

## Appendices

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The following section contains supporting documentation for various components of the plan, including notes from the community engagement meetings, action team participant lists, and descriptions of key community initiatives that complement this plan.

For a full list of appendices, see the Table of Contents.

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## Appendix A

### *Larry King Center for Building Children's Futures*

#### **Brief History**

In 2009, the Larry King Center for Building Children's Futures (LKC) was launched to provide a strategic resource for the community – maximizing the effectiveness and impact of work being done for children by providers, agencies and funders. The LKC was established following several years of community engagement, collective learning and unprecedented collaboration. The LKC is the culmination of efforts begun in the early 2000's and continued throughout much of the decade by the Children's Alliance and the United Agenda for Children (UAC). After a yearlong joint planning process with a subset of the UAC steering committee, the Council for Children's Rights (CFCR) officially launched its new role by becoming the local intermediary organization for children's issues in the Charlotte region in January 2009.

The LKC, an initiative of CFCR, was formally unveiled in September 2009 with lead support from The Duke Endowment, The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Bank of America Foundation, Wachovia Foundation of Wells Fargo, and Foundation for the Carolinas. The center is named for the late Larry King, a tireless champion for children in North Carolina. While the Center's focus is on meeting the long-term needs of children in the Charlotte region, the LKC recognizes the need for civic infrastructure that bridges the needs of children both today and tomorrow. The LKC is well positioned to meet this challenge, providing leadership on the important issues of the day with an eye toward the needed systemic change to produce desired outcomes in the future. As a catalyst for change in the community, the LKC functions within four roles: community planning, research and evaluation, public policy advocacy, and public awareness/community engagement.

Building on prior efforts to define and prioritize children's issues in Mecklenburg County, the LKC identified three initial focus areas: school readiness, reducing the incidence and impact of child abuse and neglect, and improving access to quality health and mental health care. For more information on prior community initiatives, please see *Appendix F*.

