

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Success despite COVID was theme at Randolph Partnership for Children annual meeting

Lanier recognized for board service

ASHEBORO, N.C. (September 21, 2021) —Randolph Partnership for Children (RPC) elected officers, elected new directors, and released its 2020-2021 Annual Report at the Board of Directors' Annual Meeting Breakfast held at Pinewood Country Club on Tuesday.

"For the past couple of years, we've all witnessed a worldwide pandemic grip the world in pain, devastation, and change," Executive Director Lisa Hayworth said. "And yet, through the uncertainty, and with your support and leadership, we've continued to provide professional development opportunities for early educators and support them in their classrooms—which never closed."

Three programs were highlighted, including Child Care Health Nurse, Infant-Toddler Intensive Technical Assistance Pilot Project, and Parents as Teachers, each of which had to reinvent service delivery with the onset of the pandemic.

Cindy Trogdon of Randolph County Public Health spoke about the support she gave to child care providers. One of the providers stated in a feedback survey, "Cindy has provided us with crucial information for making sure we're operating in the safest way possible...She has quickly informed us about children and families that have tested positive for COVID, answered all of our questions, and kept us up to date with the latest guidance for centers and families."

Infant-Toddler Technical Assistance Specialist Scarlet Welborn talked about using technology to provide technical assistance to classroom teachers. "We started seeing positive results thanks to the world of technology. This project was at the forefront of TA and was used as a model for creating new ideas of how to provide TA during a time when traditional face-to-face TA was prohibited," Welborn said.

Parent Educator Amanda Ratliff presented on the Parents as Teachers home visiting program. The pandemic hindered only one week of visiting, as the educators immediately adapted to accommodate virtual visits. They were able to write a grant to purchase tablets for families who needed them. "Part of the program includes family connect group meetings, which were shifted



Sarah Neely Lanier talks about the importance of service on the RPC board upon being recognized as a retiring Board Director with Executive Director Lisa Hayworth looking on from behind her.



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online via Zoom during the pandemic. One surprising benefit of this was that more families were able to participate online in the groups,” Ratliff said. “Prior to the pandemic, many of our families had limited transportation to attend the groups, so being virtual helped them be able to participate.”

Director of Marketing and Community Engagement & Outreach Micki Bare provided an overview of the Partnership’s 2020-2021 Annual Report. The report includes the agency’s fiscal year financial overview, sponsors and donors, programmatic accomplishments, and child data for Randolph County.

The Board re-elected Jerry Moore as Chair, Marcelo Pariz as Vice-Chair, Debi Lagueruela as Secretary, and Wayne Rowe as Treasurer. Chelsie Embler, Attorney at Law; Jamee Tate, Chair of the Randolph County Family Engagement and Leadership Coalition; and Dr. Aaron Woody, Asheboro City Schools Superintendent were elected as the 2021-2024 Class of Board Directors.

Board Chair Jerry Moore recognized Sarah Neely Lanier, retiring director, for six years of dedicated service. “Thank you for everything you do for young children in this county,” Lanier said. “It’s work we need to do, because these are the ones who will be caring for us one day.”

“Working together, whether to raise funds or get books into the hands of young children, we have power. Power to overcome adversity. Power to build Great Beginnings and Strong Futures for our children. Power to strengthen our communities and make a positive, lasting difference,” Moore said in his closing remarks.

The 2020-2021 Annual Report can be viewed and downloaded at RandolphKids.org.

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About the Randolph Partnership for Children: Since 1999, the Randolph Partnership for Children (RPC), a non-profit organization, has positively impacted the lives of Randolph County’s young children. As the community’s lead organization for young children and their families, RPC works with and through diverse agencies, individuals, organizations, and communities to ensure all children enter school healthy and ready to succeed in school and life. RPC is a United Way agency. For more information, visit www.randolphkids.org.

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