda.○ SOAR meeting is Thursday, February 12th at the Child Advocacy Center at 3:00pm (Rowan Street)	
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<p>VIII. Division Updates</p> <p>A. Family Services</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NC PreK <p>B. Provider Services</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kaleidoscope & Library 2. Technical Assistance & Training 3. Consumer Education & Referral 4. Region 5(School Age & FCC) 	<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"> • PFC NC Pre-K Program Cumberland County • 2025-2026 School Year August 25, 2025-May 22, 2026 • 2025-2026 NC Pre-K Progress October 31, 2025 • 2025-2026 Cumberland County Allocation 1414 • NC Pre-K Sites: 55 NC Pre-K Classrooms: 86 • SchoolMint (Enroll) Applications Received: 2418 • NC Pre-K App System: Waitlist-132 • NC Pre-K App System: Placed-1528 (Does Not Mean Served) • DCDEE 2nd Extensions Request for Teachers/Teacher Assistants (February 2026) • Reduction of NC Pre-K Sites unable to fill the requested allocation • Mommy Moment – Reduced by 9 slots • Cumberland County Schools – Increased by 464 slots • Next Steps – Increased by 3 slots • 2025-2026 NC Pre-K Site Monitoring Tool Completed January 14, 2026 • NC Pre-K Trainings: • Ages and Stages Training (June) • LETREs Fall Training • SchoolMint 	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>
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2027–2028 NC Pre-K Site Selection:

- Projected application launch: July 19, 2026
- Site Selection Sub-Committee selected during NC Pre-K Planning Committee Meeting: April 30, 2026
- Site Selection recommendations to PFC: October 29, 2026

2026–2027 NC Pre-K Boot Camp:

- Taking the Next Step to Becoming an NC Pre-K Site in Cumberland County
- Projected date: July 2026

Meetings/Outreach Events Attended:

- COLORS Meeting
- PFC Executive Meeting
- NC Pre-K Planning Committee/PFC Board Meeting
- 2025-2026 NC Pre-K Statewide Meeting Dates (Twice a year - May & December)
- Cumberland County Pre-K, Collaboration meetings with Head Start and Cumberland Schools,
- NC Pre-NC Pre-K Site Administrators Zoom Meetings (September & October)
- DCDEE Café ‘NC Pre-K Monthly Café Monthly Meeting.
- Racial Equity Workgroup
- TA Community of Practice
- Cumberland County Schools Career Pathways Fair January 27, 2026
- NC Pre-K PLC 2025-2026 2nd Meeting (February 2026)



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Professional Development opportunities attended by the Team:

- State Pre-K Database Training
- Communicating the Relationship Between Place, Racism, and Early Childhood Development
- Supporting Immigrant Parents & Families in 2025
- Stewards of Children (PFC)
- Homelessness and Child Care: Making Connections for Positive Impact #2
- Growing Strong at the CORE: Family and Community Partnership Series

Current and Upcoming Projects:

- NC Pre-K Site Administrators In-Person Meeting, February 2026
- NC Pre-K Planning Committee
- PFC Little Land March 14th

B. Provider Services and Region 5:

Sheila Rowe, Program Manager, gave the following updates (report provided):

- Provider Services Coaches are actively supporting 22 childcare programs through technical assistance and coaching: with a primary emphasis on the QRIS Star-Rated License transition, including Pathway 1 (11 classrooms) and Pathway 2 (43 classrooms).



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- HSBs-Healthy Social Behavior Coaches-Ended December 31st
- Birth-To-Three-Specialist-Ended December 31st
- Lead Coach- working with 15-childcare programs: 10-childcare programs in Cumberland. SA technical assistance: 5-childcare programs in the region.
- FCCH-Family Childcare Consultant 47-Family Childcare programs: 5-programs start up 3 were centers in a residence. 12 programs are receiving continual intensive technical assistance and 35 FCCH programs are receiving QRIS Pathways technical assistance surrounding applications.
- Leadership Academy for Family Childcare are monthly and facilitating trainings.
- Regional Caseworkers have provided 881 Consumer Resource and Referral (CR&R) services to families seeking childcare. In addition, Regional Caseworkers facilitate Kaleidoscope Play and Learn (KPL) activities every Thursday at Fascinate-U Children’s Museum and Partnership for Children of Cumberland County (PFC).
- Meetings/Outreach events attended:
 - Pajama Party Storytime in the library December 13, 2025
- Current and Upcoming Projects:
 - Little Land – March 14th
- Training Calendar for FY 25/26 Trainings scheduled through January – June
- Upcoming Events:
 - Sylvia Murphy-facilitate ITS SIDS in Montgomery Co. for the Childcare Academy



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quarterly Virtual Information Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - February 19, 2026 - May 21, 2026 		
IX. Information	The next CCR&R Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for June 4, 2026 at 9:00am.	None	None
X. Adjournment	As there was no further business, the Chair noted the meeting adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am.	None	None

Submittal: The minutes of the above stated meeting are submitted for approval.

Approval: Based on Committee consensus, the minutes of the above stated meeting

Secretary for the Meeting

Date

Committee Chair/Co-Chair

Date

President's Report
Executive Committee (Acting on Behalf of Board)
Hybrid (Charles Morris Conference Room and ZOOM)
Thursday, May 21, 2026

A. NCPC/DCDEE Updates / Legislative Updates

1. NCPC

- This month's special stories focus on Kaleidoscope Play & Learn and Family Connects.
- Public Policy Update is attached. The anticipated release date for a state budget for release and a vote is between June 15-18, 2026.

