



Making Young Children a Priority!
Durham's Partnership for Children
Board of Directors Meeting
March 20, 2008

Board members present:

Skip Auld	Ilene Britt	Cheryl Brown	Bill Bryant
Wendy Burnette	Linda Chappel	Dave Clark	DeeDee Fields
Rebecca Freeman	Joe Haenn	Marilyn Hedgepeth	Deborah Horvitz
Kirsten Kainz	Ellen Reckhow	Delphine Sellars	Carolyn Titus
Annie Vample	Barbara VanDewoestine	Marlo Walston	Rhonda Stevens for Sammy Haitcock
Angie Welsh			

Board members excused:

Michael Palmer	Rhonda Parker	Diane Rupprecht	

Board members absent:

Debbie Pitman	Ellen Holliman		

Staff present:

Marsha Basloe	Vicki Rawlings	Bill James	Karine Stallings	
Jameka Wells	Sally Bond	Steve Toler		
Cindy Riley	Kate Irish	Terri Cirillo		
Ted Whiteside	Trish Vandersea	Sarah Wolf		

I. CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 3:07pm by Angie Welsh

II. INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Angie Welsh, Vice Chair, welcomed everyone and advised she will be sitting in for Michael Palmer today. Two announcements: Congratulated Ellen Reckhow on receiving the Dorothy Graham Award for Leadership in Child Care by CCSA at CCSA's Triangle Breakfast. Also; congratulations to Durham's Partnership for Children on receiving a clean audit from the Office of State Auditor. Cheryl Brown announced that Brown's Daycare received 5 stars under the new two component rating system. Skip Auld announced that the early literacy project will be on hold temporarily due to a promotion of the person who was to take charge of the project.

III. CONSENT AGENDA:

Review of minutes from January meeting, Spending analysis, MAF selection criteria updated, fixed assets approval (Handouts) Joe Haenn asked to remove the Health Dept. Asset from the consent agenda.

Motion to approve the consent agenda (without Health Department Laptop)

Motion: Bill Bryant Second: Marilyn Hedgepeth Motion carried
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Discussion of Asset: Joe questioned is there an insurance claim pending from the stolen laptop at the health department. Ellen advised that they are self insured. Joe stated that we cannot remove an asset that has some value and not get that value back. Marsha will investigate and bring to the Executive Committee next month and then back to the Board.

IV. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS: There were no agenda modifications requested.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: No public comment.

VI. REPORTS AND UPDATES:

- Board Giving Campaign 07/08 Update
Pleased to announce that the Board has received 100% commitment. Board of Directors will receive recognition at the Smart Start conference for past and present 100% Board giving.
- Allocations Committee: Recommendation for reverted funds
Barbara – In January of each year we ask the Funded Partners to complete a Mid-Year Explanation Form if they are spending below 50%. They explain how they plan on spending funds or if they will revert funds. This year five activities reverted funds for a total of \$58,677. The Allocations committee was charged with recommending to the Partnership Board on how to spend the reverted funds. The Allocations Committee met in February to discuss the allocation of reverted funds.

Wendy asked what the funds for Program were for. Marsha explained there were added costs for the Northern Durham Task Force Report and focus groups and research on EDU 10.

Question: Why are there no funds going towards subsidy this year? DACCA still has funds for 700 families this year. Darnella – Unable to connect with enough families. In September received a larger allocation than usual (\$1 million) set aside for provider market rate increase but there were a number of providers who did not apply for the increase. In September and October there were a lot of vouchers that did not come back. Parent fees and the differential over the market rate (that 4 and 5 star centers charge) is an issue. Some families cannot afford to pay the parent fees and/or site differential fees. Some families are not employed and we are employee based, but using the United Way funds for a 30 day period. In the process of compiling data and getting the information out to the community that there are funds available and the income guidelines have increased. Article ran in the Herald Sun and News & Observer.

Significant discussion followed. Synopses of comments: Flyer might need to say income has increased. Look at subsidizing children's deposits for the summer - giving a voucher for the deposit payment in June. Reaching out at grocery stores, target employers, churches. Use radio announcements and notifying other partners. Differential for special needs children. Some parents lost their vouchers mid-year because they made a couple of dollars over the amount allowed for subsidy. Ellen – We have resources but not enough clients, trying to get children in quality childcare might not be happening.

Would like a report next board meeting on spending, the impact of the market rate increase – sites that did not respond, data on the funds estimated for the increased market rate and the funds that were used, the number of sites who did not receive the increase and the number of children impacted, efforts made to have sites receive the increase and information and the steps to obtain the increase. Data to support the increased need of parents who cannot afford parent fees and the data to support the number of families who apply and are not working.

Angie reviewed areas of report requested to understand subsidy spending and everyone recommended it go to Executive Committee. April 1st was set as the date for the report to Marsha.

The recommendation from the Allocations Committee is to reallocate \$54,677 to WAGES and \$4,000 to DPFC Program and Evaluation.

Motion: Allocations Committee Second: Bill Bryant Abstained: Linda Chappel Motion carried
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- Program & Evaluation

Annual Smart Start Plan - Kate Irish (Handout of Annual Plan)

Annual Smart Start Plan due to NCPC March 21st. Included in the plan are the Contract Activity Plans (CADs) that NCPC must approve.

