

Chatham County Partnership for Children
More at Four Advisory Committee
May 19, 2011
11:45 – 1:00 PM

MINUTES

Members Present: Dr. Robin McCoy, Linda Foxworth, Debbie Glosson, Cindy King, Heidi Lineberry, Arvelis Byrd, Sue Boyd, April Alexander, Carrie Little

Members Absent: Dolly Huffman Clayton, Charles Aiken, Karen Allen, Robyn Allgood, Justin Bartholomew, Maya McElrath, Angela Leonti, Julie Mashburn, Denise Pickett, Dale Minge, Dr. Julie Vandiver, Rojalyn Phillips, Danielle Tyner, Amy Rabb, Beverly Browne, Carla Threadgill, Chard Morgan, Christopher Poston, Daniel Haithcox, Holly Rickman, Janie Frasier, Kaye Clark, Erin Suwattana, Amanda Hazen, Dhruvi Dholakia

Staff: Genevieve Megginson, Marianne Nicholson, Deborah Day and Camelia McCandies

Welcome/Adopt Agenda/ Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 11:45am by Dr. Robin McCoy. *Debbie Glosson motioned to adopt the agenda and approve the minutes of the February 24th meeting. Heidi Lineberry seconded the motion and the agenda was adopted by consensus.*

Announcements and Updates

The Partnership recently held the 1st Annual Children's Parade in Pittsboro, to celebrate the Week of the Young Child. Mayor Voller served as the parade leader and over 100 children attended, including children from Head Start, CCCC, Robyn's Nest and Silk Hope! Members of the Focus on Child Care committee assisted in planning this event, and look forward to continue this event in the coming years!

The Annual Spring Child Care Conference was also held in April. The workshops received positive reviews and around 110 teachers and child care providers were in attendance.

Marianne shared with the committee a report from Rutgers University, indicating that NC's More at Four as one of the nation's top pre-k programs. The committee discussed that advocacy efforts should continue, in order to share this information with families, legislators and the general public.

Deborah announced that Ready Schools has been recommended to receive a \$7,000 grant from Chatham County. In addition, Ready Schools also received a \$10,000 grant from NCPC as well!

Financial Status Report

Genevieve shared that current Financial Status Report with the committee, detailing the current expenditures and remaining funds, as of 4/30/2011.

It was noted that the total remaining funds are higher than originally projected, as the committee has worked so diligently to ensure there are no unfilled slots. Because it is unclear whether these funds may have restrictions on how they can be used in the next fiscal year, the committee discussed allocating additional funds to all sites, to fund supplies and materials.

After discussion, Linda Foxworth motioned to allocate an additional \$15 per slot, to all sites who have received supply and materials funds earlier in the year, and \$50 per slot to Head Start, who has not yet received any supply funds for the year. The total amount allocated to each site for supplies and materials will total \$50 per slot. Heidi Lineberry seconded the motion and it was approved by consensus.

The committee reviewed the Financial Status Report, as of January 31st. It was noted that some adjustments have been made to the budget, to include Smart Start conference registration and the cost of CC.net is included in the expenditures.

The total amount of available funds will be lower as the purchase of services, technical assistance from Child Care Networks, will increase in the Spring. It is expected that there will be roughly \$3,000 remaining at the end of the fiscal year.

It was reported that the Partnership was required to complete a budget survey last fall about Chatham's More at Four program. The survey only shows More at Four funds and doesn't show that 10 slots are funded through Smart Start subsidy. So, from this view, it seems as if 10 slots are being received for free and as a result Chatham may receive 10 fewer slot allocations next year.

State Budget Updates

The committee discussed that the NC House recently passed their budget and the Senate is currently deliberating on their budget proposal.

The House budget includes several proposed changes to Smart Start, including language that states evidence-based, evidence-informed programs will receive funding priority and increasing the match requirement from 10% to 13%, with 10% required to be cash contributions and 3% in-kind. This change may require that Smart Start DSP's be required to meet this match requirement as well.

Under this budget proposal, More at Four will experience significant changes as well. It is proposed that the program will be moved from the Department of Public Instruction, into the Division of Child Development, which is under Department of Health & Human Services. This move to different administrative entities, will greatly effect the licensure requirements, which have proved to have great success in Chatham County, in improving teacher education, that are currently enacted in the More at Four program, as may be eliminated. As well, it is unclear what methodology will be adopted when allocated slots throughout the state. Therefore, it is very unclear the number of slots that Chatham County can estimate to have for next year.

The committee discussed that advocacy efforts should continue, to try and preserve the great success of the More at Four program. The ability to have continued local control and collaboration within the county will be critical in continuing to assist the families and the children being served.

Program Coordination Report

Marianne reported that as of today, the following is a list of the current number of eligible applications that have been received, by site. She noted that this list continues to grow as applications are still being accepted.

Chatham County Schools – 164

CCCC – over 10

CCDC – 7

Robyn's Nest – 8

Sunflower Seeds – 7
Children’s Early School – 7
Head Start – 84

She reminded the committee that due to the great uncertainty of the budget, it is important not to tell parents that their application is approved. Because the budget is not yet known, and slots have not been allocated, it is very unclear how many slots will be available in Chatham County for the next year. However, the current number of eligible applications will be shared with OEL, in order indicate the level of need that Chatham is currently experiencing.

Marianne thanked all sites for entering all of their winter observations in CC.net in a timely fashion. She and Genevieve are currently reviewing this data further in the coming weeks, along with Head Start’s results, however the primary review showed very positive growth between the fall and winter seasons.

FY 2011-2012 Proposed Meeting Schedule

The committee agreed to the following meeting schedule for FY 11-12:

- Thursday, August 4th, 11:30am
- Thursday, September 8th, 11:30am
- Thursday, October 13th, 11:30am
- Thursday, November 10th, 11:30am
- Thursday, January 12th, 11:30am
- Thursday, February 9th, 11:30am
- Thursday, March 8th, 11:30am
- Thursday, May 10th, 11:30am

As there was no further business, at 1:00pm, the meeting was adjourned by consensus.