



NC DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA
State Board of Education | Department of Public Instruction

B-3 Interagency Council Meeting
NC Department of Transportation, Board Room 150
1 S. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27603
March 27, 2019
2:00pm-4:00pm

Council Members: Senator Deanna Ballard, Dr. Nancy Brown, Kevin Campbell, Representative Josh Dobson, Elisha W. Freeman, Susan L. Gates, Representative Craig Horn, Senator Rick Horner, Susan Perry-Manning, Dr. Sharon Ritchie, Dr. Pamela Shue, Cindy Watkins, Dr. Linda White

Members in Attendance: Dr. Nancy Brown, Kevin Campbell, Elisha W. Freeman, Susan L. Gates, Representative Craig Horn, Senator Rick Horner, Susan Perry-Manning, Cindy Watkins, Dr. Linda White

Absent Members: Senator Deanna Ballard, Representative Josh Dobson, Dr. Sharon Ritchie, Dr. Pamela Shue

Welcome, Approve Meeting Minutes, Review Council Charge, Review Agenda

• **Susan Perry-Manning, Deputy Secretary for Human Services, NC Department of Health and Human Services**

Deputy Secretary Susan Perry-Manning convened the meeting at 2:07pm and welcomed the group and discussed the agenda.

Approval of minutes from December 3, 2018 meeting

Dr. Nancy Brown motioned to approve the minutes from the December 3rd meeting; Ms. Susan Gates seconded the Motion; the Motion was approved unanimously.

Ms. Perry-Manning announced that Senator Deanna Ballard and Senator Rick Horne are replacing Senator Michael Lee and Senator Chad Barefoot on the Council.

In addition, Ms. Perry-Manning mentioned collaborating with Senator Horn on proposed legislation to increase membership of the Council.

Recommended appointee additions

- DHHS, DCDEE Director or designee
- DPI, OEL Director or designee
- NCPC President or designee
- Director of Government Data Analytics Center at DIT or designee
- NC Head Start Association president or designee
- Director of Academic Programs for the NC Community Colleges System Office or designee
- G-K Program Coordinator of the B-K Higher Education Consortium or designee

Relevant Updates from Other Groups and Councils and Discussion

Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC)-- Anna Carter, Director Division for Child Development and Early Education, Department of Health and Human Services

Director Anna Carter stated that the ECAC, comprised of 25 members, was established by Governor Perry in February of 2018 with the purpose of coordinating across early childhood programs. The ECAC has met three times, most recently in December of 2018. The key focus is around the Early Childhood Action Plan, which spans the spectrum of early childhood needs. The ECAC submitted a letter in support of Medicaid expansion because of connection to children's health. In addition, the ECAC maintains that it is fundamental to the process to apply an equity lens to the focus. Ms. Kristen Guillory staffs the council.

Child Wellbeing Transformation Council-Vaughn Crawford, Council Staff Policy Recommendations from Work Groups and Discussion

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Ms. Vaughn Crawford began by stating that Session Law 2018-5, Section 24.1 directed the establishment of the NC Child Well-Being Transformation Council (Children's Council) for the purpose of coordinating, collaborating, and communicating among agencies and organizations involved in providing public services to children.

The Children's Council, located in the General Assembly, is comprised of 25 members, including legislators, as well as leaders of youth public and private services and children's advocates.

The focus is on the following initiatives:

- Mapping the network of child-serving agencies and organizations in the State
- Cataloging examples of failures in coordination, collaboration and communication in terms of child welfare
- Reviewing work of bodies similar to the Children's Council operating in other states
- Monitoring changes in the social services and child welfare
- Identifying gaps in coordination, collaboration and communication related to all publicly funded child serving programs
- Recommending changes in law, policy or practice necessary to remedy gaps in coordination, collaboration and communication among publicly funded child-serving agencies.

Ms. Perry-Manning stated that it would be helpful to learn how early childhood education is addressed by the Children's Council. Ms. Crawford stated that a DPI representative does sit on the Council, and education is addressed from the perspective of how education fits in within the communication of other systems; for example, are children in foster care getting adequate educational resources to meet their needs?

Ms. Gates stated that recommendations from the Children's Council could be helpful to work for B-3 Interagency Council in informing the birth-8 data system.

Senator Rick Horner joined the meeting and Ms. Perry-Manning asked the members of the Council to introduce themselves.