2. DCDEE

- **SWCDC is completing monitoring of our Region 5 Contracts.** The CORE contract will close out in June.
- **NC Pre-K**
 - DCDEE NC Pre-K Statewide Meeting May 14, 2026: Presented FY26-28 NC Pre-K Funding Reallocation Process Overview. The overview covered a 2-step process for identifying and addressing both slot disparities and rate/funding disparities.
 - PFC received a **reduction in allocated slots for NC Pre-K** for SFY 2026-2027 to **1383**.
 - Rates were increased a permanent \$29 to each of the standard reimbursement rates for direct services utilizing existing unallocated funds. New rates: Private sites \$748, Public Schools \$525, Head Start \$449.
 - Desktop monitoring by DCDEE is complete. Report attached.

3. State and Federal Level

- For additional updates, refer to the NC Center for Nonprofits' May 15 Public Policy update.
- NCPC's Public Policy Update covers State and Federal Level updates.
- Governor Stein hosted a Child Care Appreciation Reception on May 20, 2026 at the Executive Mansion. Mary Sonnenberg attended along with providers Deborah Evans (Little Angels CC&DC) and Michelle Palmer (Majestic Childcare and Learning Academy).

4. Local Level

- Pamela Federline toured the Spring Lake Family Support Center, lovingly known as the Kinsey House on May 18, 2026. We look forward to having a presentation for PFC staff and Board in the coming months.

B. Grant Opportunities/Updates/RFPs

- The **Workforce Development Program** closeout was on **May 13**. During this event, participants had the opportunity to have their professional headshots taken and receive their program packets, which included documentation of all completed trainings. Looking ahead, the program aims to continue supporting participants through additional coursework in special needs in partnership with Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC). We are appreciative for the funding of this project through the **City of Fayetteville's ARPA grant**.
- **Blue Cross NC Opportunities** – We are working with Megan Squires, Manager, Community Health and Faith Initiatives with Blue Cross NC to coordinate a Faith-based initiative to support church programming for the neurodivergent population and their families as well as initiatives to support early literacy in Cumberland County. The Faith-based initiative is in planning for training to occur in October. Blue Cross NC recently opened a Beyond Blue Neighborhood Center in Fayetteville. United Way will

be coordinating doing a Dolly Parton Imagination Library health related story time June 27 at the Neighborhood Center. We are excited about these new collaborative opportunities.

- **RFPs for FY26-27** were posted for Professional Development providers and Facilities Operations and landscaping projects for PFC.

C. Building Sustainability and Organizational Sustainability & Succession Planning

- The **Building Sustainability Work Group** recommended that the Board approve further evaluation for the sale of part or all of the building. The meeting with NCPC and DCDEE is scheduled for June 17 in Raleigh to go through the process required by DCDEE due to state funding being used to purchase the building.
- **Organizational Sustainability & Succession Planning are part of the Board's Strategic Plan Update from December 2025. Initial conversations have been occurring for the past year at many levels.** PFC is engaging in a more in-depth evaluation of options to determine next steps necessary as we continue to look at organizational sustainability and succession planning. We are coordinating with Robeson County Partnership for Children and their Board in these discussions. This evaluation will involve a number of people and entities in order to come up with viable plan options.

D. Staff Updates

- **Farewell Ever Aguero Aranda, Program Specialist for NC Pre-K.** His last day of work will be May 22, 2026. Ever has received an incredible opportunity to pursue a doctorate in engineering funded by the German Government. We wish him the best in this next step in his educational journey.
- **Welcome Candace McRae, Early Literacy & Play Coordinator and Johanna Betancourt, Early Care & Education Coach.** Candace started on April 7 and Johanna started on April 27.
- **Recruiting Communications & Digital Media Specialist and Program Specialist NC Pre-K – these are Full-time positions.** For more information about these positions and to apply, please visit our careers page at ccpfc.org/hr/careers.
- **Employee Professional Development Day – Tuesday, May 12.** Staff engaged in a number of morning team building activities and then participated together in escape rooms at Escapology.

E. Events/Recognitions

- **NC Pre-K Let's Get Enrolled – Applications for the 2026-2027 school year are open.** Please share the URL: LetsGetEnrolled.com. Contact Ar-Nita Davis (adavis@ccpfc.org) with any questions.
- **Provider Appreciation Event –** The event on May 2, 2026 at FTCC was a huge success and engaging evening recognizing our providers. Over 100 providers and guests attended the event. State Senator Val Applewhite attended and provided remarks to recognize providers and the work of PFC. Our speaker, Khari Garvin, President & CEO of Family Services of Forsyth County, was truly inspiring.
- **United Way Classic – June 12 at 7:05 pm at the Crown Coliseum** (<https://www.unitedway-cc.org/united-way-basketball-classic.html>). This fundraiser is a high-energy new event of basketball between Fort Bragg and Fayetteville's Police and Fire Departments. A representative from the **Dollywood Foundation** will be present for the event and other special activities during the week. **We will be hosting her at PFC the afternoon of June 10. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL)** continues to be the signature program of the Dollywood Foundation. From June 10-12 United Way of Cumberland County's DPIL efforts, Dolly Parton's Imagination Story Times and the efforts of the Literacy Council will be featured. PFC collaborates with United Way on DPIL and Julanda Jett serves on the Literacy Council.
- **Kindness Awards – September 2026.** Look for the nomination process late summer.
- **Smart Start Month – September 2026.** Look for additional information from NCPC over the summer.
- **Grilled Cheese Festival – Save the date for Saturday, November 7, 2026.** Presale tickets go on sale July 15th and we have event sponsorship, table sponsors, vendor, and volunteer opportunities. Contact dmalvesti@ccpfc.org
- **Little Land 2027 – Save the date for Saturday, March 13, 2027, 10:00 am – 2:00 PM, Crown Expo Center.**

Special Stories May 2026

Kaleidoscope Play & Learn:

At a Kaleidoscope session, we welcomed a family whose young child was initially very shy and reserved. They began attending our playgroup to build social connections and create more consistency in her routine. Over time, we witnessed a remarkable transformation. After several months, she entered the room one day ahead of her parent and confidently went straight to a play center. She actively joined our group activity, which included music and movement, showing a level of comfort and engagement that hadn't been there before. Her mother shared how grateful she was for Kaleidoscope, expressing that seeing her daughter move freely and participate so fully exceeded her expectations. The family continues to attend regularly, and with each session, the child's independence grows. As a facilitator, it has been truly rewarding to watch her progress.

