



***Making Young Children a Priority!***  
**Durham's Partnership for Children**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**August 20, 2009**

**Board members present:**

Skip Auld	Cheryl Brown	Bill Bryant	Wendy Burnette
Danielle Caldwell	Linda Chappel	Drew Cummings	DeeDee Fields
Joe Haenn	Marilyn Hedgpeth	Dr. Kirsten Kainz	Michael Palmer
Ellen Reckhow	Eunice Saunders	Timothy Sinclair	Annie Vample
Barbara VanDewoestine	Angie Welsh	Michele Easterling for Rebecca Freeman	Pat Harris for Delphine Sellars
Rueben Wall for Rhonda Parker	Jovetta Whitfield		

**Board members excused:**

Ilene Britt	Dave Clark	Rob Robinson	Diane Rupprecht
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**WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:** The meeting was called to order at 3:07pm with a quorum. The chair welcomed a number of guests, including:

- Frances Dyer, the new Early Childhood Faith Initiative Coordinator,
- Reuben Wall, representing Rhonda Parker,
- Michele Easterling, representing Rebecca Freeman,
- Pat Harris, representing Delphine Sellars,
- Jovetta Whitfield, Interim DSS Director,
- Eunice Sanders, who will be replacing Dr. Debbie Pitman on the Board of Directors, and
- Timothy Sinclair, the new Head Start Director.

Carolyn Titus is retiring from the board; she was given an award certificate and thanked for her services as a board member. Drew Cummings replaces Carolyn Titus as the new designee for the County Manager.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** The consent agenda was reviewed, including: a review of minutes of the May meeting, the Executive Committee Action Items (June & July), the 08-09 Monitoring: Smart Start and More at Four, the spending analysis of 08 – 09 and the Spending analysis of 09 – 10.

**It was moved to approve the consent agenda.**

Motion: Marilyn Hedgpeth

Second: Bill Bryant

Conflicted: None

**The motion was approved unanimously.**

**AGENDA MODIFICATIONS:** There were no agenda modifications.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

Sharon Fingerhut from Tutor Time Child Care spoke about the More at Four slot compensation changes that are on a sliding scale based upon the star rating combined with having a B-K teacher being an incentive. Ms. Fingerhut suggested that it would better reflect the quality of the More at Four classrooms to have the sliding scale be based upon the Environmental Rating Scale and whether a site has a B-K teacher, not star ratings. Deborah Bryson from Bryson Christian Montessori spoke about the situation in Durham County with 2,000 children on the waitlist for child care and urged the board to view the current situation as a crisis. Written comments were provided for the record.

**REPORTS & UPDATES:**

**Capital Development Feasibility Report.** Ann Thomas of Capital Development Services presented information on the Fundraising Assessment Study that was commissioned by the Partnership to look at the Partnership's readiness for entering new development efforts to raise additional dollars outside of the legislative dollars. Ann mentioned the strengths of the organization including its fiscal oversight and perception in the community. Ann reported that the Executive Director and the Board were strong, but the board that has been chosen is a policy board, not a fundraising board. The three areas that were identified for a major gifts area are innovation (an emerging needs fund), early childhood policy, and operational support to have a development officer. There was discussion of the current needs in Durham County and whether something could be done for the needs now. It was pointed out that in order to do something like this in the future; an effort had to be made now to establish funds that would generate discretionary funds. As a Partnership, the board and staff push the importance of early quality child care in the long-term picture; it was urged for the board to take a long-term view of the major gifts endowment in order to provide future funds for situations such as this.

**It was moved to move forward with the next steps to enter into a planning phase for major gifts development efforts to raise additional dollars outside of legislative dollars**

Motion: Marilyn Hedgpeth  
Second: Ellen Reckhow  
Conflicted: None

**The motion was passed by majority, with one against.**

**More at Four:** The More at Four School Readiness Committee approved three recommendations for the board to be voted upon:

- Request for Additional Slots: The Committee voted to request 31 slots. The Partnership learned that it can now receive 27 slots because of the smaller cut across the state. The Committee would like to request the full 31 slots that mean 4 more slots than allowed if they become available.

**The SR/MAF Committee moved to request the additional 31 slots to the Office of School Readiness on behalf of Durham County.**

Motion: SR/MAF Committee  
Second: Barbara VanDewoestine  
Conflicted: Cheryl Brown, Joe Haenn, Marilyn Hedgpeth, Kirsten Kainz, Eunice Sanders, Timothy Sinclair, Annie Vample

**The motion was approved unanimously.**

- Tiered Reimbursement Rates: The issue of tiered reimbursement has been shown to push quality. The Board expressed an interest in wanting more data. With the new entry to kindergarten data to be obtained this year, the partnership hopes to have additional data to review in the future.