Kate Irish provided an overview of the Annual Plan that was included in the Board Packets and was e-mailed out in advance of the meeting. The Annual Plan is the document that the Partnership completes each year and is submitted to NCPC for approval. It contains all of the funded activities for FY 08/09. There were some changes to the Annual Plan process this year. Much of the process now occurs online through a web based interface and via e-mail. The Annual Plan includes CADs (Contract Activity Descriptions) for all of the activities. This year NCPC has replaced FADs (Full Activity Descriptions) which were narratives with logic models. NCPC asked that we submit logic models for all family support activities. In addition to requiring logic models for the family support activities, NCPC will be carefully scrutinizing these activities as they are increasing their focus on parenting skills activities using evidence based curricula with model fidelity. It is likely that one or more of these activities will be approved for one year of funding only. The FAMOSA activity specifically will be one that NCPC will ask us to work on since there is no curriculum currently being utilized. There was a question about whether the funded partners were aware of these changes and Kate indicated that Partnership staff had been working with the Funded Partners since the summer about this transition. This is the main reason that Welcome Baby pursued the Incredible Years activity.

A question was raised by Ellen Reckhow regarding the child poverty rate that was included in one of the activities in the Annual Plan. There was discussion about the alarmingly high rate of child poverty in Durham (22% for children 0-5). It was noted that Child Care subsidy is provided to families with significantly higher incomes than the Federal Poverty Level which is what the child poverty rate refers to. Ilene Britt asked if homeless children were captured in these figures but it was unclear whether the Census data included homeless families in their survey. We need an assessment on what services should be targeted to help those kids – would like a special committee to get our arm around the issue. Discussion followed. Kirsten Kainz highlighted that the Duke University-School Research Partnership Office might be an avenue to pursue in examining the early childhood poverty rate.

Kate indicated that the Annual Plan also includes several new activities. The Partnership always includes several new activities in case it receives additional funds from the State. In addition, the Modified PBIS work plan is the last document within the Annual Plan.

This is the document that the Partnership submits to NCPC describing efforts it is undertaking to address PBIS criteria that are currently not being met. There was significant conversation at the last Board meeting regarding the Health Check efforts and the updated data indicate that for next year, we will be meeting the minimum standard.

Approval of Annual Smart Start Plan

Motion: Barbara VanDewoestine

Second: Ellen Reckhow

Motion carried

- Mid-Year Evaluation Review (Handout)
Joe Haenn – Committee met to review the mid-year evaluation report which summarizes and gives feedback on how we are progressing
Sally Bond – The funded partners submit quarterly counts reports but the activity narratives and related outcomes only submitted mid-year and year-end. The Evaluation report summarizes/reviews data reported mid-year for Smart Start Activities that are funded by Durham's Partnership for Children. The mid-year report provides a summary of progress to date in – Numbers of direct and indirect recipients, outcomes, referrals and collaborative activities.
Data on EDU10 efforts (Handouts)
Linda Chappel – There are a lot of challenges presently trying to achieve a network of support to move providers to a higher goal and provide quality childcare to every child. Working toward improving lead teacher points in Durham but cannot be done quickly. One of the pushes towards education is the 2 component licensure. One of the long term statewide projects is T.E.A.C.H. which provides early childhood professional development and scholarships. WAGES is another project that has improved retention and increased provider education.
Significant discussion followed on efforts to improve education and retention of teachers. This led to discussion of the White Paper on Pre-K Expansion that the Partnership submitted to the County. Public School teachers tend to have higher education but lower classroom environment. Private childcare is higher on environment and lower on teacher education. Dr. Harris is submitting expansion in his school budget for an increase of 36 slots at DPS. Discussion around whether the school sites were licensed. At this point they are not licensed. For this reason, they also do not receive the maximum amount from MAF. It was suggested that we discuss this further with the schools in light of adding slots at the public schools.
- Community Awareness
Dave Clark – 5 new members added to the Community Awareness Committee. Committee is looking at the community alignment plan and how they can engage the community. April 13-19th is the week of the young child. April 16th volunteers will be reading to young children at 8 different centers. March 26th BC/BS will host the Corporate Champions for Children meeting. April 4th DPFC will receive a proclamation from City Council and later will receive a proclamation from the County Commissioners.

VII. Executive Director Report

The Partnership responded to the NCPC PBIS letter that we were not meeting the Health Check PBIS – data shows that we are now on track to meet the Health Check PBIS. DPDC received a clean audit this year and it was the first year that the audit was done by an outside agency. Marsha thanked the staff for their work to have a clean audit.

The MAF plan will be submitted to the Office of School Readiness in April. We believe there will be additional slots during this budget but the expansion slots will not be part of the plan as we will not have that information until April. Ellen asked for a report/analysis of comparative data from other large counties on how they support pre-k slots. Marsha said she would try to complete a comparison. It is difficult as it is comparing apples and oranges as counties are funded differently as Smart Start agencies as well as MAF administrators. In fact, Mecklenburg runs their MAF through the schools. There was discussion about the large number in Guilford, a larger county with a larger Head Start and a lower Smart Start funding amount. Durham has focused on having a

high quality MAF program to meet the guidelines rather than take additional dollars for slots that will not be able to meet the high quality standards. The MAF standards are more rigorous than the 5 stars of the rated license. We have also not increased in large numbers as we do not know what will happen to MAF once the Governor is out of office. Durham lost \$3M when Governor Hunt was no longer in office. We do not want to reduce services in our community.

Marsha shared with Board the Development grants report. The community received a \$250,000 two year grant on breast feeding in the African American Community (Rebecca Freeman participated in the grant development also)

Invitation to Board to attend the Smart Start dinner May 8th.

Reviewed the twelve ways to advocate for early childhood with Board (handout) There was discussion of the Legislative Session and May 20th as Tuesdays for Tots to speak to the legislators. Marsha and Michael are meeting with the Governor's office to discuss Smart Start in the Governor's budget.

Meeting adjourned at 4:58pm