Family Connects:

Another meaningful experience involved a first-time mother who was feeling overwhelmed and isolated after bringing her newborn home. Through consistent outreach and education, we provided guidance on newborn care, feeding, and recognizing warning signs, and connected her to local support groups and behavioral health resources. As trust developed, she became more comfortable asking questions and utilizing available services. Seeing her transition from uncertainty to confidence highlighted the importance of ongoing support, relationship-building, and meeting families where they are.

PFC received notice during our May 14 Monthly Family Connects International (FCI) TA call that our Family Connects program has met the metrics over a 6-month time period to be reviewed for certification. Our Certification Review with FCI will be on Friday, May 29. This milestone is a cooperative venture by PFC and 4C, our Nurse Partner for the program. Once the review is complete we will share the news and any next steps.

Sent on behalf of Marta Hester

Good afternoon,

Amy and I joined several of the NCPC Board members, in addition to the 501c4 Smart Start Advocates, for the NCPC Board Advocacy Day at the state legislature on Wednesday, May 13, 2026. We spent the morning meeting with legislators and sponsored an Italian ice stand in the afternoon while educating even more legislators, staff, and others about Smart Start's impact.

During our meeting with Representative Ray Pickett (Republican, District 93 – Alleghany, Ashe, Watauga), an update was provided on the status of the \$10 million Disaster Relief Funding to NCPC to help the Western NC counties impacted by Hurricane Helene and the need for mental and behavioral health support for children and families. Senator David Craven (Republican, District 29 – Anson, Montgomery, Randolph, Richmond, and Union) pledged his support to vote for more Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Funding. Senator Jim Burgin (Republican, (District 12, Harnett, Lee, Sampson) reiterated his support for Tri-Share, increasing the child care subsidy market rate and establishing a statewide child care subsidy reimbursement rate floor and concerns about NC's infant and child mortality rate. Senator Michael Lee, (Republican, District 7 – New Hanover) expressed his continued support for Smart Start. These were just a few of the state legislators on Wednesday's itinerary. It was a rewarding and impactful day and grounded in the impactful work you do, day in and day out, for your communities.

STATE UPDATE

Budget Timeline and Process

The anticipated date for a state budget for release and a vote is between June 15 – 18, 2026. Senior Appropriation Chairs are currently meeting and have directed the Appropriation Chairs of the area-specific appropriation committees, such as the Appropriation Committee for Health and Human Services, to work on their sections of the budgets and provide final recommendations by the end of next week.

I understand the Senior Appropriation Chairs have already met with all Departmental Secretaries under Governor Stein to discuss the Governor's budget recommendations. The budget will be addressed first and proposed legislation afterward. The budget priority requiring the largest appropriation will be Medicaid Rebase.

House and Senate leadership have agreed already on a budget framework to include par raises for teachers, state employees, and reductions in the individual income tax rate without any revenue requirement.

- [NC lawmakers announce 'starting point' for a budget deal, after a year of negotiations :: WRAL.com](#)

House Bill 1086 Update

Representative Dean Arp, (Republican, District 29- Union) presented HB 1086: Child Care Initiative Reform/Study the House Health Committee on Tuesday, May 12, 2026. The proposed

legislation received a favorable report and was sent to the Appropriations Committee. Representative Arp advised the bill is supported by childcare business owners, NC Chamber, and NCPC. HB 1086 creates a career ready lead teacher program to allow workforce development and talent development; provides funding for mental and behavioral support for children, families and early care educators, examines possibilities for captive insurance, and updates the Smart Start bidding requirements. Please note the Smart Start Advocates are continuing to work with Rep. Arp regarding additional changes to the legislation, including the bidding requirements.

NCPC board members shared their stories about ECE and the challenges facing the field and families, and educated Senators while thanking House members signing on to this bill to help build momentum. Please encourage your board members to do the same.

ECE Advocates Shared Agenda

Senator Ralph Hise requested language that addresses waste, fraud, and accountability for child care funding. Although he advised NC does not have a problem, he believes his state legislators will be more interested in funding for a child care subsidy floor, if that language is included.

FEDERAL UPDATE

Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Child Care Reform

On Monday, May 11, 2026, the federal Department of Health and Human Services/ACF announced a child care reform package. The Administration also sent guidance letters for governors encouraging supports for stay-at-home parents, Friends, Family and Neighbor (FFN) providers, religious providers, and homeschooling families.

- [ACF Announces Child Care Reform Package to Address Affordability, Expand Access, and Strengthen Parental Choice | The Administration for Children and Families](#)
- [State Of Play: Rules and Regulations - First Five Years Fund](#)

Final Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) regulations and a proposed Head Start federal rules were also published on May 11, 2026: 1.) [Final Rule, Restoring Flexibility in the Child Care and Development Fund \(CCDF\)](#); and 2.) [Head Start Notice of Proposed Rulemaking \(NPRM\) Restoring Flexibility to Support Head Start Program Access](#).

