



Commission on Child Care
Full Commission Meeting: Meeting Minutes
October 1, 2025-DRAFT
Location: Virtual Meeting Hosted on Microsoft TEAMS

Note: These minutes are presented in draft form and have not been formally approved by the Commission on Child Care (CCC) due to the absence of a quorum. They remain subject to amendment and official adoption at a subsequent meeting where a quorum is present.

Members Present:

Jennifer Arnaiz, Tracey Clay, Elka Forbes, Melissa Jordan, Maya Massey, Eden Medhanie, Bill Polman, Nagwa Rizk, Lesley Romanoff

Members Absent:

Yvonne Iscandari and Laurie Moran

Guests Present:

Rossana Espinoza-Thorndahl (LCAM), Dorcas Abban and Elizabeth Law

Staff Present:

Erin Stilwell (DHHS)

Call to Order

Melissa Jordan, CCC Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

Roll Call and Introduction of Guests

Roll call was conducted, and guests were invited to introduce themselves

Membership Update

Presented by: Melissa Jordan and Elka Forbes, Co-Chairs

- The BCC office is aware of the CCC's low membership and lack of quorum.
- The BCC office is prioritizing the posting of a vacancy announcement.
- Commissioners are encouraged to share the announcement within their networks once it is posted.
- Due to the lack of quorum, the CCC is currently unable to take official votes.

Review and Vote on May 28, 2025 Meeting Minutes

- The Commission was unable to vote on the May 28th meeting minutes due to lack of quorum.

Early Childhood Education (ECE) Updates

Presented by: Jennifer Arnaiz, Administrator, Early Childhood Services

Local/County Updates

- **\$6.2 million awarded for Head Start:** Will support a comprehensive program for children birth to age 5, including center-based and FCC programs.
 - 525 new seats focused on infants and toddlers.

- Seats will be subsidized using cost of care data.
- **\$4 million investment in Facilities Fund:**
 - Supports expansion and improvement of child care facilities.
 - Offers forgivable and interest-free loans to providers.
- **Shared Services Alliance:**
 - Partnering with 20 Degrees.
 - Currently in the implementation phase with selected providers.

State Updates

- MMF Workforce Workgroup is focusing on:
 1. Developing a career ladder to support pay parity.
 2. Creating a state child care registry.
 3. Establishing a Governor's task force to propose regulatory changes.

Federal Updates

- Due to the federal government shutdown, the Federal Head Start office is closed.
- Technical assistance services are currently unavailable.

Commission Business

- **Review of FY26 Policy Priorities** for the Council HHS Committee Roundtable on October 22, 2025.
- Final draft will be emailed to commissioners.
- Commissioners are asked to submit edits by **October 7, 2025**.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 PM.

Next Meeting

Date: October 22, 2025

Format: [Virtual Meeting](#)