**The SR/MAF Committee moved to approve the reimbursement rates outlined in the handout be approved for the 09-10 fiscal year in order to meet the policy approved for a tiered MAF reimbursement rate supporting the star rating system and having B-K teachers.**

Motion: SR/MAF Committee

Second: Ellen Reckhow

Conflicted: Cheryl Brown, Joe Haenn, Marilyn Hedgpeth, Kirsten Kainz, Eunice Sanders, Timothy Sinclair, Annie Vample

**The motion was approved unanimously.**

The SR/MAF Committee will review rate criteria options during the year for recommendation for the future.

- Combined Strategies Approach: MAF funds presented as part of a combined funding strategies to support high quality pre-kindergarten.

**The SR/MAF Committee moved to approve the combined strategies funding outlined in the handout be approved.**

Motion: SR/MAF Committee

Second: Barbara VanDewoestine

Conflicted: Cheryl Brown, Joe Haenn, Marilyn Hedgpeth, Kirsten Kainz, Eunice Sanders, Timothy Sinclair, Annie Vample

**The motion was approved unanimously.**

Marsha encouraged the Board to review the two reports that Danielle Johnson had completed on the growth and performance of the MAF Program in Durham County. Two documents were presented: 08-09 Executive Summary and MAF Guidelines Review.

**TASK FORCE ON ETHICS CODE:** Diane Rupprecht and Harold Sellars will be working on the task force on the ethics code, and they will include any other persons they feel necessary to review the documents. The issue of ethics is an issue on which we need to develop more solid policies and procedures. NCPC is also taking it on within the context of the management of its own entity and the Partnerships around the state. Harold has been appointed as the chair of the committee to look at governance at NCPC. More information will follow. Ellen Reckhow requested that they look at the confidentiality policy as she thought it was too broad regarding budget information and bid proposals.

**ANNUAL MEETING AND BOARD RETREAT:** The Annual Meeting and Board Retreat will be held at the Durham Hilton near Duke University and will run from 8:00am until 2:30pm (the Annual Meeting will be from 8-10am, and the retreat will follow until 2:30pm). Dr. Valora Washington from the CAYL Institute in Boston will be the keynote speaker. She works with early childhood and elementary school principals. The Board Retreat will follow; there are two consultants putting together work regarding the Partnership's fifteen years of existence to help the Partnership move to the next stage as an organization – to evaluate where the Board is and give it a push to move forward. Materials will be sent out closer to the date of the event.

**BOARD GIVING CAMPAIGN 09 – 10:** For the last number of years, the Partnership has had a volunteer host the Board Giving Reception the second week in November. Volunteers who would like to host this event were encouraged to see Marsha. In addition, last year Board voted to have the Board/Staff Giving Campaign go toward the development of a children's endowment (the major gifts campaign discussed). \$4100 was raised in 08-09 with a two year goal of \$10,000. This is the second year of this commitment, and it is hoped that the Board and Staff will continue to be generous to reach the \$10,000 goal. The Partnership will then be able to assert that its staff and board members have made a personal commitment to this long range endowment plan.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Ellen Reckhow presented the slate of officers for FY 09-10. The slate is being distributed in advance according to the Partnership by-laws and will be voted on at the Annual Meeting. New Board members will also be presented for membership at the Annual Meeting.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Marsha presented the ED report. Marsha highlighted issues regarding the current budget and how although our expected cut is to be about 10% but with stipulations on funding for subsidy in order to draw down the ARRA funds for NC, estimated at \$ million. Based on the NCPC decision on allocations, the partnership will need to put approximately \$112,000 or \$245,000 into subsidy to support the funding for the stimulus match. NCPC's Executive Committee will make this decision September 3<sup>rd</sup> and we hope to have our allocation before the September Executive Committee. If there are still unallocated funds following the information from NCPC, these funds should remain unallocated at this time for anticipated cuts. There are other issues pending, such as the fact that the Governor has asked for 5% in budget cuts. There may be future cuts from NCPC. The impact is not fully known yet.

We have received the year end report from Docs for Tots, and we are still working with the Duke Pediatric Residency Program to raise money for the continuation of this program. Suzette Brown, a pediatric resident and potential board member was introduced. Marsha reported on a meeting at the Chamber called by the State Treasurer on the Bank on North Carolina program, a program geared towards getting North Carolina families to be banked and to provide financial literacy. It will be an important step in having families have financial literacy as we continue to plan for Children's Savings Accounts efforts.

Additionally, included in the Board packets were the key messages regarding the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Partnership for the board member's references. Karine explained these Talking Points. There will be multiple opportunities to highlight the 15 years of the organization. Sponsorship materials for the annual meeting were made available to all board members and members were asked to help recruit sponsors.

**LETTER TO NCPC:** A letter has been drafted to NCPC regarding the cuts facing Durham County. It was passed out to Board members, and there were no objections to sending the letter.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn.

**It was moved to adjourn at 5:07pm**

Motion: Bill Bryant

Second: Barbara VanDewoestine

Conflicted: None.

**The meeting adjourned at 5:07pm.**

**ANNUAL MEETING October 15, 2009 8:00 am**

**BOARD RETREAT OCTOBER 15, 2009 – Following Annual Meeting until 2:30 pm**