



**The North Carolina Partnership for Children
Accountability Committee Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2025
1:30-3 p.m.**

Members Present: Page Lemel – Chair, Dr. Anthony Jackson, Dr. Mary Olvera, and Dr. Khadijia Tribié Reid
Members Absent: Amy Barry and Matt Hughes
Others Present: Amy Cubbage, Joe Brownlee, Safiyah Jackson, Ann Spence, Casey Strange, and Maura Pherson – recording secretary

The Accountability Committee (Committee) of The North Carolina Partnership for Children (NCPC) Board of Directors (Board) met on November 18, 2025 via Zoom video conferencing. Chair Page Lemel called the meeting to order. The presence of a quorum was established.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

A motion was made by Mary Olvera and seconded to approve the agenda and the minutes of September 2, 2025. **Motion carried.**

Set Committee Workplan for 2025-2026

The Committee reviewed the draft work plan for 2026.

February 2026

- Discuss initial Q1 & Q2 CDMS usage and available programmatic outcomes and outputs
- Discuss Dolly Parton Imagination Library participant survey
- Discuss NCPC Smart Start Annual report: a look back and forward

May 2026

- Annual Review of Smart Start Accountability Plan
- Explore LP and NCPC experiences with Smart Solutions Journey
- Discuss Strategic Roadmap and network transformation activities
- NCPC funding and partnership priorities for network data and accountability activities

August 2026

- Schedule FY 2026-27 Meetings
- Review new EC Profile/Priority Indicators (Health and Family Support)
- Discuss lessons learned and impact of Smart Start special initiatives: The Basics, Tri-Share, Family Navigation Portal

November 2026

- Set Committee Work Plan for FY 2026-27
- Review Smart Start Evidence Based/Evidence Informed Definitions

New projects were added to the annual Work Plan for 2026. Reports will be sent in advance of the meetings. Chair Lemel remarked that the earlier getting information out prior to the meetings, the better.

A motion was made by Anthony Jackson and seconded to approve the Accountability Committee Workplan. **Motion carried.**

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EC Profile / Priority Indicators

Ann Spence provided an overview of the history of priority indicators starting from the 2001 Performance-Based Incentive System to the 2017 Early Childhood Profile, and to the current Priority Indicators.

The priority indicators are intended to both inform and align with local needs assessments and provide direction for local partnerships' selection of Smart Solutions.

Priority indicators are population data, which is different from program outcomes and outputs. This makes it difficult to compare year to year. As local partnerships enter annual contracts, many of these numbers require more than just Smart Start data. It's difficult to use a common map to guide the network to be consistent.

NCPC legislation tasks the local partnerships with ensuring the developmental needs of children are met to prepare them to begin school healthy and ready to succeed. NCPC's future vision includes:

- Priority indicator reports fully integrated into dashboard
- Disaggregated and trend data easily visualized and utilized by local partnerships
- Updated health and family support indicators with collaboration from state data owners
- Updated early childhood education indicators as data landscape becomes clearer and guidance is available from DCDEE along with other state collaborators

This data intersects with the Smart Start brand and how it appears to the State as part of the Strategic Roadmap.

Board Retreat Review

The Committee discussed the Board Retreat SWOT analysis. Funding has been flat while costs are rising. NCPC is currently in conversations with businesses that may offer matching funds to help alleviate the rising costs.

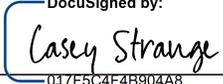
Follow-up and review action items for the Network

- Reviewed the Committee Work Plan for 2026
- Reviewed the history of priority indicators
- Next meeting is Feb. 10, 2026

Adjournment

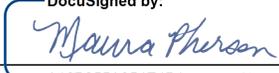
Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

Minutes submitted by:

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 Casey Strange, Committee Liaison

3/10/2026 | 3:05 PM EDT

 Date

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 Maura Pherson, Recording Secretary

3/10/2026 | 2:24 PM EDT

 Date