#### *Larry King Center Roles*

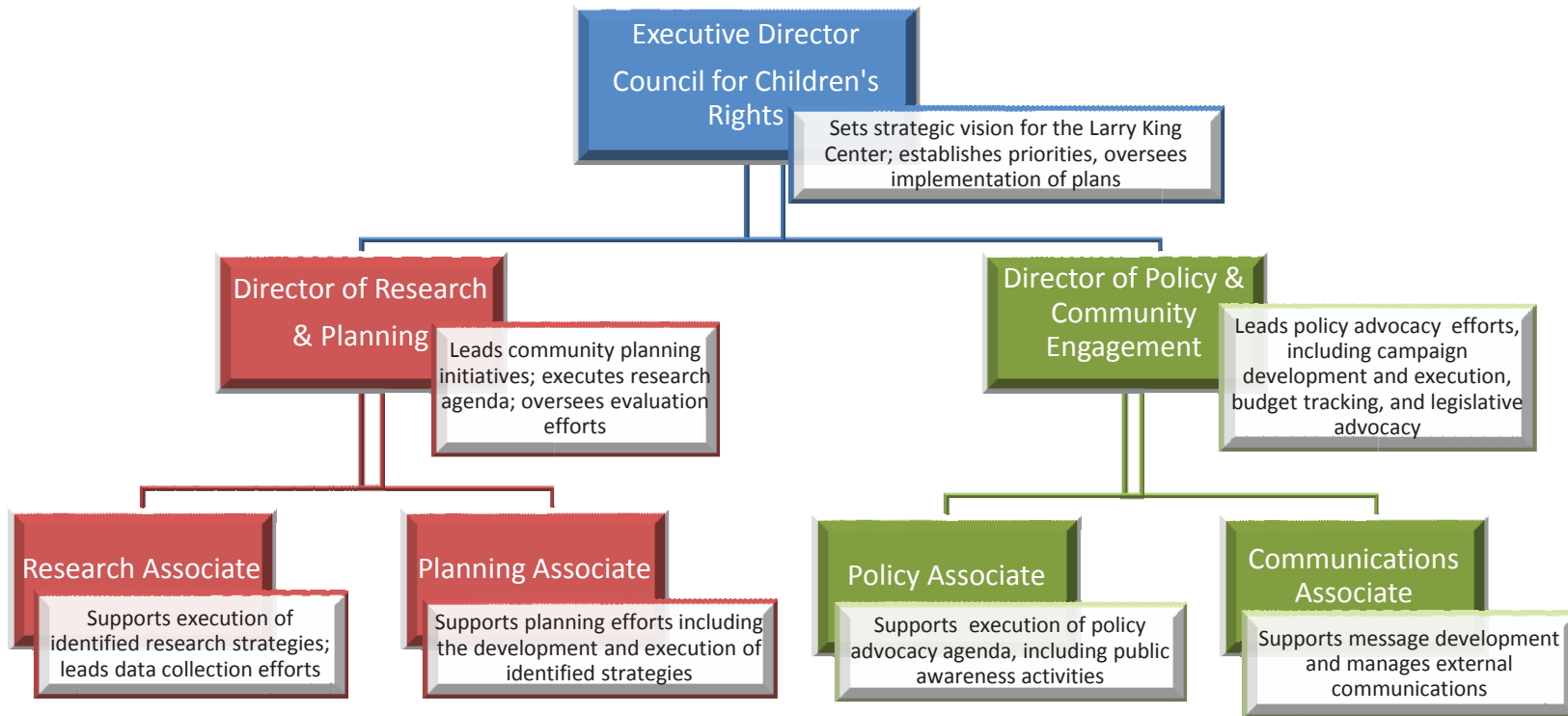
*Community Planning*

*Research & Evaluation*

*Public Policy*

*Public Awareness &  
Community Engagement*

**Current Larry King Center Staff Structure**



## Community Trustees for Children

In addition to LKC staff, the Community Trustees for Children will serve as a unifying voice for children in our community. The Trustees will provide advice and recommendations to The Larry King Center on matters related to improving community-wide outcomes for children in Mecklenburg County, including execution of the strategies within the School Readiness Plan. The Larry King Center Community Trustees for Children consists of volunteer members representing multiple sectors in Mecklenburg County. The Community Trustees comprises approximately 15 members. Members were selected from the following constituencies: business leaders, government representatives, the faith community, philanthropic institutions, academic institutions, service providers and other civic leaders.

### Roles of the Trustees



## Appendix B

### Community Engagement Participants

Co-Leaders	Lee Sarah	Henderson Shifflet	Smart Start of Mecklenburg County Larry King Center
<b>Ready Families</b>	Patrena April	Bowen Calnin	Youth and Family Services YMCA of Greater Charlotte
	Maria Sandra	Cardarelli Conway	Central Ave. Bilingual Preschool Community Volunteer
	John Jerri	Ellis Haigler	Mecklenburg CDSA Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
	Sandy Cammie	Hammond Hauptfuhrer	Meck Co. Community Support Services/Women's Commission Cornerstone Project
	Carolyn Kenya	Hazeldine Henderson	Child Care Resources, Inc. YWCA Families Together
	Jared Lois	Keaton Kilkka	Bethlehem Center Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County
	Nancy Marian	Lipscomb Maxwell	Lakewood Preschool Cooperative Bethlehem Center
	Millard Martha	McCluney Olstin	Charlotte Housing Authority Charlotte Emergency Housing
	Sheila Ariana	Peltzer Shahinfar	KN2P UNC Charlotte
	Denise Eve	Squier White	Child Care Resources, Inc. Parent Magazine
	Candace Shellie	Wilson Woodberry	Mental Health Association/Parent Voice Meck. Co. Dept. of Social Services

Co-Leaders	Susan Laura	Furtney Clark	Care Ring Larry King Center
<b>Ready Health</b>	Maria Robert	Bonaiuto Herman-Smith	Meck Co. Health Dept. UNC-Charlotte
	Deb Meredith	Kaclk Ledford	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Healthy Weight, Healthy Child
	Sara Karen	Lovett Neal	Mecklenburg County Health Department Queens University
	Marilyn Shannon	Thompson Tucker	Florence Crittenton Charlotte Speech and Hearing

Mecklenburg County 2011

Co-Leaders	Janet Liz	Singerman Clasen-Kelly	Child Care Resources, Inc. Larry King Center
<b>Ready Early Care</b>	Julie	Babb	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
	Danyelle	Bergeron	Thompson Child and Family Focus
	Janine	Boudreau	United Way of Central Carolinas
	Cindy	Broadway	Child Care Resources, Inc.
	Barbara	Cantisano	Central Avenue Bilingual Preschool
	Judy	Carter	The Learning Collaborative
	Adrian	DeVore	Community Volunteer
	Rebecca	Grant	The Learning Collaborative
	Nancy	Hughes	Child Care Resources Inc.
	Rich	Lambert	UNC Charlotte
	Monique	Luckey	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
	Jane	Meyer	Smart Start of Mecklenburg
	Shantel	Mitchell	Bethlehem Center
	Sandy	Newnan	Central Piedmont Community College
	Debbie	Shirkey	1st Presbyterian Child Development
	Barbara	Rein	Smart Start of Mecklenburg
	Patti	Stowe	Child Care Resources, Inc.
	Trish	Tanger	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
Claire	Tate	Partners in Out of School Time	

