

**Cincinnati Preschool Promise
Executive Committee Meeting**
Held via Remote Video Conferencing by Zoom
Minutes of March 2, 2021, at 3:00 – 4:00 PM

Executive Committee Members Present:

Cheryl Rose, Bishop Ennis Tait, O'dell Owens, M.D., Deborah Mariner Allsop, and Gary Lindgren

Executive Committee Members Absent: Micah Kamrass

Observers Present: None

Cincinnati Preschool Promise (CPP) Staff Present:

Chara Fisher Jackson, Executive Director
Héctor Polanco, Finance Director
Kenetra Mathis, Program & Evaluation Manager
Sydney Gardner, TA Team Member
Tanya Del Valle, Senior Administrative Assistant

Guests:

Jacob Purcell, Manley Burke

1. Welcome, Call to Order

O'dell Owens M.D. welcomed the members of the Executive Committee to the meeting, which was held via Zoom video conferencing. A roll call was completed, and the meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM.

The following was read out to the committee members and members of the public by the Chair of the committee before proceeding to the agenda approval.

Please note that in conjunction with Ohio State's revised Sunshine Laws and the rule limiting the number of people who may meet in a space and who may so meet, CPP has decided to convene the meeting via video conference. In accordance with Ohio Public Records and Open Meeting laws, CPP has advertised the meeting on it's website in advance, and has provided a link for members of the public to listen and view the meeting. This meeting will be recorded. Documentation distributed at this meeting will be made available via the CPP website, under the area Board of Directors, Approved Meeting Minutes as soon as possible after the meeting.

O'dell Owens M.D. requested a motion to approve the presented agenda once quorum was reached.

ACTION: Deborah Allsop made a motion to approve the agenda seconded by Cheryl Rose. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was requested to approve the minutes of February 16th, 2021.

ACTION: Cheryl Rose made a motion to approve the minutes of February 16th, 2021, seconded by Deborah Allsop. The motion was unanimously approved.

2. Executive Director's Report

2.1 Chara Fisher Jackson said that continued discussions with providers to help address some issues that led to site closures have shown that they need assistance with the areas below:

- Maximizing enrollment- advertising open seats and the enrollment staff have been helping
- Business supports- PPP loan application assistance, small business loan applications, business plans, generating revenue and CPP just received a \$20,000 grant from The Black Giving Circle to fund business supports for the providers
- Recruiting Teachers- the Workforce Council is working on the talent pipeline along with 4C, and CPP is supporting their initiatives.

2.2 Cincinnati Preschool Promise will work with the Implementation Work Group to see what Cincinnati Public Schools has planned for the funds set aside in case the levy did not pass.

2.3 Redefining the actual number of available preschool students is going on with UC and Dr. Eric Rademacher. They are updating the Rand Study information using the most current US Census data and the 4C report. It will be May or June till we have those new numbers.

2.4 Vaccines are now available to all childcare workers.

2.5 Cincinnati Waterworks is working with Cincinnati Preschool Promise to help providers check and see if they have lead in their water lines.

Committee members congratulated CPP on receiving The Black Giving Circle \$20,000 grant for provider business supports.

3. Tuition Assistance Age Eligibility

Jake Purcell prepared a memorandum to address some questions about tuition age eligibility for children that are too young or too old for assistance. The Master agreement defines age eligibility as three to five-year-olds that are not eligible for kindergarten. The compulsory age for kindergarten when a child must attend is between five and six years old in Hamilton County by September 30th of a school year except for exceptions related to developmental or other issues.

There is a stationary rule restricting funding to two years of preschool. The word "year" can have several meanings, including twelve months, a calendar year, or a school year. The Master Agreement doesn't define the length of the word "year."

Cincinnati Public Schools have regulatory statutes that they must follow, and they require Cincinnati Preschool Promise to follow these as well. Chara Fisher Jackson said that it requires Cincinnati Preschool Promise to discuss with Cincinnati Public Schools what is possible about expanding eligibility for tuition assistance. She said the implementation workgroup established to work on these types of issues should be convened again to discuss the possibility of broadening tuition age eligibility. The implementation workgroup would be scheduled to be in March or early April and would provide a good deal of information to bring back to the committee for discussion.

Members discussed whether expanding tuition age eligibility would expand the funding beyond the two years recommended by the Rand Study. Jake Purcell said that a discussion with Cincinnati Public Schools would let us know how they interpret the Rand Study findings.

Chara Fisher Jackson said that if children are not three by September 30th, they are denied an entire year of preschool and are not eligible until the following school year. Most of the issues have arisen when children are within a couple of weeks when they turn three after September 30th of the school year, and then they are ineligible for tuition assistance from CPP for that entire school year.

Dr. Owens said that the committee would continue discussions on the topic after feedback from Cincinnati Public Schools.

4. Executive Committee Charter

Dr. Owens asked committee members for comment, and there were no comments or questions.

A motion was requested to approve the Executive Committee Charter and send it to the Board of Managers.

ACTION: A motion was requested to approve the Executive Committee Charter and send it to the Board of Managers was made by Cheryl Rose, seconded by Deborah Allsop. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. Committee Reports

- Finance and Audit Committee- Cheryl Rose said that the last meeting was canceled. The committee is looking forward to seeing what new initiatives can be implemented to address the under-spend issues.
- Cost of Quality- Gary Lindgren highlighted the Crane Report's wage findings.

Committee members said the chart was helpful and provided a good summary of the current early childhood wage situation.

Chara Fisher Jackson said that the Year 4 Evaluation would have expanded data from Innovations with Hamilton County and Cincinnati Public Schools comparisons.

Committee members asked how much available need exists in the community for the Teacher Promise Grant and the Staff Support Fund with concerns that there might be a saturation point. Chara Fisher Jackson said that the budget has plenty of room for more participation by providers and community members. Teacher Promise Grants offered teachers up to \$4,000 allowing them to choose less if they wanted. Under the Quality Improvement program, the Staff Support Fund sees significant growth due to personal phone calls that provide direct education to providers on the program and its benefits.

Dr. Owens asked how COVID-19 has impacted the programs.

Chara Fisher Jackson said it had caused information fatigue. Even with the positive effects of wage supplements, teachers are concerned about whether it would cause them to lose other benefits.

6. Adjourn

ACTION: Cheryl Rose made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Gary Lindgren. The motion was unanimously approved.

Future 2021 Meetings:

April 20 at 3:00 PM

May 4 at 3:00 PM

June 1 at 3:00 PM

August 3 at 3:00 PM

September 7 at 3:00 PM

October 19 at 3:00 PM

November 2 at 3:00 PM

Submitted by Tanya Del Valle, Senior Administrative Assistant

Cincinnati Preschool Promise