



Attendees: Deidre McCullers, Christal Toodle, Geraldine Alshamy, Marc Grimmet, Priscilla Awkard, Helen Lupton-Smith, Kimberly Shaw, Deja Dildy, Nikki McDougald, Tai Rochelle, Verna Best, Derrick Byrd, Alicia Andrews, Tangelia Keaton, Dawn Blagrove, Kristin Feierabend, Kat Reher, Tamara Perkins, Vielka Maria Gabriel

Welcome, Review of Minutes, and Introductions

- Meeting called to order by Priscilla Awkard at 6:30 pm.
- Introductions
- November meeting minutes will be approved at January meeting

Information Presentation: Kimberly Shaw, A Safe Place Founder/CEO

- A Safe Place is a 5 star and NAEYC accredited child development center with two locations in Raleigh, NC that serve children ages 0 to school age. Their mission is to provide children with “A Safe Place” to grow, learn, play, and explore the world. A Safe Place Child Enrichment Center provides a safe, nurturing, and developmentally appropriate program which fosters active learning, support for the whole child, in a child friendly environment.
- A Safe Place grows their own food, makes their own baby food, and serve healthy snacks and meals to children.
- Through partnership with Early Head Start and NC Pre-K, they are able to provide support to parents such as access to financial support and family services support.
- The classes are free to families and the class sizes are small (8 children to every 2 teachers). Teachers and staff are given specialized training, either on-site or off-site.
- There is currently no waiting list; however, homeless families have priority.
- A Family Services worker is on site at both locations to process applications 3-4 days a week.
- Public tours are available for service providers and organizations. There are two sites located in Raleigh, NC: 1216 Crosslink Road and 201 Clarendon Crescent Road.
- Volunteers are needed. Please find the application online at www.asafeplacechildcare.com

CCERC – Dr. Marc A. Grimmett and Helen Lupton-Smith, Clinical Coordinator

- CCERC, or Community Counseling, Education and Research Center, provides short-term and affordable counseling services to individuals, couples and families that focus on healthy personal, emotional, social, and career development.
- The Counselors are graduate students of NCSU who are in training for their master’s and doctorate counseling programs.
- Culturally sensitive sessions are available. Service costs are based on a sliding scale of the client’s self-reported income.

- These services are for mental health and wellness. CCERC is not a CRISIS or medical center. No in-home training is offered. CCERC does not provide comprehensive mental health services (e.g., on-call counselor, psychiatry, 24-hour crisis support).
- Services provided are for ages 14 and older at no cost for Wake County School students.
- Counseling sessions are 50 minutes and the program could last for 1- 1.5 years.
- Referrals can be made via an on-line form at the website <https://sites.ced.ncsu.edu/ccerc/> or telephone (919-856-9233 ext 107). Hours vary according to the NCSU schedule.
- There is also a location at the Women's Center of Wake County, 112 Cox Ave, Raleigh, NC 27605

Social & Economic Vitality Update: Verna P. Best

General Operations

- Stephanie, our administrative assistant, will be returning to work December 20th.
- SEV will be hiring two new VISTAs. One will focus on SE Raleigh and will be onboarding in late January. The other VISTA has not yet been hired, but they will focus on East Wake County.
- Twenty people attended the Joint Action Team Meeting on December 11. They were able to create a shared goal to support the workforce development act in September.
- Newly elected Commissioners Evans and Commissioner Adamson are scheduled to visit the Crosby Garfield Center with Dr. West for a tour and to learn more about Social and Economic Vitality.
- The Expansion Request has been submitted requesting a full time administrative assistant and two program assistants. It is uncertain whether it will be approved or not.
- BEW (Black Entrepreneurship Week) will be in September 2019.
- Verna Best is on the committee for Wake County Child Abuse Prevention Plan.
- Attendees are encouraged to visit the Cooperative Extension Facebook page. Many of the SEV activities and events will be featured there.
- SEV in collaboration with YouthTrive assisted Tolulope O. Omokaiye of EVOLVE Mentoring, Incorporated with hosting a youth development partners convening to discuss the potential for bringing My Brother's Keeper to Wake County. MBK was started by President Obama in February 2014 to address opportunity gaps facing boys and young men of color and to ensure all youth can reach their full potential. Within the Obama Foundation, MBK Alliance focuses on building safe and supportive communities for boys and young men of color.
- Tai Rochelle (Family Resource Center South Atlantic) announced that Day 2 Day Dads program will be offered at the Crosby Garfield building every Tuesday and Thursday at 5PM beginning in January. Day 2 Day Dads works to improve employment and economic mobility opportunities; foster healthy relationships and strengthen child- family engagement among fathers in Wake, Durham and Edgecombe Counties.
- Kristin Feierabend gave a recap of the Latinx Empowerment Fair and Bike Give Away. Over 100 children and families attended and received information about community resources from over 25 organizations. 50 children received gently used/refurbished bikes, new helmets & bike safety info.

Next Meeting: January 15, 2018 9:30 AM