

Open Houses and Groundbreakings

WNCSource's Early Head Start center in Forest City should open the week of October 24th. Pearl Saddler, Children's Services Area Manager; Margit Nelson, Children's Services Operations and Procurement Manager, and Tim Camp, Facilities Director have done a great job renovating and equipping the facility. When it is fully staffed twenty-four children will be served there.

WNCSource's Tebeau Childcare Center is nearing completion. We expect to have a certificate of occupancy in October. Daycare licensing and NC Pre-k site selection will take a little longer. When fully operational, Tebeau will have three NC-Pre-K/ Head Start classrooms and five Early Head Start classrooms. That will allow us to serve ninety-four children at the site

In Columbus, NC we are finishing architectural drawings, and putting the construction of our new center out for bid. We already have nearly completed civil architecture plans for the site. Be on the lookout for open houses and groundbreaking ceremonies in the next three months.

CandL Listening Sessions

WNCSource hosted a listening session at Polk Central Elementary School the evening of September 13th. Fifteen parents and community members attended to discuss the lack of childcare options in Polk County and how that affects families. Below is a sampling of what we learned:

- Families are travelling long distances to different sites in other counties to find childcare
- Families are working split shifts to provide their own childcare, because no other options are available
- Some parents cannot keep up with their work schedules due to lack of childcare
- Some parents bring their children to work
- Childcare is too expensive for many families

CandL stands for the caring and learning. The project is being administered through the NC Child/ Early Childhood Education program. The goal is to build support for a state funded early childhood education system. WNCSource was paid \$5,000 to host the listening session in Polk County. WNCSource has also agreed to host a CandL listening session in Rutherford County.

WNCSource provided sandwiches, salads, deserts and soft drinks from Firehouse Subs. Participants also received \$50 gift cards. Childcare for fourteen children was provided by WNCSource staff. There was some nice artwork completed by the children.

The Return of Board Bus Tours

Before the pandemic WNCSource had started an effective Board training strategy. Every year Board members and staff would use our transportation service to visit part of our service area and have lunch together. Please mark your calendars for Tuesday, November 15 for the return of Board Bus Tours. We will meet at the King Creek Administration Building. We will tour the admin, building and King Creek Children's Center. We will take the bus to Sugar Hill, Seventh Avenue and Bargain Hendo. After that we will have lunch provided by WNCSource. The day should be done by 1:30 PM.