B-3 Recommendations, Next Steps and Discussion

- **Rebecca Planchard, Senior Early Childhood Policy Advisor, DHHS.**

Ms. Rebecca Planchard discussed the recommendations that resulted from the Council's workgroups, as well as the status of the progress of these recommendations. Ms. Perry-Manning directed a discussion about next steps.

 1. Transition Plan from NC Pre-K to Kindergarten
 2. Cross-programmatic planning for transitioning all children into Kindergarten
 - 2.1 Establish an MOU between state partners-- Ms. Gates asked next steps might be taken with this process through legislation or drafting MOU. Ms. Elisha Freeman spoke to difference between MOA and MOU and whether it matters at the local level. Mr. Dan Tetreault spoke that the suggestion is that there be a State level MOU as well as guidance for local communities developing MOUs.

2.2 Revise the State Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Plan— Ms. Kristi Snuggs and Mr. Tetreault spoke to the process of the ESSA revision process and stated that they will be meeting on Friday, March 29th to begin process of drafting language. Senator Horner asked about how Charters are included in the transition process. Mr. Tetreault stated that it will be part of the process to engage Charter schools in the transition process in the next stage of the Pilot. The Council agreed about the importance of remembering that there are multiple paths children can take.

2.3 The development of a State Board of Education Policy under the “Kindergarten/Early Childhood (KNEC)” section that defines LEA requirements—Ms. Snuggs mentioned that 2.3 necessitates legislative language be developed via recommendation #1.

2.4 Policy requiring that NC Pre-K Contract Administrators coordinate with Local Education Agency decision makers, Head Start Grantees, local Smart Start partnerships, private childcare providers, families, and other community partners to develop a community plan—Ms. Carter spoke that this change does not require legislations, as this is the NC Pre-K policy that is currently being revised through the NC Pre-K program. Mr. Kevin Campbell asked if 2.4 would be necessary if #1 and 2.3 were addressed. Ms. Perry-Manning stated that the inclusion of both reflects the two-way street. Ms. Freeman pointed out that NC Pre-K can be addressed through policy that does not require a Rule change or legislation. Dr. Nancy Brown asked for another presentation about the progress of the NC Pre-K to Kindergarten transition pilot.

2.5 Identify revisions to child care rules and/or QRIS—Mr. Campbell pointed out that the language needs to align with 2.4 to ensure consistency across all child care programs.

3. Data system to share information for transitions funding—Statewide Education Longitudinal Data System effort is currently underway

4. Data system landscape—The Preschool Development Grant includes early childhood education data landscape survey, as well as a data system and data measure alignment with the ECAP

5. Data user survey-- The Preschool Development Grant includes a survey of early childhood education data users. Ms. Gates pointed out the #s 3,4, and 5 are related

6. Licensure system study

7. Principal Training for Early Childhood Education

8. Recommendation to Child Care Commission to amend requirements for Pre-K teacher assistants--minimum of a CDA; working towards AAS in Early Childhood; 15 hours annual in-service professional development

9. Recommendation to North Carolina General Assembly—additional funds for increasing NC Pre-K reimbursement rates

Ms. Perry-Manning pointed out the #6 requires legislation and a fiscal note. Ms. Gates proposed developing fiscal note for #6 and presenting to the legislature asking them to direct the study. Dr. Brown mentioned a previous discussion of the Council surrounding who DPI would contract with to take perform the study. Ms. Perry-Manning stated that the drafted language would need to reflect the parameters of the contractor.

Dr. Brown stated that #7 will depend on the outcome of findings from #6.

Ms. Perry-Manning asked if it is the will of the Council to develop legislation language. She confirmed with Mr. Tetreault that DPI draft the initial language of the legislation and proposed fiscal notes.

Ms. Perry-Manning asked that #8 be proposed to the Child Care Commission at next Commission meeting in May.

Mr. Campbell stated that the recommendations for #9 are not enough and he does not feel that the legislature truly understands the reasons an increase of reimbursement rates is a necessity. Ms. Gates spoke to the NIEER report and the importance of this report in making progress with increasing the understanding of the legislature of the teacher compensation piece and the importance acknowledging the different auspices of delivery of NC Pre-K when addressing the funding model.

Reflections, Next Steps, and Close

Ms. Perry-Manning discussed what updates may be addressed at the next Meeting:

- Update on NC Pre-K to Kindergarten Transition Pilot
- Update on legislative language drafts
- Update on all recommendations’ status
- Ms. Gates proposed an Update on Educator Program Preparation Council and Deans for Impact
- Update on Leandro Commission
- Ms. Freeman suggested an update on progress according to the original legislation

Meeting adjourned 3:31pm