The final CCDBG regulations:

- Rescinds the requirements to limit family co-payments to 7 percent of family income
- Rescinds the requirement to provide some direct services through grants or contracts
- Rescinds the requirement to pay providers prospectively, and
- Rescinds the requirement to pay providers based on enrollment.

Head Start Proposed Rule includes an opportunity to submit comments and includes the following:

- Proposes eliminating requirement for programs to develop or update a pay scale for all staff
- Proposes eliminating requirement to provide education staff with wages comparable to public preschool teachers
- Proposes eliminating requirement to provide all staff a salary sufficient to cover basic costs of living
- Proposes eliminating requirement to promote wage comparability across Head Start Preschool

- Proposes eliminating requirement to provide full-time staff with health care coverage, paid leave, and behavioral health services
- Proposes eliminating requirement to facilitate access to health care coverage for part-time staff
- Proposes eliminating requirement to facilitate access to child care subsidies and student loan forgiveness for eligible staff.

The deadline to comment on the Head Start rules is June 11, 2026, at [Federal Register :: Restoring Flexibility To Support Head Start Program Access](#).

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) launched a new monthly SNAP Matters newsletter dedicated to all things SNAP. [Sign up here](#) to receive monthly updates including legislative and regulatory updates and related news and resources.

2026 NC Child Fatality Report

The North Carolina Child Fatality Task released its 2026 annual report. The task force will hold a webinar to go over its latest data and recommendations on May 26, 2026

- [NC Child Fatality Task Force Annual Report](#)

Please see the attached legislative tracking report and continue your advocacy and education efforts in the days and weeks ahead as our work continues to support NC’s children, families and early childhood educators and to lift up the Smart Start Network Public Policy Agenda.

Thank you,

Marta



Marta T. Hester, M.A.
Director of Public Policy and Advocacy
984.221.1221

The North Carolina Partnership for Children
1100 Wake Forest Rd, Raleigh, NC 27604

Smart Start Network Bill Tracking Sheet (updated 5/15/26)
2026 Legislative Session

Bill Number and Title	Synopsis	Bill Sponsor(s)	Current Status
<p>House Bill 696 (Session Law 2026-1) Conference Report Medicaid & HHS Adjustments/Other Critical Needs</p>	<p>Appropriates \$319 million, nonrecurring for 2025-2026 to address the Medicaid shortfall as requested by Governor Stein and DHHS</p> <p>Directs Division of Health Benefits to develop a plan for improved health outcomes, program integrity, cost-savings, and efficiency measures in the Medicaid program and an annual accounting report of all improper Medicaid payments and expenditures to the state legislature.</p> <p>Requires DHHS to refer any applicant or recipient for which citizenship or satisfactory immigration status could not be verified to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security</p> <p>Requires the Office of the State Auditor (Auditor) to conduct a performance audit of the administration of the North Carolina Medicaid program</p> <p>Establishes the NC Blue Ribbon Commission on Public Education with members to be appointed by the Governor, House Speaker, and Senate President Pro Temp. The Commission will study the NC 's infrastructure and implementation of public education.</p> <p>Appropriates funds to the UNC Board of Governors (BOG) to be allocated to the State Education Assistance Authority (Authority) for recipients of scholarships for the children of wartime veterans and provides funding for several other state agencies.</p>	<p>Potts, Reeder, and Campbell</p>	<p>Session Law 2026-1 Signed into law by Governor Stein</p>

Smart Start Network Bill Tracking Sheet (updated 5/15/26)
2026 Legislative Session

Bill Number and Title	Synopsis	Bill Sponsor(s)	Current Status
Senate Bill 779 Medicaid Rebase	Appropriates \$319 million, nonrecurring for 2025-2026 to address the Medicaid shortfall in recurring funds/receipts, beginning with each year of the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium.	Adcock, Blue, Smith	Appropriations/Base Budget
Senate Bill 800 Zero-Based Budgeting	Beginning July 1, 2026, in each even-numbered year each State agency of the executive branch designated in a scheduled year, must prepare and submit to OSBM a zero-based budget plan for the fiscal biennium beginning July 1 of the following fiscal year.	Burgin, McInnis	Appropriations/Base Budget
Senate Bill 860 Nonprofit Fundraising Sales Tax Exemption	Provides a sales tax exemption for certain nonprofit entities, exempts diapers from sales tax, and other provisions. Applicable to NCPC and Smart Start Local Partnerships if/when this bill passes, NCPC will apply for a nonprofit sales tax exemption. The new exemption number will be shared with vendors to ensure they no longer charge sales tax on NCPC/LP purchases.	Burgin, Corbin, McInnis	Senate Rules and Operations
Senate Bill 904 Save SNAP Act	Appropriates funds to DHHS and counties to cover the loss of federal receipts for the administrative costs of SNAP and provides funding for a grant process to reduce the payment error rate for SNAP.	Murdock	Appropriations/Base Budget
Senate Bill 908 Janell Green Smith Maternal Health Acc. Act.	Recognizes maternal health initiatives and supports and expands licensure and recognition of midwives	Murdock	Appropriations/Base Budget
Senate Bill 909 The BUMP Act	Directs DHHS to provide free educational information and training on stillbirth prevention; and appropriates funds to launch a statewide "Count the Kicks" program.	Murdock	Appropriations/Base Budget

Smart Start Network Bill Tracking Sheet (updated 5/15/26)
2026 Legislative Session

