



**The North Carolina Partnership for Children
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2024
10 a.m. – 12 noon**

MISSION: Advance a high quality, comprehensive, accountable early childhood system that benefits each child in North Carolina beginning with a healthy birth.

Members Present: Charles Bowman – Chair, Rev. Renee B. Bethea, Cassandra Brooks, Yvonne Copeland, Madison Shook Downing, Fran Gary, Sherry Heuser, Betty Crow Kennedy, Page Lemel, Rosa Maria Matthews, Ashley Neal, Dr. Mary Olvera, Joe Patterson, Amy Rhyne, Nell Rose, Dr. Khadijia Tribié Reid, Dr. Rebecca Simpkin, Elizabeth Star, Dr. Laurie Stradley, Laurie Urland, Channah VanRegenmorter, and Sandy Weathersbee

Members Absent: Victoria Brown, Ariel Ford, Dr. Anthony Jackson, and Tina Sherman

Others in attendance: Joseph Brownlee, Amy Cubbage, Melissa Cheston, Marta Hester, Casey Strange, other NCPC staff, and Maura Pherson – recording secretary. Edward Chisolm, LPAC chair also joined.

Call to Order and Establish Quorum

The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc. (NCPC) Board of Directors (Board) met on March 19, 2024 via Zoom video conference. Chair Bowman called the meeting to order and established the presence of a quorum. Joseph Brownlee was introduced as the new NCPC CFO.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was accepted by unanimous consent. The chair and NCPC president set the agenda. Any member may add an item to the agenda.

Connect to Mission

Amy Cubbage and Casey Strange provided an update on the Smart Solutions catalog and demonstrated a sample of the online catalog that is available for anyone to use. NCPC is leaning into the power of the Smart Start network to update and share this new tool.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Page Lemel and seconded to approve the Consent Agenda which includes:

- Minutes of the January 23, 2024 Meeting
- Conflicts of Interest
- Acceptance of State [Audit Report](#)

NCPC received a clean audit report for FY 2023. The exit interview was held March 15, 2024.

Motion carried.

NCPC Financial Reports

The Board reviewed the Financial Reports for grants and contracts, private funds, and cash flow as of January 31, 2024 including:

1. Summary of each grant and contract and notes related to the period from July 1, 2023, through January 31, 2024.

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2. Budget to actuals for each grant, contract, and private fund source.
3. Summary of cash flow.

A motion was made by Laurie Stradley, on behalf of the Finance & Audit Committee, to approve the NCPC Financial Reports. **Motion carried.**

Employee Compensation Policy

The current Employee Compensation Policy requires the Finance & Audit Committee to review and recommend, annually, any employee compensation allowances. At its September 8, 2023 meeting, the Committee asked for a review of the policy to allow NCPC to make compensation changes during the fiscal year once the budget is approved by the Board. The Committee reviewed the policy at its January 12, 2024 and March 8, 2024 meetings and made recommendations for changes to the policy.

Discussion included ensuring a line item on the annual budget for employee salaries and to keep the Board updated with fluctuations of salaries. The Board also asked to see a year-to-year comparison of payroll.

A motion was made by Laurie Stradley on behalf of the Finance & Audit Committee to approve the revisions to the Employee Compensation Policy. **Motion carried.**

Strategic Roadmap Update

Amy Cabbage and Casey Strange provided an update on the Strategic Roadmap and objectives. A copy of the presentation will be provided in a follow-up email. NCPC will hold office hours for any Board member who has questions or wants clarification of the Strategic Roadmap. All the standing committees work relates to the Strategic Roadmap as projects relate to grants, funding, use of State funds, and special projects. NCPC anticipates exploring this more deeply at the Sept. 16-17, 2024 NCPC Board Retreat and meeting.

President's Report

Amy Cabbage highlighted key topics of the President's Report, including Tri-Share Child Care Pilot Program. Jeff Wolverton, of PivIT Strategy, shared updates about cybersecurity.

Public Policy Update

Marta Hester and Amy Cabbage have been meeting with legislators. They will meet with county commissioners, and the NC Pediatric Society to coordinate messaging for legislators regarding early childhood issues. There will be Advocacy Training available for Board members. A Board Advocacy Day will be set after the legislative short session begins.

Local Partnership Advisory Committee

Edward Chisolm, LPAC Chair, provided an update on topics that LPAC will focus on this year as LPAC serves in its advisory role to the NCPC Board. LPAC was a topic at the recent ED Forum. LPAC will concentrate on recruitment to fill all vacancies, discuss emerging issues from local partnerships, and update the LPAC work plan for 2025.

Accountability Committee

Casey Stange provided a brief update of the committee's recent work related to the Early Childhood Profile and Contract Data Management System.

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Board Development Committee

Liz Star reported this committee has joined the Fund Development Committee for their past three meetings. A calendar request will be sent for the fall Board Retreat, Sept. 16-17. Please send any topics for discussion and recommendations for a facilitator/speaker to Liz Star and copy Amy Cubbage. The Board positions are currently full. October 2025 will be the next date for onboarding new members. Please send names of potential Board member candidates to Liz Star.

Finance & Audit Committee

Nothing more to add.

Fund Development Committee

Madison Downing reported Dan Gerlach has been hired as the fundraising consultant. NCPC is currently raising money for the Smart Start Conference.

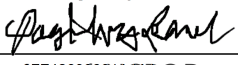
Follow-up:

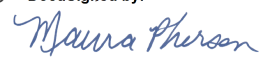
- The next meeting is set for June 18, 2024. Charles Bowman or Amy Cubbage will collect discussion topics.
- Presentations for Connect to Mission, Strategic Roadmap, and President’s Report will be provided.
- Public Policy update will be provided.
- Board Retreat – Sept. 16-17, 2024. Send topics and recommendations for facilitator/speaker to Liz Star or Amy Cubbage.
- Next Board member onboarding will begin Oct. 2025.

Adjourn

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Approvals:

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Maura Pherson, Recording Secretary

6/18/2024 | 2:13 PM MDT
Date: _____
6/18/2024 | 3:10 PM EDT
Date: _____