Co-Leaders	Brandon Rett	Lofton Liles	Robinson Bradshaw & Hinson Larry King Center
<b>Ready Schools</b>	Chris	Bishop	Community Volunteer
	Ginny	Amendum	Thompson Child and Family Focus
	Tayuanee	Dewberry	Right Moves for Youth
	Beth	Donovan	Community Volunteer
	Jill	Efird	CMS/DSS Ed. Liaison
	Fannie	Flono	Charlotte Observer
	Kimberly	Foxworth	CMS Pre-K Programs
	Carolyn	Hazeldine	Child Care Resources, Inc.
	Christie	Kahil	Arts and Sciences Council
	Andrew	Ladd	Communities in Schools
	Mike	Massey	Communities in Schools
	Karen	Neal	Queens University
	Kim	Parker	A Child's Place
	Roberta	Smith	Dore Academy
	Carrie	Sykes	Parent
	Karen	Thomas	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
	Jan	Valder	Community Volunteer
	Dearsley	Vernon	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

Mecklenburg County 2011

<b>Co-Leaders</b>	Barb Brett	Pellin Loftis	Community Volunteer Larry King Center
<b>Ready Community</b>	Claire	Apaliski	UNCC Urban Institute
	Kelly	Brooks	Community Volunteer
	Ann	Clark	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
	Jerri	Fatticci	Citizen Schools
	Jill	Ibbotson	YMCA of Greater Charlotte
	Cynthia	Johnson	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
	Meryle	Leonard	Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County
	Michelle	Mosko	YMCA of Greater Charlotte
	Katheryn	Northington	The Learning Collaborative
	Mary Jo	Powers	Thompson Child and Family Focus
	Kathy	Ridge	EDvance
	Kate	Shem	Freedom School Partners
	Stephanie	Starr	Jewish Family Services
	Andie	Stevenson	Community School of the Arts
	Annabelle	Suddreth	A Child's Place
	Marjorie	Tate	Community Volunteer
	Lou	Trosch, Jr.	District Court Judge
Shonta	Walker	Thompson Child and Family Focus	
Linda	Weisbruch	CFCR Board Member	

<b>Chair</b>	Ryan	Kilmer	UNC-Charlotte Department of Psychology
<b>Research Committee</b>	Lyndon	Abrams	UNC-Charlotte Department of Counseling, Special Education and Child Development
	Jim	Cook	UNC-Charlotte Department of Psychology
	Rich	Lambert	UNC-Charlotte Department of Educational Leadership
	Mike	Massey	Communities in Schools
	Sharon	Portwood	Institute for Social Capital
	Jason	Schoeneberger	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

Co-Leaders	Samara Brett Liz	Foxx Loftis Clasen-Kelly	Parent Larry King Center Larry King Center
<b>Parent Action Team</b>	Ricky	Carson	Parent
	Jamie	Cleaton	Parent
	Shannon	Cleaton	Parent
	Meleah	Corner	Parent
	Iris	Dominguez	Parent
	Alejandra	Gomez	Parent
	Anndrena	Hudson	Parent
	Danica	Jackson	Parent
	Hadarii	Jones	Parent
	Carrie	Kester	Parent
	Denise	Mason	Parent
	Christine	Milano	Parent
	Dena	Paulding	Parent
	LaToya	Price	Parent
	La'Necia	Rivens (Culp)	Parent
	Evelynn	Scott	Parent
	Nohemi	Sesma	Parent
	Dawn	Sewell	Parent
	Kelly	Stevens	Parent
	Carrie	Sykes	Parent
	Mayra	Velazquez	Parent
Amy	Vitale	Parent	

Additional Community Engagement Participants			
Courtney	Alexander	Libby	Kelligrew
Rosalyn	Allison-Jacobs	Heather	Kilcoin
Bill	Anderson	Ryan	Kilmer
Andrew	Belton	Andrew	Ladd
Aimee	Brunton	Cynthia	Mason
Libby	Cable	Lauren	McDonald
Don	Clise	Rickeye	McKoy-Mitchell
John	Concelman	Mary Nell	McPherson
Jim	Cook	Jeff	Michael
Dot	Counts-Scoggins	Paige	Moore
Jackie	Cunningham	Maria	Orozco
Connie	Curtin	Rachel	Paletta
Debbie	Darden	Susan	Patterson
Dennis	Daugherty	Valerie	Pearce
Eric	Davis	Paula	Plonski
Jill	Dineen-Scott	Sherry	Plummer
Rep. Beverly	Earle	Sharon	Portwood
Natalie	English	Brandon	Prescott
Andy	Fair	Linda	Roberts
Judy	Fennema	Georgia	Rodriguez
Fannie	Flono	Jennifer	Rogers
Erin	Forsythe	Michael	Rose
Eman	Ghanem	Libby	Safrit
Beth	Gifford	Bonnie	Schmidt
Chris	Green	Elaine	Self
Sarah	Greene	Barbara	Spradling
Fred	Grosse	Nichole	St. Aimie- Bonner
Eric	Guckian	Melissa	Strompolis
Maria	Hanlin	Claire	Tate
Bridget	Happney	John	Taylor
Jenny	Harbin	Amy	Tribble
Tiffani	Harris	Rosa	Underwood
Penny	Hawkins	Patrick	Vaca
Sara	Holderness	Christine	Wilson
Beverly	Howard	Suzanne	Wilson
Tim	Hurley	Bruce	Yelton

