



**Board Meeting
March 20, 2014**

Board members present:

Bob Ashley	Patrick Hannah	Rebecca Freeman	Barbara VanDewoestine
Ilene Britt	Linzie Atkins	Teresa Daye	Joy Sotolongo
Dinah Parker	Leigh Bordley	Drew Cummings	Linda Chappel
Karen O'Mansky	Kara Turner		

Board members absent/excused:

Tammy Baggett	Michael Becketts	Brenda Berlin	Danielle Caldwell
David Covington	Sharnetta Baker	Terry David	Tamara Loza
Ann Oshel	Michael Page	Rhonda Parker	David Reese
Daniel Robinson	Delphine Sellars	Ashley Taylor	

Agenda Item	Summary of Discussion	Motion	Action
Call to order	The meeting was called to order at 3:11pm with a quorum.		
Introductions and Announcements	<p>-Kara Turner announced that Primary Colors (Dixon Road) is under contract with the NC State University Natural Learning Initiative to design an outdoor learning environment. The board is invited to a community meeting about the project on April 2nd at 6:30in the Large Conference Room.</p> <p>-On February 15th Patrick and Takeila Hannah welcomed a baby girl into the world. Partnership staff gave him a congratulatory card.</p> <p>-Laura announced that the Partnership is one of 12 finalists (out of 44 applicants) for an innovation grant from the Triangle Community Foundation. The grant recipients (4) will be chosen by daily online vote counts, and the board is encouraged to vote.</p> <p>-The Partnership is also participating in the Great Human Race and the Board has the opportunity to help raise \$3,000 for dental kits. During Teach for America week, Laura was an invited as a community leader to teach a kindergarten class session at Maureen Joy, using the theme of running and racing. The kindergarteners made a race shirt for Laura.</p> <p>-Linzie announced that each board member has been given a Board Meeting Evaluation Form. He asked the Board to use it to record feedback as the meeting progresses.</p>		
Consent Agenda -1/16/14 minutes -Spending analyses Feb 2014 -Durham Early Head Start Monthly Report -Executive Committee Motions 2/27/14	-The board inquired about the low Smart Start spending rate for Communities in Schools. Staff explained that due to the fall timing of the full allocation going into contract, they began their program year using funding from another grant source. They are expected to spend all of their allocation by the end of the fiscal year and there are no additional concerns.	It was moved to approve the consent agenda. Motion: Bob Ashley Second: Ilene Britt Not voting due to conflict of interest: None	Motion carried

Agenda modifications	-Linzie took this opportunity to express appreciation for staff. He thanked Laura for her leadership and the staff for all of their hard work. He highlighted clean audits and program reviews on the federal and state levels as one example of strong performance.		
Public Comment	None		
Smart Start -'14-'15 Annual Submission of Activities -Allocations Committee Update	-As chair of the Allocations Committee, Barbara reported on the Annual Submission of Activities (ASA) , which summarizes the program activities that will be considered for Smart Start funding in FY 14-15. The only difference from the prior year is that the Partnership's in-house Community Awareness activity chose not to apply for Smart Start fund support. This ASA is sent to NCPC for approval prior to the new year contracting process. -Barbara also presented the Allocations Committee Update on the 2 nd year funding process in our two year cycle. The committee reviews performance on proposed outcomes and goals, as reflected in the program proposals. At the next meeting, the committee will consider the funded partners' responses to the committee's request for additional information on items that needed more clarification. Some partners have requested funding increases for FY 14-15, often reflecting additional staffing needs or compensation increases.	It was moved to approve the Annual Submission of Activities Motion: Drew Cummings Second: Leigh Bordley Not voting due to conflict of interest: None	Motion carried
School Readiness- Program Presentations -NC Pre-K Program -Transition to Kindergarten -Faith Initiative	-Danielle Johnson presented an interactive program overview of NC Pre-K . She recognized board members Drew Cummings, Ilene Britt, and Linda Chappell who serve on the NCPK/School Readiness Committee. She described that NC Pre-K provides high quality educational experiences for income eligible 4 year olds, those with health needs, limited English, etc. Durham delivers NCPK in partnership with 12 private child care sites, 7 Durham Public School classrooms, and 2 Head Start locations. Durham has 420 slots and an additional 39 expansion slots for a total of 459. High quality classrooms have a BK licensed teacher and assistant teachers with associate degrees or higher, state approved curriculum, maintain a ratio of 1 teacher to 9 children (18 children/classroom), and have 3 child-level checkpoint assessments during the year. An activity entitled "A Day in NC Pre-K" allowed the board to identify the 5 domains of school readiness exemplified in photos of children engaging in various activities: Approaches to play and learning, Emotional and social development, Health and physical development, Language development and communication, and Cognitive development. NC Pre-K also provides professional development Teachers Alliance sessions where they receive a lot of peer support. There was discussion about the tension between an academic expectation for young children, particularly in public school pre-k classrooms, and the more developmentally appropriate learning through play approach.		

