

MINUTES

Committee Members in attendance: Al Whitesides, Brandy Bowman, Carol Steed, Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, Kit Cramer, Leslie Anderson, Linda McDaniel, Mark Taft, Mistie Reising-Cogbill, Philip Belcher, Rich Johnston, Susan Mims, Wendy Wieber

Absent: Marsha Davis, Robert Pressley

County staff in attendance: Rachael Nygaard, Sara Joss, Angelica Tyler, Angelyn Johnson (remote)

Welcome and agenda review by Jasmine Beach-Ferrara.

Minutes

Philip Belcher made a motion to approve the minutes from September 6. Al Whitesides seconded the motion. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Old Business

- Site visits
 - Site visits are going well so far. Staff reminded committee members to complete the post-site feedback form. There is one site visit with only one committee member signed up to attend. Staff asked committee members to let them know if anyone else can attend that visit.
- Application and scoring criteria
 - Currently, the application and scoring criteria are unchanged from last year. Staff reviewed the application with committee members. The committee gave feedback that staff will incorporate and bring an updated application to the December meeting.
- Multi-year awards
 - The committee discussed multi-year awards, including reviewing previous multi-year awards. The committee decided they would like to keep the option of multi-year awards on a case-by-case basis, so they would like to leave the multi-year question on the application. The committee would like to see data for past multi-year awards.

New Business

- Legislative priorities
 - Commissioners have hired lobbyist firm Ward and Smith. They represented Buncombe County during the 2022 Short Session. To prepare for the Long Session that begins in January, the County worked with Ward and Smith to develop a draft legislative agenda. There are two Tier 1 items related to Early Childhood.
 - Seek additional state funding support for early childhood education and Pre-K programs including simplifying or modifying subsidy formula for Buncombe County.
 - Extend funding for early childhood/childcare stabilization subsidies – permanent funding.

Announcements

- There were no announcements.

Public Comment

- There were no public comments.

Next Meeting: December 6, 2022 at 1:00 pm in the Ground Floor Conference Room at 200 College St.