

Chatham County Partnership for Children
NC Pre-K Advisory Committee
October 13, 2011
11:30 – 1:30 PM

MINUTES

Members Present: Robyn Allgood, Amber Best, Sue Boyd, Debbie Glosson, Dolly Huffman Clayton, Linda Foxworth, , Cindy King, Carrie Little, Heidi Lineberry, Robin McCoy, Denise Pickett, Erin Suwattana

Members Absent: Charles Aiken, April Alexander, Karen Allen, Angie Brady-Andrew, Beverly Browne, Arvelis Byrd, Kaye Clark, Janis Frasier, Amanda Hazen, Dale Minge, Chad Morgan, Christopher Poston, Amy Rabb, Carla Threadgill, Danielle Tyner

Staff: Genevieve Megginson, Marianne Nicholson, Deborah Day

Welcome/Adopt Agenda/ Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 11:30pm by Co-Chair, Robin McCoy. *Debbie Glosson motioned to adopt the agenda and Cindy King seconded the motion and the agenda was adopted by consensus.*

Cindy King motioned to approve the minutes of the September 14th, 2011 meeting. Debbie Glosson seconded the motion and the minutes were approved by consensus.

Announcements and Updates

Robin McCoy announced that Carrie and Cindy gave a presentation on Chatham County School's Pre-K program to the Chatham School Board on October 10, 2011.

Marianne announced that she included an article from *Time Magazine* about how funding for Pre-K dropped across the United States for the first time in a decade in the United States. It summarizes the PEW report. The PEW study on Pre-K urges changing our current educational model (K-12) to PreK – 12. These articles are posted on the blog.

Genevieve announced that North Carolina is applying for a Race to the Top grant, which focuses on early childhood. North Carolina has a very good chance of receiving this grant because we have made a lot of progress in the designated priority areas. This grant would be \$70 million over 4 years. It would go through the Governor's Office and would focus on evidence-based programs and regional needs. Consequently, Chatham County might or might not receive funding. Genevieve discussed the grant requirements with the Chatham NC Pre-K Committee.

Genevieve announced that the Chatham Partnership is sponsoring a Leading for Equity Retreat on October 18 in the evening, October 19 all day, and October 20 until 2 pm. This retreat will examine the structural conditions that ensure equity, focusing on issues affecting young children, age 0-5. Registration will be open through October 14. The Chatham Partnership will organize the event and recruit participants. We are looking for broad representation. The national training group will facilitate the workshop. Please let Genevieve know if either you or someone else would like to participate in this retreat.

Erin announced that the phones at Child Care Networks have been down. She also mentioned that the quality Subsidy program will be taking people off the waiting list soon.

Denise Pickett has joined our NC Pre-K Committee as a parent representative.

Robyn McCoy said that at the last Chatham County Schools Board meeting, one member suggested that the Chatham Schools Pre-K connect with the PTA Thrift Shop. Currently, the thrift shop raises funds for K-12. In Moncure, Debbie Glosson volunteers at the PTA, so her classroom has received funds. Parents receive a form that provides an option to volunteer or donate. This could be a model for other schools that have pre-K classrooms.

Winner's Fest

Genevieve announced that the Chatham Partnership will have a fundraiser on February 4, 2012. It will be a cash raffle – “Winner’s Fest”. The grand prize will be \$2500 and only 200 tickets will be sold. Tickets cost \$50 and include a dinner plus entertainment. People can buy an extra dinner for a guest for \$10. There will also be a live auction. Please let Genevieve know if you have any auction items to donate. You do not have to be present to win. You can buy tickets from any Partnership staff or board member.

Shape NC

Deborah gave an update on the Chatham Shape NC project. The Advisory Committee began community planning at our Shape NC Kick-Off on Monday, October 3. The Committee will meet on the following **Wednesdays from 12:00 to 2:00 pm:**

- November 2, 2011
- December 7, 2011
- January 4, 2012

The Community Action Plan is due on January 30, 2012.

Deborah, Marianne, and Amber Best attended the Natural Learning Institute on October 6 & 7. It was a great training geared toward early childhood educators. They offered both informative workshops and outdoor hands-on training.

Robyn’s Nest will host a site visit with staff from the Natural Learning Initiative on Tuesday, November 15. This site visit will include a community meeting at noon. NLI staff will give a presentation at this time and child care providers and community members are welcome to attend.

Deborah announced that *Kids Eat Smart Move More* grants are available for child care centers and homes to improve nutrition and physical activity for children. Many children spend a lot of time in child care and child care providers can help children develop healthy habits early. Eligible sites must participate in the CACFP and be in good standing with the State Agency. The application is due on November 3, 2011. Deborah emailed the application to several child care providers in Chatham County.

Fundraising Appeal

The Fundraising letters to local banks, large businesses, churches, and foundations to offset the costs of supplies and the on-line early childhood assessment system - CreativeCurriculum.net. So far, we have raised \$150.00.

Budget Plan Review

Genevieve reviewed the financial status report with the Committee.

At their October meeting, the Chatham Partnership for Children Board approved two additional Smart Start subsidy slots (20 instead of 18). These slots have been assigned to Robyn's Nest.

Genevieve noted that this action may result in the availability of operation funds in the NC Pre-K budget. If so, staff suggested the purchase of the on-line subscriptions for the creative curriculum. *Sue Boyd motioned that we allocate available operation funds for cc.net. Cindy King seconded this motion. It was approved by consensus.*

DCDEE Updates

The Chatham Partnership for Children submitted a request to DCDEE for 37 additional slots on October 1. On October 10, Governor Purdue made a request to the NC General Assembly for additional funding for NC Pre-K starting in January. We have posted the Governor's letter on the Partnership blog with DCDEE's NC Pre-K compliance plan and Judge Manning's ruling.

Governor Perdue has identified other sources of funds. But, she says that they cannot fund NC Pre-K with funds from other educational programs, including Smart Start and K-12 education.

Most counties have filled their slots. Like Chatham, they are also serving children with subsidy funds or carry-over funds. These kids are not counted in the NC Pre-K database. For instance, in Chatham, we are serving 215 children through NC Pre-K, 20 children through Smart Start subsidy, and 7 children on carryover funds. In total, we are serving 242 children this year, but only 215 are entered in the NC Pre-K database.

Program Coordination Report

Marianne presented a detailed child data report for September from the NC Pre-K database, including racial demographics, US citizenship, eligibility, and TANF designation. For instance, out of 240 children, there are only 5 children who are eligible, but not at-risk. They might be eligible due to limited English proficiency, a chronic health condition, a developmental or educational need as indicated by an approved developmental screening tool, or at least one parent who is in the military. Individual county NC Pre-K committees had the option of charging non-military parents of eligible, but not at-risk children a fee - but the Committee voted not to assess this fee.

All 2011-2012 Chatham NC Pre-K students are US citizens.

Marianne noted that NC Pre-K data indicates families as eligible for TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) based on income only. This does not mean all are TANF eligible because NC Pre-K does not require documentation and tracking of parent employment status.

Committee members discussed the data as well as the different categories

Site Monitoring

Marianne announced that she has distributed the site monitoring tool to Principals, Directors, and Lead Teachers. It is due on October 31, 2011. The tool requires documentation. After the sites

submit their monitoring tool, Marianne will conduct a monitoring visit. The tool must be signed by a Principal, Director, or designated signatory.

There are three separate entities conducting site monitoring of NC Pre-K sites. DCDEE is working on minimizing this duplication.

FY 2011-2012 Meeting Schedule

The NC Pre-K Committee's meeting schedule for FY 11-12 is:

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.