Bill Number and Title	Synopsis	Bill Sponsor(s)	Current Status
Senate Bill 1015 Child Care Omnibus	Includes increasing child care subsidy rates/establishing rate floor; funding for child care stabilization grants; child care for child care providers pilot program; using state-owned property for child care centers for state employees ; establishing NC Child Care Finance Agency; amending child care laws to include definition for license-exempt family, friend, and neighbor providers; and other provisions.	Chitlik, Chaudhuri	Appropriations/Base Budget
Senate Bill 1042 Child Welfare/Foster Care/Child Care Funding	Provides additional funding for child welfare, foster care, and child care. Includes funds to extend Tri-Share and requests a plan be developed to implement a statewide child care subsidy reimbursement rate floor, and other provisions.	Burgin	Appropriations/Base Budget
Senate Bill 1051 Don't Zone Out Child Care	Protects the rights of homeowners and tenants to operate licensed family child care homes by limiting restrictions by homeowners associations, landlords, and local governments.	Burgin, Chaudhuri	Appropriations/Base Budget
Senate Bill 1052 Amend Child Care Definitions/FFN Providers	Adds a definition for license-exempt family, friend, and neighbor child care providers under the child care laws.	Chaudhuri, Burgin	Appropriations/Base Budget
Senate Bill 1053 Child Care Licensing Penalty Reform	Reduces the severity of the felony level and grants prosecutorial discretion in child care licensing violations.	Chaudhuri, Burgin	Appropriations/Base Budget
Senate Bill 1054 No Child Left Unfed	Requires DHHS to extend access to the federal child and adult care food program to child care providers operating licensed child care homes.	Chaudhuri, Burgin	Appropriations/Base Budget
House Bill 1071 SNAP Funding in Response to H.R. 1.	Appropriate Funds to DHHS and Counties to cover the loss of federal receipts for the administrative costs of the Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).	Lopez	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations

Smart Start Network Bill Tracking Sheet (updated 5/15/26)
2026 Legislative Session

Bill Number and Title	Synopsis	Bill Sponsor(s)	Current Status
House Bill 1066 Child Care Stabilization & Affordability Act	An act to permit opportunity scholarship funds to be awarded for prekindergarten; to make the Tri-Share Child Care Pilot Program permanent to include additional funding; to reenact the child care tax credit; to expand the early childhood education workforce; to streamline administrative requirements for child care providers; to utilize public facilities for child care; to clarify regulatory guidance for religious child care programs; to stabilize NC child care funding and benefits; and to enhance child care workforce compensation and benefits - (expand Child Care WAGE\$ and establish and administer a State-run group health coverage pool to make health benefit coverage available for purchase by eligible child care employers on behalf of their employees.)	Helfrich	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations
House Bill 1017 Sound Basic Education for Every Child	Includes \$419.6 Million, recurring for FY 2026-2027 for NCPC; Requires DCDEE to implement a policy to require all NC Pre-K lead teachers to have an appropriate State teaching license and to be paid according to the State public school salary schedule; and includes other programs and supports for children, families, and teachers.	von Haefen, Ball, Hawkins, Prather	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations
House Bill 1086 Child Care Initiative Funds/Reform/Study	Provides funding to NCPC to establish Career-Ready Lead Teacher Academies to provide alternative pathways to child care careers; Appropriates funding to NCPC to expand mental and behavioral health services for children, families and staff in child care facility settings; implements reforms regarding child care center administrators; studies the feasibility of providing liability insurance coverage for child care providers; and updates the bidding requirements for the Smart Start Network.	Arp	Passed Health Committee and now in Appropriations
House Bill 1148 Universal Pre-K	Appropriates additional funding for NC Pre-K	Johnson-Hostler	Appropriations

Smart Start Network Bill Tracking Sheet (updated 5/15/26)
2026 Legislative Session

Bill Number and Title	Synopsis	Bill Sponsor(s)	Current Status
House Bill 1158 Increase Market Rate/Rate Floor/Child Subsidy.	Increases child care subsidy rates to the seventy-fifth percentile of the 2023 market rate study, with automatic increases upon completion of subsequent new studies, to set a statewide rate floor, and to appropriate funds for those purposes.	Lofton	Appropriations
House Bill 1160 Reduce Parent Copays/Child Care Subsidy/Funds	Reduces parent copayments for subsidized child care and appropriates funds for that purpose.	Lofton	Appropriations
House Bill 1172 The Ciji Graham Act	Improves maternal health outcomes and reduces maternal health disparities in NC through the establishment of a high-risk pregnancy care navigation program, a pregnancy consultation hotline, a centralized clinical information hub for managing high-risk pregnancies, and standardized referral pathways for high-risk pregnancies; and appropriates funds to DHHS, Division of Public Health, for these purposes.	Johnson-Hostler	Appropriations
Senate Bill 907		Murdock, Applewhite, Robinson	Appropriations/Base Budget
House Bill 1195 MOMnibus 3.5.	Enacts the NC MOMnibus Act	Johnson-Hostler	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations
Senate Bill 906		Murdock	Appropriations/Base Budget
House Bill 1200 Tax-Free Family Essentials Act (Senate Bill 1029 is similar)	Exempts diapers, baby wipes, over-the-counter children's medication, prenatal vitamins, and feminine hygiene products from sales tax.	Schietzelt	Finance
House Bill 1206 Pregnant Workers Fairness Act/Funds	Eliminates discrimination and promote women's health and economic security by enacting the NC Pregnant Workers Fairness Act and appropriates funding for implementation.	Budd	Appropriations



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Child Development and Early
Education

JOSH STEIN • Governor
DEVPUTTA SANGVAI • Secretary
CANDACE WITHERSPOON • Director

May 11, 2026

Mary Sonnenberg
Partnership for Children of Cumberland County
351 Wagoner Dr., Suite 200
Fayetteville, NC 28303

Dear Ms. Sonnenberg:

The NC Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) performed a fiscal and programmatic review of Partnership for Children of Cumberland County under Contract #48585. Monitoring personnel performed a sample review of eligibility, fiscal and programmatic files with supporting documentation to determine contractor compliance with the NC Pre-K Program Requirements and Guidance Manual and the NC Pre-K Fiscal and Programmatic Monitoring Worksheet for State Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

Fiscal Summary: DCDEE reviewed a sampling of monthly expenditures. There were no issues identified from the samples examined.