## Appendix C

### Community Meeting Notes – Table Discussion Themes

	Areas of Strength	Areas for Improvement
Ready Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Collaborations</b> – examples included the Zfive group, the Children and Family Services Center and the Children’s Alliance</li> <li>• <b>Faith Community</b> - noted as a strength by multiple tables</li> <li>• <b>Funding</b> - United Way and the opportunities provided by the FFTC Catalyst Fund</li> <li>• <b>Parent Education and Support</b> – community realization that family support is critical; CFCR was noted for including a parent action team as part of this planning process</li> <li>• <b>Programs</b> – every table noted examples of successful local programs including NFP, Safe Journey, CCRI, YMCA, YWCA, MHA (Parent Voice), Watkins Center, Parent University, and Smart Start funded programs</li> <li>• <b>Systems and Community</b> - Charlotte is a community that is willing to come together to find solutions to complex problems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Access to Services and Information</b> - need single portal for parents to access services, resources, and information; address barriers that prevent parents from accessing services (time, transportation, etc.)</li> <li>• <b>Cultural Competence</b> - Address cultural barriers that keep parents from accessing services; engage Urban League, NAACP, Latin American Coalition</li> <li>• <b>Evaluation and Research</b> – need better evaluation of existing programs</li> <li>• <b>Faith Community</b> – should be engaged further</li> <li>• <b>Funding</b> – need increased funding for good programs</li> <li>• <b>Parent Education and Support</b> - increase parents’ knowledge of available resources; increase parent support programs</li> <li>• <b>Programs</b> - expand evidence-based practice</li> <li>• <b>Safety Net/Basic Needs</b> – address basic needs: housing, DV, family literacy, etc.</li> <li>• <b>Systems and Community</b> – local and state advocacy efforts need to be expanded; increase child care subsidy</li> </ul>

	Areas of Strength	Areas for Improvement
<b>Ready Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Access to Services and Information</b> – most children are covered by CHIP or other insurance; – immunization programs exist; “Big Shot” Saturday</li> <li>• <b>Collaborations</b> - Zfive and Healthy Weight Healthy Child</li> <li>• <b>Assessment/Screenings</b> – CMS provides medical and developmental evaluations; Colgate van for dental screenings</li> <li>• <b>Faith Community</b> – parish nurses</li> <li>• <b>Programs</b> – strong local programs such as NFP, mobile dental unit, health department services, CDSA, YMCA, Thompson’s, Care Ring, free health clinics, and Teen Health Connection noted as examples</li> <li>• <b>Providers</b> – strong healthcare systems in both Presby and CMC, including an “excellent” children’s hospital; increases in school health nurses; adequate number of providers compared to other parts of the state</li> <li>• <b>Systems and Community</b> – improved access to healthcare, free/reduced lunch program and summer food program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Access to Services and Information</b> – services are not available after hours or on Saturdays; cultural barriers exist that prevent access for some populations; parents often don’t know what resources exist; need expanded park and recreation facilities</li> <li>• <b>Cultural Competence</b> – information and programs should be delivered in a culturally competent manner</li> <li>• <b>Funding</b> – often drives services; lost revenue for services</li> <li>• <b>Faith Community</b> – needs to be engaged more</li> <li>• <b>Parent Education and Support</b> – parents need to understand what’s developmentally appropriate; better</li> <li>• <b>Programs</b> – need to expand successful programs; lack of programs for mental health, nutrition and pediatric dentists</li> <li>• <b>Providers</b> – lack of dental providers, mental health providers, school nurses, and parish nurses understand emotional health</li> <li>• <b>Systems and Community</b> – need to advocate for criteria of quality services, need to better understand the impact of health care reform; food stamps should be expanded to farmer’s markets and usable on produce</li> </ul>

