



Albemarle County

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AGENDA DATE: 2/3/2016

TITLE:

Charlottesville - Albemarle Early Education Task Force Status Report

SUBJECT/PROPOSAL/REQUEST: Update on the activity of the Charlottesville - Albemarle Early Education Task Force

ITEM TYPE: Consent Information Item

STAFF CONTACT(S): Doug Walker

PRESENTER (S): N/A

LEGAL REVIEW: No

REVIEWED BY: Thomas C. Foley

BACKGROUND: On April 23, 2015, the United Way and Charlottesville Tomorrow co-hosted a summit focused on pre-Kindergarten needs in the region and in the Charlottesville and Albemarle communities specifically. With participation of approximately 80 community members representing businesses, non-profits, local schools and local governments, the summit concluded with a stated interest in undertaking work to address the current gap between the number of at-risk four-year olds currently receiving pre-K services in the City and County and those who would be eligible for pre-K but are not currently being served. This gap, estimated at about 250 to 300 children in the two localities combined, highlights the fact that current programs are not serving all at-risk children

In response to the interest expressed by participants at the Pre-K Summit, the local United Way initiated a community-based effort to bring together a broad cross-section of stakeholder representatives from the City and County to actively pursue a vision for the community to provide access to high quality early education programs for every at-risk child. The United Way drafted a summary work plan, including a stated purpose and vision, and the identification of specific outcomes as indicators of near-term success. Given that the intent of this effort is to compliment the investments already being made by the two localities, it is expected that primary

focus on options and opportunities to close the identified pre-K gap will be on approaches not currently used and/or not fully utilized, such as available Virginia Pre-school Initiative funding from the Virginia Department of Education that is not currently being matched with the County's Bright Stars program. In this way, it is envisioned that it is possible to increase access to pre-K and close the gap without reliance on additional local tax dollars.

The Board of Supervisors endorsed this plan at its meeting on August 5, 2015.

STRATEGIC PLAN: Educational Opportunities: Provide lifelong learning opportunities for all our citizens

DISCUSSION: The Early Education Task Force has prepared and provided updated information for the Board in an effort to keep the Board aware of progress to date and anticipated upcoming actions and activities. In this regard, the following documents are attached: A summary of activity including the stated purpose of the effort, shared vision and highlights of accomplishments to date (Attachment A); a draft work plan with identified goals, objectives, action steps and target dates (Attachment B); and a roster of Task Force members and Key Advocates/Keepers of the Vision (Attachment C).

BUDGET IMPACT: It is not expected currently that the participation in this community lead effort specifically will have a direct budget impact. Outcomes from this effort may impact future consideration of funding for pre-K programs and services. It is assumed that staff time dedicated for this effort will be reasonable.

RECOMMENDATION: This matter is being provided for information only and no action is recommended.

- A: Early Education Task Force Summary
- B: Early Education Task Force Draft Work Plan
- C: Early Education Task Force Membership