Eligibility Summary: DCDEE reviewed a sampling of student eligibility files. There were no issues identified from the samples examined.

Attendance Summary: DCDEE reviewed a sampling of classroom attendance records and contractor monthly attendance reports. There were no issues identified from the samples examined.

Programmatic Summary: DCDEE reviewed and verified NC Pre-K committee minutes, membership, meeting requirements, conflict of interest signed statements, Section 1 signatures of County Plan and required written plans. Site monitoring efforts were reviewed and required completion of monitoring tools were verified. There were no issues identified from the items examined.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paige Cannon

Paige Cannon
DCDEE Monitoring & Compliance Unit

CC: Candace Witherspoon *CW*
DCDEE Director

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND EARLY EDUCATION

LOCATION: 1915 Health Services Way • Raleigh, NC 27607
MAILING ADDRESS: 2201 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2200
www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-814-6300 • Fax: 984-236-8220

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Strategic Pillar 1: Sustainable & Adaptive Organization

Goal Statement

Ensure long-term organizational stability and adaptability through strong leadership, diversified funding, and efficient systems that support mission impact.

Strategic Objectives

1. Strengthen leadership continuity through succession planning and cross-training.
2. Diversify revenue streams to reduce reliance on government funding.
3. Improve staff retention and satisfaction through competitive compensation and development.
4. Modernize systems and processes to increase efficiency and reduce administrative burden.
5. Build internal fundraising and communications capacity.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Objective	KPI	Measurement
Leadership continuity	% of leadership roles with documented succession plans	Annual review
Funding diversification	% of unrestricted / non-government revenue	Annual financials
Workforce stability	Staff retention rate	Annual HR data
Operational efficiency	Staff time spent on administrative tasks	Staff survey
Fundraising capacity	Annual philanthropic revenue growth	Year-over-year



Strategic Pillar 2: Equitable Access & Early Intervention

Goal Statement

Ensure all children and families—especially those most underserved—can access high-quality early learning and early intervention supports.

Strategic Objectives

1. Expand access to NC Pre-K and other early learning opportunities.
2. Improve early identification and referral for developmental, behavioral, and learning needs.
3. Strengthen family navigation of child care, education, and support systems.
4. Increase awareness of available resources among non-traditional and underserved families.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Objective	KPI	Measurement
Access to early learning	% of NC Pre-K slots filled	Program data
Early intervention	# of referrals to early intervention services	Partner reports
Family navigation	% of families reporting improved understanding of services	Family assessment
Awareness	# of children/families reached vs. served	Outreach tracking



Strategic Pillar 3: Strong Workforce, Strong Outcomes

Goal Statement

Strengthen the early childhood workforce to improve program quality, access, and outcomes for children and families.

Strategic Objectives

1. Increase workforce retention through compensation and support strategies.
2. Expand professional development and credentialing opportunities.
3. Build workforce pipelines through higher education and partner institutions.
4. Reduce provider closures related to staffing shortages.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Objective	KPI	Measurement
Workforce retention	ECE turnover rate	Annual workforce data
Professional development	# of educators completing training/credentials	Program records
Workforce pipeline	# of students entering ECE pathways	Partner data
Provider stability	# of providers operating year over year	Licensing data

Strategic Pillar 4: Authentic Community Voice & Engagement

Goal Statement

Create inclusive, accessible opportunities for families and communities to actively shape early childhood systems and decisions.

Strategic Objectives

1. Reduce barriers to family participation in engagement and governance activities.
2. Elevate parent voice, especially from families using services.
3. Strengthen community-building through digital and in-person engagement.
4. Improve feedback mechanisms without overburdening families or staff.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Objective	KPI	Measurement
Family participation	% of engaged families from priority populations	Engagement data
Parent voice	# of parents involved in advisory or feedback roles	Annual count
Community engagement	Engagement rate in online groups/events	Platform analytics
Feedback quality	% of programs using standardized family assessment	Program review



Strategic Pillar 5: Connected Systems & Strategic Partnerships

Goal Statement

Strengthen cross-sector collaboration to reduce silos, maximize resources, and improve outcomes for children and families.

Strategic Objectives

1. Expand and deepen strategic partnerships across education, health, faith, and business sectors.
2. Improve coordination and referral pathways among partners.
3. Leverage partnerships to increase funding, workforce capacity, and service reach.
4. Align partners around shared goals and measurable outcomes.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Objective	KPI	Measurement
Partnership growth	# of active strategic partnerships	Annual inventory
System coordination	# of shared initiatives or referral agreements	Partner reports
Resource leverage	\$ leveraged through partnerships	Financial tracking
Collaboration quality	Partner satisfaction score	Annual partner survey

SWOT Analysis Worksheet – PFC Group reviewing:

Fill out the fields below and review as a group. This will inform our Organizational Sustainability work.

	Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
Programs/ Services Offerings				
Brand/ Marketing				
Staff/ HR				
Finance				
Operations/ Management				
Community Engagement				
What have we left out?				

Can any of your strengths help with improving your weaknesses or combating your threats? If so, please describe how below.

Based on the information above, what are your immediate goals/next steps?