	Areas of Strength	Areas for Improvement
<b>Ready Early Care</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Access to Services and Information</b> – subsidy is available but not enough slots exist</li> <li>• <b>Collaboration</b> – good partnerships exist with CCRI, community colleges, and Smart Start; Zfive, ECAC</li> <li>• <b>Faith Community</b> – these child care programs tend to be high quality</li> <li>• <b>Funding</b> – Smart Start supports high quality (4 stars or higher) child care centers</li> <li>• <b>Systems and Community</b> – systems exist to encourage improved quality</li> <li>• <b>Programs</b> – Child Care Resources, CMS EC Preschool, Bright Beginnings, More at Four, Head Start, Thompson’s, Smart Start funded programs, Easter Seals, CDSA</li> <li>• <b>Providers</b> – increased quality and number of 4 and 5 star child care centers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Access to Services and Information</b> – gap between cost of high quality care and what parents can afford; need more subsidy dollars; transportation is a barrier; need more early intervention services – increase awareness of CDSA; affordable, accessible child care in all communities; need more high quality care for children with special needs</li> <li>• <b>Faith Community</b> – needs to be engaged more</li> <li>• <b>Parent Education and Support</b>– engage parents; educate about the impact of early care experiences</li> <li>• <b>Systems and Community</b> – need to provide incentives to child care teachers to remain in the field</li> </ul>

	Areas of Strength	Areas for Improvement
Ready Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Collaboration</b> - Ready, Set, Go collaboration between CCRI and CMS has been incorporated in 20 states</li><li>• <b>Cultural Competence</b> – bilingual services include CMS Beginners Day for elementary schools, Parent University – Preparing Your Child for Kindergarten, parent workshops for Bright Beginnings and More at Four, Bilingual Preschool</li><li>• <b>Systems and Community</b> – best teachers and administrators are placed in lowest performing schools</li><li>• <b>Programs</b> – strong programs include Bright Beginnings, “Ready, Set, Go” series, More at Four, Smart Start funded programs, Bilingual programs, Classroom Central, Parent University, Double Oaks</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Parent Education and Information</b> – keep parents informed and engaged; educate parents about kindergarten experience</li><li>• <b>Programs</b> – no required 4 year old program; 2/3 of children are not in a public 4 year old program; curriculum should be developmentally appropriate and flexible; need more preschool programs; programs needs to be accessible</li><li>• <b>School Services</b> – need more social workers, nurses, psychologists</li><li>• <b>Systems and Community</b> – need to collect information on preschool experiences at kindergarten entry; need better transitions from child care centers; increasing number of children in poverty makes transition difficult</li></ul>

	Areas of Strength	Areas for Improvement
Ready Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Collaboration</b> – “Charlotte cares”; planning processes are inclusive; agencies are not territorial; Children’s Alliance , Child Fatality Task Force and Crossroads Charlotte given as examples of collaborative efforts</li> <li>• <b>Funding</b> – philanthropic community provides support and funding; FFTC, Social Venture Partners, Knight Foundation, CMS study group given as examples</li> <li>• <b>Programs</b> – libraries, hospitals, mobile resource library</li> <li>• <b>Systems and Community</b> – employees from local businesses volunteer in the community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Collaboration</b> – need to collaborate across agencies; local government agencies need to work more closely together and improve coordination among community partners</li> <li>• <b>Funding</b> – CMS Study Group should support school readiness; need more corporate support</li> <li>• <b>Public Awareness</b> – need a marketing campaign – “Charlotte Loves Children”; get the message out with regard to school readiness; media could report on positive stories about children/schools/families</li> <li>• <b>Systems and Community</b> – engage more faith and business community partners; engage Chamber of Commerce; involve people across all communities – need grassroots efforts; look for opportunities to engage “new Charlotteans”; city and county could provide more support by consolidating to save money</li> </ul>

## Appendix D

### *Parent Action Team Notes*

#### **Summary of Table Discussions December 9, 2010**

For the inaugural meeting of the Parent Action Team, parents were provided an overview of the school readiness planning effort, the role of the Parent Action Team, and a cursory review of the relevant child development literature and local community indicators. Parents were then divided into three groups to discuss school readiness in Mecklenburg County. They were asked to consider the strengths in our community, areas for improvement, and how parents can be further engaged. Each table had an LKC staff member who facilitated and served as scribe. A summary, organized by the elements of the school readiness equation, follows:

#### **Ready Families**

Participants focused much of their discussion on how parents can be better engaged and how they can better access information and services. Specifically, participants noted the need for mentoring, additional parent programming, and parent support groups. Parents also noted the need for additional information about developmental milestones and mentioned tangible things parents can do at home such as “teach good manners” and “read every night.” The only family-related strength noted by the group was that parents “want to do the right thing, [they] just need to be encouraged.”

