

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Minutes, Children's Organizations Linking Opportunities, Resources & Support (COLORS) meeting, 3/6/2025

1. Call to order: In compliance with agency by-laws the COLORS committee met on 3/6/2025 at 8:38 am for the purpose of an interagency information exchange.

Council Member Attendance:

Name	Organization	Attendance
Karen Walker	Childcare Resources	In Person
Shakita Thompson	Partnership for Children	Absent
Wanda Wesley	Cumberland County Schools Title one	In Person
Sean Brost	Pre-K Coordinator	In Person
Sharon Glover	Alliance Health	In Person
Cheryl Burns	Womack Army Medical Center EDIS	In Person
Dr. Rita Gunter	Carolina Collaborative Community Care (4C)	Virtual
Shanaira Walker	Cumberland County Schools Early – In Preschool	Virtual
Katie Lada	Children's Developmental Services Agency	In Person
Brittany Skinner	Therapy Playground	In Person
Michelle Jones	Partnership for Children of Cumberland County	Absent
James Martin	Autism Society of NC – Cumberland County	Absent
Rebecca Droge	Triple P Training and Outreach Coordinator Cumberland County DPH	In Person
Ninotchka Ferrer	EFMP Coordinator – Pope AFB	In Person
John McMillian	Executive Director EC Services Cumberland County Schools	Absent
Laqualla Owens	Triple P - CCPPH	In Person
Tessianna Bettencourt	Triple P - CCPPH	virtual
Bridgette Mack	CMARC Cumberland County Health Department	In Person
Selina Puryear	Early In Cumberland County Schools	Absent
Tawnya Rayman	Children's Developmental Services Agency	Virtual
Brittany Mack	Stepping Stones Learning Academy	Absent
Sarah Martzahl	Alliance Health	In Person
Kelly Powers	Family Support Network	Virtual
Tina Ivins	Family Support Network	Virtual

Jasmine Conyers	Parent	Virtual
Ar-Nita Davis	Partnership for Children	Virtual
Casandra Smith	CCPFC	Virtual

2. Agenda Adjustments: No Agenda Adjustments

3. Review of Minutes: Brittany Skinner made the motion to approve the minutes; Sean Brost provided the second.

4. Committee Reports: Committees re-established each member present signed up to be part of a committee. See bottom of minutes for committees and members.

A. By-Laws and Orientation:

Members were informed about updating the *Assurance of Confidentiality Form* and the *Representation Statement of Intent Form* to complete.

Committee members are working on updating and adding the switch to allowing virtual participation.

B. Public Awareness and Child Find:

The COLORS website adjustments are still being made to format the images, provide links to featured agencies represented at COLORS, update agency name changes and change Fort Liberty to Fort Bragg to on both the COLORS flyer and website. Discussion of possibly adding meeting notes and agenda to website for others to access. Committee did not yet meet this past month. Sean will email group to meet with committee to make further website plans.

Jasmine Conyers emailed group family events which were upcoming.

C. Family Involvement:

1. Parent Recruitment and Involvement:

Little land event on Saturday, February 15, 2025 went well. Approx 50 parents signed up as being interested in COLORS providing their emails. They were included in this meeting invite. A spike in Facebook traffic was noticed after event.

COLORS members agreed to participate in Cumberland County Over-the-Counter Medicine Giveaway and Community Event on May2nd from 8am to 2pm at JD Fuller Sr. Recreational/Athletic Complex. Set up time is at 7:30am or the night before. Karen Walker and Cheryl Burns stated that they could be present for event. We have over 100 bags left to use at this event.

Discussion of childcare for the parents who come to meetings. The stipend is to be used for child care.

Discussion of seeking needs assessment which partnership for children use to put out each year. Casandra Smith stated she would follow up with committee and get the information.

2. Parent Strategies and Education: Committee brochures and flyers are available at the CDSA; email Katie Lada to arrange a time to pick up.

D. Nominations and Elections: Nothing new to report

E. Treasurer's Report: The current balance is \$3,190.23. Last month we voted to transfer \$600.00 to public awareness. Right after the transfer occurred, we received the \$800.00 from the mini grant. We need to vote on how to split the money up or keep it in other.

Discussion of getting quote for a curtain/banner stand for information tables. COLORS T-shirts were also discussed.

5. Representative Highlight: There was no representative highlight provided

6. Agency updates:

Cumberland County schools: Kindergarten showcase is upcoming. Pre-K registration is going on right now for Cumberland County Schools. Children have to be 4 years old by August 31st of this upcoming school year. They have to live in Cumberland County to apply however if a family lives on post or lives in a neighboring county and come into Fayetteville to work they can still apply. They will need to apply for the private childcare locations that are affiliated with NC pre K. The exceptional children's Pre-K had their beginners fair last week and those children are linked up with IEPs and information about services available.

