

Chatham County- Partnership for Children
Focus on Child Care
August 8, 2011
Minutes

Members Present: Julie Mashburn, Co-Chair, Barbara Burton, Lara Kehle, Cindy King, Angela Murray, Carly Pedrotty, Kathryn Vitaro, Edna Williams,

Members Absent: April Alexander, Debra Bright, Denise Pickett, Amy Rabb

Staff: Marianne Nicholson, Deborah Day

Welcome/Adopt Agenda/Approve Minutes

At 6:30, Julie Mashburn called the meeting to order. She welcomed members and asked them to introduce themselves. *Kathy Vitaro moved to accept the minutes and Edna seconded this motion. By consensus, the June 13th minutes were approved and the agenda was adopted.*

Announcements & Updates

Chatham Kidz Academy is now operating a second shift as well as a first. It is open from 5:30 am to 12:00 am.

Chatham Schools are looking to hire a BK certified licensed pre-K teacher for Virginia Cross Elementary Pre-K classroom. This is an interim position for one year.

Deborah announced the opportunity for PEERS training, which helps child care providers integrate children with developmental disabilities into the classroom. UNC-G is offering 3 days of professional development, including meals, materials, substitute pay, and 3 CEUs. The Partnership can cover the cost of meals for Chatham participants if necessary.

Edna is looking for child care centers to participate in NAPSACC. This program involves a 6 month commitment from a center to conduct an assessment, write an action plan, and work toward 2 nutritional goals. It provides incentives and stipends for participants. In the past 6 centers have participated in NAPSACC, including Mason's Child Care Center, Robyn's Nest, Kids First, CCDC, Happy Feet, and Head Start. This year Edna is recruiting 5 centers to participate.

Deborah announced that the Partnership is applying for a Shape NC grant – an initiative to reduce early childhood obesity through increased physical activity, healthy nutrition, and natural learning environments. As part of this grant, we are recruiting 2 child care centers to apply to be model child care centers. Child care centers must be 4 or 5 stars, prepare their own food or have it catered, serve a diverse child population, and be willing to act as a model site for other local child care centers. The selected center will receive training, technical assistance, and a \$3000 stipend. Deborah passed out information and offered to help interested centers write their application.

North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten Program Update

Marianne reviewed the frequently asked questions about North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten Program (NCPK), formerly known as More at Four. The program has been moved from the Department of Public Instruction into the Division of Child Development-Early Education, which is under Department of Health & Human Services.

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In July, Judge Manning ruled that some of the changes made to More at Four were unconstitutional. His ruling said that there can be no barriers that prevent at-risk children from accessing pre-K services in North Carolina. This ruling eliminates the parent fee that was included in the legislation. His ruling has not resulted in additional funding. So, we are expected to serve all at-risk 4 year olds in Chatham County with an allocation that has been decreased by 20% by the NC legislature.

DCD is contacting local 4 and 5 star centers to assess their interest and capability in acting as a NCPK site, including space and teacher credentials. Chatham does not have a contract yet, so we have not been able to give parents much information. DCD-EE expects to give us one by August 16, 2011.

Summer Forum Evaluation

Deborah distributed a summary evaluation of our Summer Provider Forum. Twenty-eight child care providers attending this forum, which focused on changes to Smart Start and More at Four and the implementation of the new SEEK program for subsidy reimbursement. Evaluations ratings were very high, ranging from 4.5 to 4.68 out of 5. People wrote that they would like more training on the Star Rating System and SEEK after it has been implemented. She praised Committee members for their hard work that made this summer forum so successful.

Fall Forums

Committee members agreed that September was too soon to organize a fall forum.

Our first Fall Forum will be on October 10, 2011. Possible topics include social and emotional development, nutrition, physical activity, and building team morale among staff. Barbara Burton volunteered to ask Denise Pickett if she would be willing to give her training, called "We All Play on the Same Team." She could speak for 1 hour. The second hour could focus on nutrition and physical exercise for teachers, helping them serve as role models for children. Edna or Phyllis Smith could give this presentation. Marianne volunteered to help Edna. The October forum will be held at Love's Creek Baptist Church from 6:30 to 8:30. We will not provide food. The Partnership or Child Care Networks could provide contact hours.

If this is too much to cover, we could split the two topics and have team building on October 10 and nutrition/physical activity for teachers on November 14.

Week of the Young Child Parade

Committee Members would like to have another parade to celebrate the Week of the Young Child, which is April 22-28, 2012. We selected Thursday, April 26. The Committee would like to change to location from downtown Pittsboro to the CCCC walking trail. It would be safer at CCCC, but would provide less visibility. Committee members would like to do more marketing, with postcards, flyers, and the chatlist.

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Childcare centers could also have their children make posters for the libraries, banks, and grocery stores.

We could also provide more activities for the children, such as face painting, playdough, painting. The Partnership could bring their trailer. One member suggested that we have 4 stations where children receive a stamp when they participate. It would be difficult for committee members to volunteer because most are teachers who need to supervise their own students. We could recruit volunteers through the early childhood program, who could set this up as a class project. Julie will talk to Ginger about this possibility.

Spring Conference

The Committee decided to begin planning the Spring Conference at the September meeting. Members definitely want to have a conference this year, despite budget cuts. We discussed whether or not to provide lunch. Members decided that we should poll child care providers at the fall forum and send an email to child care directors asking whether they preferred to provide their own lunch or pay a higher registration fee that includes the cost of lunch.

Members also said that the registration fee last year of \$5 early bird special was too low.

Next Meeting

The next FoCC meeting will be at September 12 from 6:30 to 8:00 at CCCC, if available.

Members discussed whether or not we should alternate locations between Pittsboro and Siler City. This issue will be revisited at our September meeting.

As there were no further agenda items, by consensus, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.