#### **Ready Early Care**

Participants had quite a bit to say about early care in our community; both strengths and areas for improvement were noted. Head Start, Bright Beginnings, More at Four, and the child care star rating system were all noted as strengths. Areas for improvement included the high cost of child care, the lack of Head Start in some areas of the county, and the need for higher salaries for child care workers.

#### **Ready Health**

Parents had less to say about health than some of the other areas. They noted that there is good insurance available, good access to services and a “far better clinic system than other places.” The Health Department and the ZFive infant mental health group were also noted as areas of strength. The lack of physician training on child nutrition and development and the need for better quality food were noted as areas for improvement.

### **Ready Schools**

Areas of strength included the various volunteer groups that are involved with schools: corporate employees, community groups, and schools that sponsor other schools. The “getting ready for school” video was also noted as a strength. Areas for improvement covered an array of issues and included: better kindergarten assessments, inadequate support for children with disabilities, the need for more volunteers, “constant policy change” regarding More at Four, and the need for a transitional kindergarten program.

### **Ready Community**

Participants noted multiple institutions as community strengths: churches, parks, and the YMCA. Areas for improvement included the need for increased involvement by the corporate community as well as a sliding fee scale or free tickets to community events. Other ideas included having a “Children’s Activity Calendar” and a Parenting Street Fair. One table also discussed having DSS require parenting classes to qualify for such services as WIC.

## Appendix E

### *Complementary Community Initiatives*

#### **System of Care**

##### **Background and Overview**

System of Care is the national standard of Best Practice to plan and deliver services to youth and families with complex needs and multi-system involvement as noted in the Surgeon General's Report on Mental Health, the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health, and a variety of National Congressional Reports. According to SAMHSA's Center for Mental Health Services, System of Care offers the best possible programmatic, fiscal, and organizational context for implementing and sustaining evidenced-based interventions because it:

1. Offers a strategic public health approach for using the evidence-based intervention to meet the specific clinical needs of the entire population of children with serious emotional disturbances and their families living in a specific jurisdiction
2. Provides a method for fiscally sustaining the evidence-based intervention through the financial contributions of the various child-serving sectors that collaborate to meet the specific and multiple needs of these children
3. Creates the organizational structures and processes to integrate the evidence-based intervention into the individualized service plan for a child with a serious emotional disturbance and the child's family

A System of Care is a comprehensive network of community-based services and supports that are organized around a common philosophy to meet the challenges of families involved with multiple child serving agencies, e.g. mental health, child welfare, schools, juvenile justice, and public health. The System of Care approach refers to how a community comes together to agree on a vision, necessary structures, and effective practices that will support youth and families. It defines how business is done throughout the community and offers a practical way of partnering across systems and departments, with families, to achieve the goals that they identify as important.

##### **Mecklenburg County System of Care**

In our community, MeckCARES is that System of Care Partnership. Mecklenburg County's effort to develop a countywide System of Care dates back to 2001 when it was determined that 6,000-8,000 youth (ages 10-21) with severe emotional problems were in need of additional services and supports. In 2004, approximately \$500,000 local dollars were committed to a pilot project involving a small number of children and families and a select group of case managers. In 2005, Mecklenburg County LME was

awarded a six-year grant from SAMHSA to further develop MeckCARES. Its purpose is two-fold; to strengthen the infrastructure and improve the collaboration of public departments and private agencies to maximize resources, minimize fragmentation, and eliminate duplication, and to improve outcomes for children and youth that struggle with emotional and behavioral challenges, including mental illness and substance abuse, and their families. MeckCARES is currently in its sixth and final year of funding, however it will have money available for an additional year of funding when the official grant period ends September 30, 2011.

**Contact Information:**

Kimm R. Campbell, LCSW, MSW, BSW

Director

MeckCARES SOC and Forensic Evaluations Area Mental Health/Local Management Entity

[kimm.campbell@mecklenburgcountync.gov](mailto:kimm.campbell@mecklenburgcountync.gov)

[www.meckcares.charmeck.org](http://www.meckcares.charmeck.org)

## **Healthy Weight Healthy Child**

Various stakeholders in the community are working to reverse the childhood obesity trend in Mecklenburg County through the Healthy Weight, Healthy Child (HWHC) initiative.

### **Vision**

For all children in our community to have healthy weights in healthy bodies.

### **Mission**

To develop a community collaboration that engages and excites people and develops a compelling, achievable plan to promote healthy weights in children.