Based on the information above, what are your long-term goals/next steps?

SWOT Analysis Worksheet – Collaboration with Robeson Partnership for Children

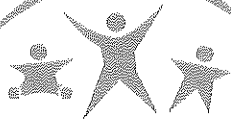
Group Reviewing: _____ Fill out the fields below. This will inform our Organizational Sustainability work.

	Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
Programs/ Services Offerings				
Brand/ Marketing				
Staff/ HR				
Finance				
Operations/ Management				
Community Engagement				
What have we left out?				

Can any of your strengths help with improving your weaknesses or combating your threats? If so, please describe how below.

Based on the information above, what are your immediate goals/next steps?

Based on the information above, what are your long-term goals/next steps?



Partnership FOR CHILDREN

OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY

You're Invited!

JOIN US FOR A DAY OF

**DISCOVERY, IMAGINATION,
AND LEARNING!**



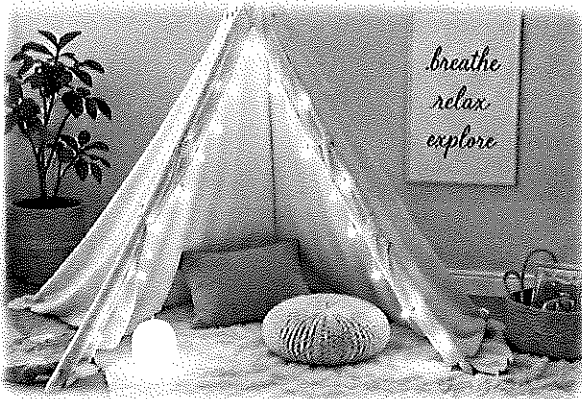
AT THE LEARNING LIBRARY

A day of discovery, imagination,
and learning for the whole family!

TUESDAY
**JUNE
10TH**

**11:00
AM**

**SENSORY ROOM
Launch!** ♥



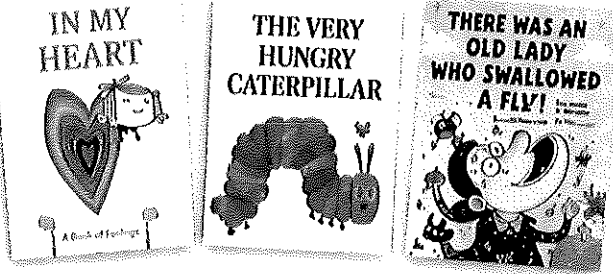
Be among the first to experience
our brand new Sensory Room!

- ♥ Calming & engaging environment
- ★ Stimulates curiosity & exploration
- ♥ Supports relaxation & learning

**3:30
PM**

STORYTIME
with us! ♥

Enjoy a fun and interactive
storytelling session featuring
THREE wonderful books!

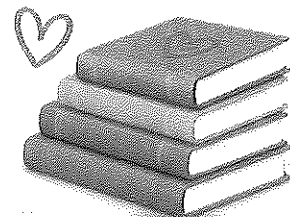


↻ The Very Hungry Caterpillar is part
of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library!

Stories spark imagination,
build vocabulary, and
bring us closer together. ♥



The Dolly Parton Imagination Library
program helps to inspire a lifelong
love of reading one book at a time.



♥ *Let's celebrate, explore, and grow together!* ♥

CCR&R Programs Updates

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

Reporting Period: January 2026 – May 2026

<p>Program:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. PFC NC Pre-K Program Cumberland County B. 2025-2026 School Year August 25, 2025-May 25, 2026 (School is Out!) C. 2025-2026 NC Pre-K Progress
<p>Programmatic Updates: 2025-2026 sy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. 2025-2026 NC Pre-K Site Monitoring Tool Completed January 14, 2026 B. NC Pre-K Child Placement (Allocation: 1,414) C. Applications Received via SchoolMint: 2444 D. Placed:1553 (<i>Does not mean served</i>) E. Waitlist: 131 F. Children served in March 2026: 1342 G. 2nd Long-term Substitute Teacher/Teacher Assistant Extension Request (*Until the end of the SFY 2025-2026) H. SFY 2025-2026 Kindergarten Transition Celebrations I. SFY Final PLC Meeting, Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at PFC 3:30 PM J. Recruitment Efforts K. Strengths and Barriers to Service Delivery
<p>NC Pre-K Personnel Updates: 2025-2026 sy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Open Positions: NC Pre-K Data Specialist
<p>Programmatic Updates: 2026-202 sy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. 2026-2027 Cumberland County Allocation 1414 (Reduction) B. Pre-K 2026/27 Applications Opened, Wednesday, January 21, 2026 C. SchoolMint Application Data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Child Placement (Projected Allocation: 1,383)

CCR&R Programs Updates

	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Applications Received via SchoolMint: 18402) Number of children's applications processed: 14243) Number of children 1st choice CCS 1615 (25-26) vs 1141 (26-27)4) Placed: 1370 <p>b. Recruitment Efforts</p> <p>c. Strengths and Barriers to Service Delivery</p>
	<p>2027–2028 NC Pre-K Site Selection</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Projected application launch: July 19, 2026 and closes August 27, 20262. Site Selection Sub-Committee selected during NC Pre-K Planning Committee Meeting: April 30, 2026<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jerome Scott: The Insurance Guy serving child care providers.• Dina Gibson: Retired NCDCEE Regulatory Consultant• Karen Huntley-Kellam: Retired NCDCEE Regulatory Consultant• Dr. Jaunita Heyward: Retired Dean of Early Childhood Professor at Methodist College• Dr. Patricia Fecher: Associate Provost, Academic Operations; Associate Professor of Education at Methodist College• Kyle Coleman: Regional Supervisor at Youth Village3. Site Selection recommendations to PFC: October 29, 2026 <p>2026–2027 NC Pre-K Boot Camp</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Taking the Next Step to Becoming an NC Pre-K Site in Cumberland County5. Projected date: July 2026

