

Charlottesville-Albemarle Early Education Task Force

Draft July 2015

Purpose

The community of Charlottesville-Albemarle believes that a robust, inclusive, high-quality early childhood educational program is a key ingredient in preparing at-risk children for kindergarten and closing the achievement gap over time. Further, the community believes that, over time, investments in educational and prevention programs will reduce future, greater expenditures in remediation and rehabilitation.

Quality early education is but one critical investment required to increase the likelihood of positive, long-term outcomes for at-risk children, but it is achievable, actionable, and quantifiable.

Vision

Every child in Charlottesville-Albemarle living with risk factors that impact success in life will have access to a high-quality early education program. This clear vision is unclouded by concerns over funding and is endorsed by our City and County Executives, City and County School Superintendents, and the United Way Smart Beginnings Impact Team.

Specifically, in the near term, we seek to address the need for at-risk four-year olds, realizing that the expansion of services to three-year olds, younger children and whole families makes a difference and serves as a longer-term aspirational goal. The current estimate of the gap between the number of City and County four-year olds eligible for access to high-quality pre-k programs and available space is 250-350.

Task Force Members

- 1) Erika Viccellio - United Way (Chair)
- 2) Jan Dorman - Charlottesville Area Community Foundation Finance Director (Co-Chair)
- 3) Barbara Hutchinson - United Way
- 4) Ann McAndrew - Coordinator, Albemarle County Bright Stars (Pre-K)
- 5) Doug Walker - Deputy County Executive, Albemarle County
- 6) Mike Murphy - Acting Assistant City Manager
- 7) Dean Tisdadt - Chief Operations Officer, Albemarle County Schools
- 8) <Charlottesville City Schools Pre-K Coordinator> - Charlottesville City Schools
- 9) Gail Esterman - Ready Kids, Child Care Quality Regional Director
- 10) Candy Daffern - Executive Director, Head Start
- 11) Judy Smith - Retired Executive Director, Jefferson Area CHIP
- 12) <Local Business Leader> - Blair Kelly - Entrepreneur
- 13) <Local Business Leader> - Brad Groff, President, Teachstone
- 14) <Local Business Leader> - Mike Chinn, CEO, SNL Financial, Chair, Smart Beginnings Impact Team (ex-officio)

Key Advocates and Keepers of the Vision

- 1) Tom Foley - Albemarle County Executive
- 2) Maurice Jones - Charlottesville City Manager
- 3) Pam Moran - Albemarle County Superintendent of Schools
- 4) Rosa Atkins - City of Charlottesville Superintendent of Schools
- 5) Cathy Train - President, United Way-Thomas Jefferson Area
- 6) Tim Hulbert - President, Chamber of Commerce
- 7) Frank Friedman - President, Piedmont Virginia Community College
- 8) Anne Scott - President, Charlottesville Area Community Foundation (CACF)
- 9) Bob Pianta - Dean, UVa Curry School of Education
- 10) Kathy Glazer - President, Virginia Early Childhood Foundation

Near-Term Mission and Deliverables

- 1) **Define and refine the need and gap** - quickly create a common set of facts on demographics of unserved children/families using a common set of risk factors - location, future school, etc.
- 2) **Refine cost estimates** - summarize current cost of today's high-quality programs -- public and private -- and standardize per-child costs using a common number hours/day, number of days in care, months of care.
- 3) **Create the list of creative, good ideas** - research, identify and vet all good ideas for creating both the space and the funding of that space using a combination of federal, state, local and private dollars.
- 4) **Organize and prioritize solutions** - relentlessly chip away at the gap. Within the first year, reduce the gap by 25% (e.g., if the gap is 300, find space for 75 children in a high-quality program they otherwise would not have attended).
- 5) **Report progress** - engage key stakeholders - monthly - including priorities, solutions and gap reduction.
- 6) **DO!** - Implement solutions without the need for incremental approvals for programs that require no additional government funding or are a radical departure from agreed-upon guiding principles.

Requirements and Guiding Principles

To ensure that the Task Force can create and implement access without unnecessary approvals or prolonged study and discussion, we identify below the requirements and guiding principles by which the Task Force agrees to operate. Outside of the requirements below, while program decisions that require additional funding by local government or the schools will definitionally be brought forward for discussion, we give the Task Force significant leeway to prioritize and solve problems.

- 1) High Quality - as defined by VSQI, programs must meet an agreed-upon rating.
- 2) Minimum Hours/Days - in order to be impactful and allow parents to work, programs must offer a minimum of (4, 6?) hours per day and (3,4,5?) days per week.
- 3) Cost Efficiency - in order to maximize the number of children served, per child costs must be below \$X000 on an annualized basis.

Meeting Cadence

Monthly Task Force Meetings - while we expect significant work will be done every day by the Task Force and its delegates, the Task Force will convene monthly to break through problems and brainstorm creative solutions.

Quarterly Stakeholder (Key Supporters/Advocates/Keepers of the Vision) Meetings - all key stakeholders will convene quarterly to hear progress and lend assistance and support, reaffirm community commitment, and brainstorm on creative solutions.