### **Background**

The Healthy Weight, Healthy Child (HWHC) Initiative was a year-long planning process from September 2009 to September 2010 with the ultimate goal of developing an action plan, or blueprint, for Mecklenburg County to address the issues of healthy lifestyles for children and childhood obesity in the county. The action plan, *The Blueprint for a Healthier Generation, 2020*, includes environmental policy, institutional policy, public awareness, and targeted community interventions that stakeholders and the community can implement to address this important issue. The process to develop the action plan included building a coalition to enhance community collaboration around the issues of healthy eating and active living and conducting a community assessment to understand the needs of the community.

### **Current Status**

At present time, the HWHC Initiative has entered into the implementation phase, focused on garnering support and funding for the interventions prioritized in *The Blueprint for a Healthier Generation, 2020*.

### **Contact Information:**

Meredith Ledford, MPP

HWHC Coordinator

[Meredith.ledford@carolinas.org](mailto:Meredith.ledford@carolinas.org)

<http://charmeck.org/mecklenburg/county/HealthDepartment/hwhc/Pages/HWHC.aspx>

## **ZFive: A Community of Support for the Social and Emotional Health of Children Ages Zero to Five**

The Infant Mental Health (IMH) Group is an informal collaborative of clinicians, researchers and program administrators in Mecklenburg County dedicated to improving the lives of children birth through five with mental health issues and their families.

The IMH Group began meeting early in 2007 in response to shared concerns and interests in the social and emotional health of this age group. In October 2007, The Lee Institute received funding from Smart Start of Mecklenburg County to conduct an assessment of the mental health needs and resources for children birth through five in Mecklenburg County and their families. The Needs Assessment provides an overview of:

- Existing national research on infant mental health, including local and national prevalence estimates for children birth through five with mental health issues
- Responses to a survey of providers in Mecklenburg County who replied that they offer therapeutic interventions for children birth through five
- The practices of infant mental health service providers in other communities
- Gaps between those resources available in Mecklenburg County and notable service examples elsewhere, including views expressed by providers and family members

The needs assessment served as the foundation to the IMH Group for expanding mental health services and supports available to children birth through five and their families in Mecklenburg County. Thanks to continued funding by Smart Start of Mecklenburg County, the IMH Group and The Lee Institute look forward to launching the next phase of work: designing a set of responses to the current needs of this population, including a pilot project with the child welfare system in Mecklenburg County. Initiatives to build the capacity of the community to meet the needs of this population will be informed by the voices of family members and providers and model a collaborative, strengths-based approach to dovetail with efforts underway to build a system of care for children with mental health issues and their families.

### **Contact Information:**

John L. Ellis, Ph.D.

Director

Mecklenburg County Children's Developmental Services

[John.ellis@mecklenburgcountync.gov](mailto:John.ellis@mecklenburgcountync.gov)

<http://www.zfive.org>

## Appendix F

### *Overview of Prior Community Initiatives*

Over the course of the last decade, our community made multiple attempts to prioritize children's issues. Each of these efforts built on former initiatives and brought our community a step closer to having a comprehensive agenda for children. These efforts were reexamined as the Larry King Center was developing and selecting issue area priorities; while not exhaustive of all the community efforts, three were reviewed:

#### **Core Values and Standards for Children and Families (2000)**

##### **Development of a core set of values for all children in Mecklenburg County**

The purpose of this collaborative study was to create a comprehensive community-generated set of minimum standards for all children. The effort was led by the Council for Children (forerunner of Council for Children's Rights) and was intended to be the first of a multi-phased process that would ultimately lead to the creation and monitoring of outcome measures associated with each value.

#### **United Agenda for Children (2004-2006)**

##### **Community Agenda/Priorities Process**

The United Agenda for Children (UAC) was a coalition of 40 non-profit organizations and public institutions, funded by the Duke Endowment, Knight Foundation, Foundation for the Carolinas, Mecklenburg County, the City of Charlotte, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and the Charlotte business community. According to the UAC Town Hall Participant Guide (2004): "The goal of the UAC is working together, over the next three years, to create and begin implementing a united action plan that will ensure all children in Mecklenburg County are healthy, safe and well-educated."

#### **United Way of Central Carolinas (2006-2008)**

##### **Community Building Priorities Process**

United Way of Central Carolinas (UW) engaged in a multi-step process to rank the community issues addressed through the UW funded programs. This work was in part a response to United Way of America's decade-long effort to increase its ability to measure the impact of UW funded programs in communities. It was also in response to increased donor demands for information on the impact of donated dollars. Ultimately, the priorities were expected to guide UW in making funding decisions and inform donor marketing efforts. Over time, it was expected that the data would result in increased dollars going towards those issues that were higher priority.