CCR&R Programs Updates

<p>Meetings/Outreach Events Attended:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. COLORS Meeting B. PFC Executive Meeting C. NC Pre-K Planning Committee/PFC Board Meeting D. 2025-2026 NC Pre-K Statewide Meeting Dates (Twice a year - May & December) E. Cumberland County Pre-K, Collaboration meetings with Head Start and Cumberland Schools, F. NC Pre-NC Pre-K Site Administrators Zoom Meetings (January, February, March, and April, 2026) G. DCDEE Café 'NC Pre-K Monthly Café Monthly Meeting. H. Racial Equity Workgroup I. TA Community of Practice J. NC Pre-K PLC 2025-2026 2nd Meeting (February 2026) K. PFC/DSS/CCHD Quarterly Meeting L. Kindergarten Transition Night hosted by the Early Intervention Special Education program with Cumberland County Schools M. March 4, 2026, 5:00 – 7:00 PM, Mary McArthur Elementary School N. 2026 Spring Transition Meetings and Work Sessions with North Carolina's Early Learning Partners March 23, 2026, 3:00 – 5:00 PM and March 25, 2026, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
<p>Professional Development opportunities attended or attended by the Team</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. State Pre-K Database Training B. Let's Talk More About the ECERS-3. C. Introduction to the Protective Factors D. <i>Mental Health Begins by Birth</i> E. Strengthening Mental Health through Trauma Responsive Care. F. Getting Started on Upward Mobility: Tools and Strategies for Local Leaders G. Growing Strong at the CORE: Family and Community Partnership Series H. Virtual Standards of Quality Certification Completed (NC Pre-K Caseworkers/Manager) I. Smart Start Conference Greensboro, NC: May 4–7 J. International Early Childhood Inclusion Institute, Chapel Hill, NC, May 19–21, 2026

CCR&R Programs Updates

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">K. Reading & Responding to the Pre-K Literacy Screener Report.L. May 2026: Local Strength, Lasting Impact: Community Hubs Create Positive ChildhoodsM. <i>Mental Health Begins By Birth</i>, Part 1N. Pre-K Teacher Finch Literacy Screener Webinar
Current and Upcoming Projects:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A. NC Pre-K Site Administrators In-Person Meeting, June 18, 2026B. NC Pre-K Planning Committee
Additional Information:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Provider's Appreciation Ceremony, FTTC Tony Rand Student Center, May 2, 2026,

CCR&R Programs Updates

Program:	Provider Service Coaches and Region 5
Site Visits:	<p>Provider Services (PS) Coaches: Actively support 8 child care programs participating in QRIS Pathway 1. Additionally, PS Coaches are providing technical assistance to 14 child care programs transitioning to the QRIS Star-Rated License who are participating in Pathway 2, TA staff are helping programs navigate requirements, implement quality improvements.</p> <p>Lead Coach: Provides technical assistance to 6 child care centers in Cumberland County. Supports 3 child care centers with QRIS Pathways and provides administrative action support to 2 child care programs in Hoke County.</p> <p>In Robeson County, supports 2 child care programs with Pathway 1 and Pathway 2 Also provides startup technical assistance to 1 child care program in Scotland County and supports 1 child care program in Montgomery County.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training: The School Age Connection-Session III. From Ideas to Impact: Crafting Powerful Lesson Plans training-April 2026 • Attended the International Early Childhood Inclusion Institute May 19-21, in Chapel Hill, NC • BSAC June 6, 2026 • FLIP IT T-t-T May 27-July 1, 2026 <p>FCCH-Family Childcare Consultant 19-Family Childcare programs in Cumberland County, 2-programs are startup TA. Robeson County-supporting 2 childcare programs, 1-has increased to 5stars. Supporting a childcare program in Scotland County with startup TA and Montgomery County. Leadership Academy for Family Childcare are monthly and facilitating trainings.</p> <p>Regional Caseworkers have provided 709 Consumer Resource and Referral (CR&R) services to families seeking childcare. In addition, Regional Caseworkers facilitate Kaleidoscope Play and Learn (KPL) activities every</p>

	<p>Thursday at Fascinate-U Children’s Museum and Partnership for Children of Cumberland County (PFC).</p> <p>Candace McRae is our new-Early Literacy & Play Coordinator</p>
Meetings/Outreach Events Attended:	Community Baby Shower – April 22 nd
Professional Development opportunities attended or attended by Team:	<p>Smart Start Conference -Sylvia Murph, Sheila Jones, Ebony Peterkin</p> <p>International Early Childhood Inclusion Institute- Mary And Valerie Miller</p> <p>Flip- It TtT- Johanna B, Mary Anders</p> <p>Using FLIP IT with Adults: Conquering Conflict with Staff, Families, and Yourself-Training May 5th & 12th – Sylvia Murphy and Sheila Jones</p>
Current and Upcoming Projects:	Training Calendar for FY 25/26 Trainings scheduled through June 30 th .
Upcoming Events:	<p>Illumination Play Days every Monday in June in the Learning Library from 10am – 12pm.</p> <p>Sensory Room Launch June 10th at 11am and Storytime-June 10th at 3pm</p> <p>Kaleidoscope Play & Learn-Thursdays</p> <p>Thursday Morning Fascinate-U 9:30am – 11am and Thursday Afternoon 2:00pm – 3:30pm.</p>

Additional Updates:	