Commission on Child Care
Full Commission Meeting: Meeting Minutes
April 23, 2025-APPROVED
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 and Nagwa Rizk
Members Absent: Niambi Heyward, Yvonne Iscandari and Lesley Romanoff
Guests Present: Rossana Espinoza-Thorndahl
Staff Present: Erin Stilwell (DHHS)
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Meeting Called to Order: Brandon Howard, CCC Co-Chair, called the April 23rd meeting to order at 6:39 pm

Roll Call and Introduction of Guests

Review and Vote of February 26, 2025 and March 26, 2025 meeting minutes
Action: Motion to accept the February 26th meeting minutes as written: Melissa Jordan
2nd: Tracey Clay
Action: Motion to accept the March 26th meeting minutes as written: Melissa Jordan
2nd: Tracey Clay

Guest Presenter: Tara Philips, Executive Director of Operations, Policy, and Strategy, MSDE
Ms. Phillips provided updates regarding two key programs. The Child Care Scholarship Program implemented an enrollment freeze effective May 1, 2025, though currently enrolled eligible families will not be affected. The program maintains capacity to serve 40,000 children. Stakeholders are encouraged to direct families to www.money4childcare.com for freeze information. Additionally, the Child Care Credentialing program will resume July 1st under FY26 budget, with implementation timeline dependent on new vendor onboarding.

Call for Nominations for Candidates: Chair and Vice Chair
Opened the floor for nominations to the positions of Chair and Vice Chair. No nominations were received during the session. Commissioners are encouraged to submit nominations, including self-nominations, to Erin Stillwell via email prior to the May 28th meeting

Policy Priorities Work: Lead by Elka Forbes & Brandon Howard
Brandon shared an example of a roadmap document that was created by the US Chamber of Commerce Foundation; CCC is going to use this document as guide/template to help create a document/schematic that will highlight three main workforce issues and workforce solutions; the final product can share with stakeholder groups

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm

Next virtual CCC meeting is scheduled for May 28, 2025