## **Summary**

These efforts provided a framework from which the LKC's overall priorities and agenda were built. Common issues emerged from all three: 1) the need for improved school readiness, including early care and education; 2) a call to reduce child abuse and neglect; and 3) the need to improve access to health and mental health care. These priorities, once vetted by the LKC research staff and endorsed by the Research Committee, were adopted as the initial priority areas for the LKC.

Lessons learned from the previous efforts were also used to inform the LKC's work. The most vexing challenge for all of these initiatives was the lack of infrastructure to support the ongoing implementation of the plans once developed. In almost all cases, plans were developed with little or no staff or resources to support the actual implementation. Volunteer committees and workgroups were almost always relied upon to move the agenda forward. The LKC was created with this problem in mind. The staff of the LKC is intended to not only support the plan, but to actively engage in execution of the identified strategies through research, planning, policy advocacy, and public awareness.

## Appendix G

### Endnotes

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<sup>1</sup> *Getting Ready: Findings from the National School Readiness Indicators Initiative*, a 17-state Partnership Sponsored by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Kauffman Foundation and the Ford Foundation, Prepared by Rhode Island Kids Count, 2005.

<sup>2</sup> Shonkoff, J. & Phillips, D. (eds.) 2000. *From Neurons to Neighborhoods: The Science of Early Childhood Development*. Washington DC: National Academy Press.

<sup>3</sup> Aos, S. Lieb, R., Mayfield, J., Miller, M. & Pennucci, A. (2004). *Benefits and costs of prevention and early intervention programs for youth*.

<sup>4</sup> *Getting Ready: Findings from the National School Readiness Indicators Initiative*, a 17-state Partnership Sponsored by the David & Lucile Packard Foundation, the Kauffman Foundation and the Ford Foundation, Prepared by Rhode Island Kids Count, 2005.

<sup>5</sup> Lee, V. and Burkham, D. (2002). *Inequality at the Starting Gate: Social Background Differences in Achievement as Children Begin School*. Washington, DC: Economic Policy Institute.  
[www.epinet.org](http://www.epinet.org)

<sup>6</sup> *Connecting Neurons, Concepts and People*, NIEER, 2008

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> *A Science-Based Framework for Early Childhood Policy*. Center on the Developing Child, Harvard University

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Shonkoff, J. & Phillips, D. (eds.) 2000. *From Neurons to Neighborhoods: The Science of Early Childhood Development*. Washington DC: National Academy Press.

<sup>11</sup> Karoly, L., Kilburn, M., & Cannon, M. (2005). *Early Childhood Interventions: Proven Results, Future Promise*.

<sup>12</sup> *A Science-Based Framework for Early Childhood Policy*. Center on the Developing Child, Harvard University

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Schweinhart, et al. (2005). *Lifetime Effects: The High/Scope Perry Preschool Study Through Age 40*.

<sup>16</sup> Karoly, L., Kilburn, M., & Cannon, M. (2005). *Early Childhood Interventions: Proven Results, Future Promise*

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.; *A Science-Based Framework for Early Childhood Policy*, Center on the Developing Child, Harvard University, 2007.

<sup>18</sup> *A Science-Based Framework for Early Childhood Policy*, Center on the Developing Child, Harvard University, 2007.

<sup>19</sup> Karoly, L., Kilburn, M., & Cannon, M. (2005). *Early Childhood Interventions: Proven Results, Future Promise*.

<sup>20</sup> *Benefits and Costs of Prevention and Early Intervention Programs for Youth*, Washington State Institute for Public Policy, 2004.

<sup>21</sup> *A Science-Based Framework for Early Childhood Policy*, Center on the Developing Child, Harvard University, 2007.

<sup>22</sup> Heckman, J. (2006, January 10). Catch 'em young. *The Wall Street Journal* [online]. Available: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB113686119611542381.html>

<sup>23</sup> The Institute is one of the non-partisan applied research and community outreach centers of the University of North Carolina - Charlotte. Founded in 1969, the Institute provides a wide-range of services, including technical assistance and training related to operations and data management, public opinion surveys, land-use and natural resources consulting, economic development research and community planning to meet the needs of the region and its citizens.

<sup>24</sup> The LKC Research Committee was established in 2009 as an advisory committee on matters related to community planning, research, and program evaluation; the committee is comprised of local university faculty as well as community researchers

<sup>25</sup> *Getting Ready: Findings from the National School Readiness Indicators Initiative*, a 17-state Partnership Sponsored by the David & Lucile Packard Foundation, the Kauffman Foundation and the Ford Foundation, Prepared by Rhode Island Kids Count, 2005.