Family Support Network: There is a virtual parent support group every Wednesday of the month at 6pm. This month focus is on transition to kindergarten. There is also a Triple P stepping Stones seminar on the 27th of March it is virtual at 6pm.

CDSA: Recent budget updates from federal government. All money which was expected by our state agencies from federal entities has been received. There have been no changes to the funds that have been received. There has also been a change of the official language of United States to English. The program is protected through the individuals with disabilities education act. Although English was designated the official language, that law requires that families receive services in their native language. The CDSA will not change how they operate there will still be using interpreters and translators.

7. Budget updates: Karen Walker completed application for the mini grant.

8. Recruitment: Discussion of passing out fliers and left over bags at May 3rd (Cumberland County Schools children's mental health and wellness fair) event via members whose organizations already have tables at the event

9. Community News:

The Eva Hansen Resource Library is back and open

New Cumberland Literacy Council that started up and they are working with Dolly Parton to have library story times at the different libraries. It is for ages zero to five. There is one the 3rd Saturday of March at North Regional and the 4th Saturday at Glendale regional.

Parent Café to take place on the first Friday of each month from 9:00 – 11:00 AM

March 12-15th Hugs and Kisses consignment sale, at the Crown

March 12th Cumberland County schools will be at Throckmorton library for kindergarten transition hosted by Miss Iris Pierce, school liaison officer with child and youth service through Fort Bragg.

March 28th EFMP meeting online

April 11th Kindergarten showcase registration drive begins

April 26th Water safety day open to all military and retirees, doors open at 9:45 at Tolson indoor pool

May 3rd Cumberland County Schools children's mental health and wellness fair, Festival Park 8 to 11am

Committees with members

Bylaws/Orientation -Provide orientation for new members as needed. Provide COLORS information to new representatives at www.cumberlandcolors.com. Review Bylaws as needed. Present recommendations to the membership for discussion and for vote at the next regularly scheduled meeting. Provide updated copies of the Bylaws to members.

- Cheryl Burns Chair cheryl.y.burns.civ@health.mil
- Katie Lada katie.lada@dhhs.nc.gov
- Tawnya Rayman tawnya.rayman@dhhs.nc.gov
- Dr. Rita Gunter RGunter@carolinaccc.com
- Nina Ferrer Ninotchka.ferrer@us.af.mil
- Tina Ivins tinaivins.fsn@gmail.com

Public Awareness/Child Find -Notify the community through COLORS website of all scheduled meetings. Review community needs assessment to recommend Child Find initiatives to the COLORS membership. Plan and coordinate community public awareness activities. Solicit and recruit volunteers from COLORS representatives to implement community public awareness activities.

- Sean Brost-Chair seanbrost@ccs.k12.nc.us
- Sharon Glover sglover@alliancehealthplan.org
- Rebecca Droge rdroge@cumberlandcountync.gov
- Sarah Martzahl smartzahl@alliancehealthplan.org
- Brittany Skinner brittany.skinner@therapyplayground.com
- Karen Walker kwalker@childcareresourcesinc.onmicrosoft.com
- Tessiana Bettencourt tbettencourt@cumberlandcountync.gov
- Shanaira Walker shanairawalker@ccs.k12.nc.us

Family Involvement -Recruit family members to join COLORS. Advocate for services a family member needs in order to participate on COLORS, such as family stipends, sitter services, etc. Develop an action plan to recruit and retain family representation in COLORS. Identify Parent Education opportunities for dissemination on COLORS website.

- Jasmine Conyers-Chair conyers.bills7@gmail.com
- Wanda Wesley wandawesley@ccs.k12.nc.us
- Laqualla Owens lowens@cumberlandcountync.gov
- Bridgette Mack bmack@cumberlandcountync.gov
- Kelly Powers kellypowers.fsn@gmail.com
- Casandra Smith csmith@ccpfc.org
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Nominations/Elections -Develop and present a slate of nominees for Officers and Officer- Elects at the May meeting. Prepare a ballot for vote by the membership at the June meeting, including nominations submitted from the floor at the May meeting and the nominees submitted by the committee in May.

- Cheryl Burns cheryl.y.burns.civ@health.mil

The next meeting is scheduled for April 3, 2025 at the CDSA.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05am

Point of contact is the undersigned at 910-826-3118.

Brittany Skinner,

Occupational Therapist, Therapy Playground