

Durham PreK Governance Committee Meeting NOTES

Jim and Carolyn Hunt Early Childhood Resource Center

November 18, 2021 (9:30am-11:30am)

In Attendance:

Voting Members: Deric Boston, Cathy Collie-Robinson, Dr. Wykeshia Glass, Dr. Nakia Hardy, Sharon Hirsch, Dr. Iheoma Iruka, Michelle Lynn, Beth Messersmith, June Shillito, Darnella Warthen, Drew Cummings for Acting County Manager Claudia Hager, Ben Rose

Non-voting Members: Tosh Adams, Marsha Basloe, Linda Chappel, Cate Elander, Jena Fuchs, Brittany Gregory, Monnie Griggs, Danielle Johnson, Marina Mendoza, Melinda Rodriguez, Katie Thayer

| WHAT | NOTES |
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| Welcome and Introductions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and Introductions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ YouTube livestream ○ Verified quorum ○ Peggy Ball recognition for her contribution to DPK. She is rotating off the committee. ○ Welcome new Governance Members, Sharon Hirsch, Chair of Child Care Services Association Board of Directors ○ Welcome new DPK team members: Jenna Fuchs (DPK Manager), and Tosh Adams (Outreach and Family Coordinator) |
| Meeting Objectives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve meeting notes from September 2021 • Share program updates • Receive a program review, vote on spending • Share survey data from SY22 PreK Applicants • Discuss Future Funding Priorities for local ARPA request |
| Action Taken | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance approved the meeting notes from September 23, 2021 |
| DPK Updates* | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review highlights from handout <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Received 1867 applications through our online application system ○ 1038 placements/offers ○ 853 families accepting placements ○ Community outreach efforts are ongoing ○ Higher “turn down” rate at DPS and at certain private sites; reasons related to perceived crime and safety concerns ○ Challenges w/ wrap care and transportation |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff will take a deep dive to analyze the data for seats that families turned down ● Some providers that intended to offer wrap care decided not to because of staffing shortages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staffing shortage is creating challenges w/ wrap care (before and after school care). ○ The technical assistance (TA) team is working with providers on identifying strategies and providing support as they try to recruit and hire staff ● Continuing with intensive TA and professional development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Since August we provided 86 hours of professional development for our teacher and directors to participate ○ Making the Most of Classroom Interactions (MMCI). 12 session course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 42 teachers trained in MMCI ○ 15 Directors trained to become a CLASS observer ● Durham PreK track for the ASK Conference in February 19-22, 2022 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Creating Strategies and Enhancing Strategies for Teaching Teams <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Teachers and Teacher Assistants working together to ensure equity and inclusion in the classroom ● We are receiving applications for our capacity building component of technical assistance ● Systems and oversights – Survey Monkey Apply to enhance and work on the system to make it more family friendly and being able to access more data. We are working on the application system for 2022-2023. Enrollment opens Feb 8 online for SY 22-23 ● In August, the Governance committee waived parent fees in alignment with DCDEE’s waiver of subsidy parent co-pays. |
| Current Durham PreK Enrollment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DPK is paying providers based upon allocations and not on enrollment numbers ● We want to continue supporting our providers, but there is concern about paying based on allocations. We want to encourage our providers to fill the available seats. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There was discussion about possibly providing reimbursement at a partial rate to balance our various goals of supporting providers, but still giving them an incentive to fill seats. ● Enrollment and the vacancy rate across our early childhood system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In Orange County there is a 46% decrease in enrollment ● As we plan for next year we will study our funding model <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Analyze how we want to move forward with payment, because this issue of vacancies is always a challenge in Public Pre-K ● Given the pandemic, 85% enrollment for braided seats this school year. Last year at this time, we only had 57% enrollment for braided seats. |
| 2021-2022 Budget Update | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The NC Budget – funds an average 6.7% raise for public school teachers over the biennium <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The DPK Teacher Supplement will rise ○ We will provide back payment to July 1 |

