



**Commission on Child Care  
Full Commission Meeting: Meeting Minutes  
January 22, 2025  
Location: Virtual Meeting Hosted on Microsoft TEAMS**

**Members Present:** Jennifer Arnaiz, Tracey Clay, Allison Fialkov, Elka Forbes, Brandon Howard, Melissa Jordan, Maya Massey, Eden Medhanie, Laurie Moran, Bill Polman, Nagwa Rizk and Lesley Romanoff

**Members Absent:** Niambi Heyward, Yvonne Iscandari and Tara Philips

**Guests Present:** Kimberly Pena-Molina (DHHS)

**Staff Present:** Erin Stilwell (DHHS)

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**Meeting Called to Order: Elka Forbes, CCC Co-Chair,** called the January 22nd meeting to order at 6:35 pm

**Introduction of Guest Speaker (Brandon Howard, CCC Co-Chair)**

*Jennifer Washburn, Owner/Executive Director, iKids Childhood Enrichment Center, Benton, KY.* Ms. Washburn shared information on some of the innovative child care subsidy programs in Kentucky and the positive impact to her child care workforce recruitment and retention.

**Review and Vote of November 20, 2024 meeting minutes**

**Action:** Motion to accept the November 20, 2024 meeting minutes as written: Lesley Romanoff  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Melissa Jordan

All in Favor; minutes accepted as written

**Commission Updates:**

- Report out from ECS, **Jennifer Arnaiz**
  - ECS is going to be launching a podcast entitled, Elevate; the pod cast will spotlight key topics for educators, parents and stakeholders
  - The ECEI Steering Committee is in the process of drafting a response on how to implement the findings for the recent studies; will be shared with County Council in February 2025
  - FY26 will bring fiscal challenges at the State and local levels

**Announcements:**

- **Tracey Clay** shared information about the ECE Evening in Annapolis scheduled for February 10<sup>th</sup>

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm