

Chief Executive Officer's Report

June 10, 2021

Brevard College Update

WCCA was awarded a grant for \$162,217 in January of 2020 by the Pisgah Health Foundation.. The purpose of the grant was twofold. First, to start an early childhood education internship program for students in Brevard College's Birth – Kindergarten Licensure program. Second, to provide architectural documents and site preparation for an Early Childhood Education Center on the Brevard College campus.

Status Report on the Grant

The internship program is up and running. Five Brevard College students have participated so far. The covid 19 pandemic has slowed the internship program because of closures at WCCA and Brevard College. Both WCCA and Brevard College would like to continue the internship program through the upcoming academic year ending in May of 2022. Attached is a slide presentation that I used in reporting to the Academic Affairs Subcommittee of the Brevard College Board of Directors on May 20, 2021. Also attached is a budget summary that shows there is still \$36,234.39 left from the original grant that can be used to extend the internship program.

In 2019 WCCA and Brevard College began discussing the possibility of having a WCCA Early Childhood Education Center on the BC campus. Two locations were considered and a site was chosen on the northeast side of campus near College Walk and accessed mainly from Neely Road. Soil testing and design work for the site were paid for from the Pisgah Health Foundation grant. The Tamara Peacock Company Architects were engaged to design a facility that would meet WCCA's and Brevard College's needs for the center. There were some issues with soil compaction and concerns around infrastructure, but both WCCA and Brevard College continued to move forward in good faith to plan the facility.

Progress Report on Negotiations for a Shared Facility

The Tamara Peacock Company Architects produced drawings for the facility with input from both WCCA and BC. By December of 2020 drawings were ready to present to senior management at WCCA and BC. Dr. Scott Sheffield, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Juan Mascaro, CFO presented drawings and other information to committees of the Brevard College Board this winter. Scott called me and said BC senior management would work on a Memorandum of Understanding and WCCA could do the same. We would plan to meet to work out ownership, investment and other issues before the full Brevard College Board meeting in May.

WCCA needed at a minimum a thirty year lease on the land for the facility. This was something both parties could agree to. The responsibility for raising almost all of the funding for the facility was going to be with WCCA. With infrastructure, work to improve the building site, and a well-designed building meant to last at least thirty years, the amount needed was going to easily exceed three million dollars. For that kind of investment WCCA needed ownership of the building for at least thirty years. Brevard College was suggesting that WCCA could lease the building back from BC with fifty percent of the monthly lease going into escrow for future maintenance. The parties were at an impasse so WCCA suggested a plan B.

Plan B is to maintain the internship program at WCCA's Hillview facility. WCCA owns approximately eighteen acres that surround the Hillview Children's Services facility. This property is 1.2 miles from Brevard College. WCCA would construct a new facility on this property with capacity to serve approximately one hundred children. It would also have some office space for Brevard College interns and faculty to use. Scott and Juan expressed that this was a good plan B. Joey Burnett, Project Manager with The Tamara Peacock Company Architects and me presented an update on the internship program and the facility to the BC Academic Affairs Committee on May 20, 2021. Drawings that Joey presented at that meeting are attached.

Moving Forward

WCCA will be requesting an extension on the period of performance from the Pisgah Health Foundation. There is still approximately \$70,000 left in grant funds. These could be used to continue the internship program until at least May of 2022. Some of these funds could also be used to have the Tamara Peacock Company Architects modify some of the blueprints. The remaining funds could also be used for site testing and surveying at Hillview.

Rocky Cabagnot Fractional General Council

As part of WCCA's continuous improvement strategy, I am happy to announce that we have contracted with Rocky Cabagnot, an attorney that specializes in nonprofit law at Hull and Chandler Law Firm in Charlotte. Rocky has a unique perspective, because he was CEO of the Salisbury/ Rowan Community Action Agency. He has extensive experience in working with the Office of Head Start, the NC Division of Childcare and Early Education and other funding sources that contract or provide grants to WCCA. The WCCA Board will have more access to legal assistance with contracts, program compliance and nonprofit best practices. Please join me in welcoming Rocky!