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| Teacher Supplements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compensation support payments started 5% of teachers monthly salary and zero years' experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The supplement increases by 1% each years and then by 1.5% and 3% in later years. • The State increased the base reimbursement rate for NC Pre-K <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2% increase, \$12.40 per child, per month ○ Only for private childcare ○ Not inclusive of public seats that are head start or public schools ○ In January we will provide an analysis of the impact of increase to our budget <p><u>NC Pre-K Smart Start Match Payment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durham PreK pays an enhanced rate locally per child with Durham County funds due to higher program requirements. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$1250 per child, per month. • Durham PreK also pays the match payment for some NC Pre-K seats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increases the payment from \$620 to \$944 per child, per month • Durham PreK blends the funding sources to pay \$1250 per child, per month whenever possible to maximize the number of children served • Our goal with the additional teacher support payments is to encourage providers to hire the most qualified teacher. |
| 2021-2022 Budget Motion for Approval | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In August, Governance voted to follow NCDCEE guidance and pay on allocated spaces rather than enrollment through November 2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We were charged with monitoring enrollment and NCDCEE guidance ○ NCDCEE has confirmed they will pay on allocation rather than enrollment through the rest of this school year ○ The motion at the August meeting was not specific enough. We need to vote to confirm your intent for payment methodology for the rest of the school year • New motion to pay on allocated spaces for the rest of the school year |
| Action Taken | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion passed to align with NCDCEE guidance and pay on allocated spaces for the remainder of the school year |
| Quality Subcommittee | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Marina Mendoza gave a brief update on the work of the Quality Subcommittee. • Looking to recruit new members • The next Quality Subcommittee meeting is on January 13th 10am – Noon |
| DPfC → NC Pre-K Fall 2021 Parent Survey | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent survey on application process, placement and overall experience • Fall 2021 Parent Survey • Survey ran from Oct. 1st – Oct. 15th • 253 responses. 218 in English and 35 in Spanish. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offered gift cards to encourage participation • Questions evaluated strengths and barriers for ease of application, enrollment, placement and Pre-K site experience • Ease of Application <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 83% of families were satisfied or very satisfied with the ease of the application process • Acceptance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 92% of families that completed the survey accepted placements and their child(ren) are attending • First Choice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 80 % of families received their top choice • Barriers on application, notifications and placement experiences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Application/Notifications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Uploading documents ▪ Timing of notification ▪ Need earlier program placement ▪ Gaps in communication ○ Placement Experiences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need transportation ▪ Location too far ▪ Need wrap care ▪ More communication needed • Reasons for Placement Decline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Location concerns – neighborhoods, concern for safety ○ Need extended hours (wrap care) ○ Location too far • How many providers offer wrap care? Fewer are providing wrap during the staffing shortages caused by the pandemic. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We are completing a review of options for extended care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Taking a deep dive on wrap care and potential incentives for providers to offer wrap care |
| <p>Planning for DPK</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For SY2023 Governance will request ARPA funding to expand DPK <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Group break-out session for 20 minutes, 4 groups ○ Group discussion, How can ARPA funds be used to support Durham PreK and implementation of equity plan priorities? • Group 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Before and after care support ○ One-time county wide study on transportation so we're ready when build back better comes out |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Differential of salary for teachers and teacher assistants who speak Spanish ○ Incentives for vaccinations ● Group 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wrap Care and transportation feasibility study ● Group 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Feasibility analysis about transportation ○ Deal with barriers to access before expansion, perfecting our approach to the 4-year old program before expanding to 3s ○ How can we leverage funding to address the wait time between application and placements? ● Group 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Transportation ○ Cost assessment for transportation services at the site level ○ Increasing the number of Spanish speaking teachers ○ Positions we can create for Spanish Speakers that do not have a BK license ○ Creating and cultivating partnership with DPS and Durham Tech to recruit bilingual students into the early childhood field ○ Add to the reimbursement model, funds to help lower the wrap care cost for families |
| Summary and Adjournments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Future Meeting Dates 9:30am – 11:30am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ January 20, 2022 ○ March 17, 2022 ○ May 19, 2022 |

*** Agenda items with handouts**