	<p>-Wren Davisson presented an overview of the Transition to Kindergarten initiative which aims to make a smooth transition from home or child care setting to kindergarten. This is one of the most important transitions of a child and family’s life, and the first day, weeks and month of Kindergarten set the tone for a child’s future perception of and excitement about education. The path to school success includes early enrollment as well as building quality transition connections (family to school, child to school, child to child) that make people feel welcome and comfortable. The components of the TTK initiative were described, including: NC Pre-K student portfolios, mini grants for transition activities led by child care providers and kindergarten teachers; Blast Off to Kindergarten Kits; and transition teams piloted at three elementary schools (Forest View, Lakewood, and YE Smith). The TTK approach is built on research and program guidance from the University of Pittsburgh. Ken Smythe-Leistico, Pittsburgh’s school readiness expert, will be the keynote speaker at the July 21 School Readiness Summit. A new TTK website was launched: www.DurhamGoesToKindergarten.com. Ready Eddy is the new transition mascot. He will become best friends with the DPS kindergarten mascot, Dottie.</p> <p>-Winnie Morgan reported on the Faith Initiative, painting the history from 2005 when Mel Williams and Ann Stock built a team in Durham to begin surveying congregations about their involvement in programs related to young children. That report was the springboard for a collaboration between the Partnership and End Poverty Durham. Since 2009 DPfC has contracted with a Faith Initiative Coordinator who has been responsible for many levels of activities from lunch ‘n learns to individual consultation with congregations on early childhood. A major accomplishment was the 2013 Faith Summit on Child Poverty with 500 people attending. Action teams sprang out of the summit, with Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church as a leading example. Engagement includes TTK kit-building, reading circles, partnerships with EDCI, and an interest in longer lasting relationships with families affected by poverty. Leigh Bordley talked about LEAP, which is another example of a high level of commitment on the part of several Episcopal Churches. LEAP provides part day, 4 day/week program of high quality pre-k for 24 Latino children in two classrooms at St. Luke’s. Winnie will present a workshop at the National Smart Start Conference in May. Durham’s Faith Initiative model and Winnie’s expertise was also drawn on for the five faith summits held around the state in fall, 2013 funded through Race to the Top.</p>
<p>Fund Development and Communications</p>	<p>-Bob Ashley reported on a fund development and branding seminar he attended with Laura, sponsored by NCPC for Executive Directors and Board leaders. Nationally known fundraising expert, Gail Perry, led the session. Energy and commitment from the board is key to our success, as early childhood funding models change. He came away from the seminar convinced that while we do a great job of talking about what we do, we don’t talk much about why we do it. We need to hone our elevator speech so that everyone on the board should be able to make the case for why we do what we do and why others should support it. The idea that you can’t thank donors enough was also reinforced. Best practices were shared on what donors expect: personal stories and transparent explanations about how their money is used and how their contributions change lives. Diversified fund development is a strategic plan critical issue. The seminar also considered how to build multifaceted stakeholder groups, which ties into a second strategic plan critical issue on communications.</p>
<p>Executive Director’s Report</p>	<p>-Laura opened her Executive Director’s report with a recap of the stellar Early Head Start Triennial Federal Review results. There were no findings, and only one “concern” regarding the lack of mention of transportation provisions in recruitment materials to prospective EHS families.</p>

	<p>-The EHS 2013 federal sequester budget reduction will be reinstated for the current grant year. Sequester funds will be restored to Durham Early Head Start through an application process. Last year, DEHS reduced the home-based program from 56 to 36 enrollment slots. The federal intent is that communities use this funding to restore slots. The Management Team is considering several options. This is challenging, due to the timing of the return of the funds, the cost of restoring slots is not always equal to the original amount cut, and the need to show budget sustainability for continuing the level of service into future years. There may be an opportunity to apply for funds left unspent at 12/31/14 to be placed in a “carry over budget” for 2015.</p> <p>-Announcement is expected soon about \$500M in new Early Head Start funds for Child Care Partnerships. Our partner model is the paradigm, and many people from across the state and country are calling DPfC and DEHS to learn. We are following numerous webinars and information sessions in preparation. Ted Whiteside wrote our first grant, and he is very knowledgeable in this process. We will lead a design team in the application process. The notion is to use EHS dollars for children currently in subsidized child care to increase quality of those child care centers.</p> <p>-Regarding our strategic plan update in the communications area, we are using a customized First 2000 Days prezi in speeches to targeted audiences, such as Kiwanis and Rotary. We are also building strategic relationships with emerging entrepreneurs at American Underground and Bull City Forward. Individual meetings with members of our legislative delegation will also be held. The final strategic plan critical issue on our role in convening action around urgent local needs is being addressed with the help of Joy Sotolongo, Evaluation Committee chair. Joy will meet with a small group of staff to identify how we can focus on the most critical areas of early childhood need in Durham, how data can support our efforts, and the implications for program and budget planning.</p> <p>-The Mayor’s State of the City Address called for a neighborhood by neighborhood strategy to reduce and end poverty. Mayor Bell outlined 5 key areas of work, including education. Pre-k is one of the identified education goals, and we aim to expand his thinking on early learning in the younger years. The other four areas of are jobs, health, housing, and public safety. Laura will sit on the Education Task Force working group.</p> <p>-Today is day 4 of a 5-day community level training for our Touchpoints Collaborative team in Boston. Paulette Stephens, Touchpoints Coordinator, and representatives from EDCl, the Department of Public Health, and DSS, will return to Durham with the qualifications to lead Individual Level Training. 25 people have been selected for the next cohort for May training.</p> <p>-Laura reminded the board that the next Bus Tour is on May 14th.</p>		
Meeting Evaluation	The board was reminded to turn in their meeting evaluation forms.		
Adjourn	<p>It was moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:02PM.</p> <p>The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on April 24, 11:00am – 1:00 pm. The next full Board meeting will be May 15, 3:00-5:00pm.</p>	It was moved to adjourn the meeting.	Motion carried