



Commission on Child Care Annual Planning Retreat Summary May 15, 2019-*Approved*

Members Present: Lindsey Allard Agnamba, Barbara Andrews, Michelle Belski, L'Ornya Bowie, Hashan Chowdhury, Carl Eggleston, William Hegwood, Sybil Philip, William Polman, Keneisha Roberts, Laura Seminario-Thornton, Greg Stevens and Verna Washington

Members Absent: Rosalba Bonilla-Acosta, Pamela Dunn, Yvonne Iscandari, Ed Krauze and Greg Smith

Staff Present: Erin Stillwell (DHHS)

Call to Order: CCC Chair, Michelle Belski, called the annual planning retreat to order at 5:39 p.m.

Ice Breaker (Lindsey)

- **Question: What do you want to contribute to the work of the CCC this commission year?**
- **Sample of Responses:**
 - Writing, documentation, crating cheat sheets, communicating and collaborating with partners, attend meeting with partners, councilmembers, share the reality base of the provider/parent perspective with the leadership of the County, longest standing non-voting member of CCC, access to the licensing world, learning more about the CCC now able to share more of non-voting expertise, new member bring a “new” perspective, good listener working with TANF community and able to take their questions to the CCC and get them answered, trying to find ways to help the general public engage in the work of the CCC and make the work of the CCC more visible to the rest of the County, graphic art skills, collaboration and be a bridge builder with other stakeholders in the County, flexible schedule allows availability to attend meetings, etc., cognitive skills/thinker, hx. in early care education, perspective and structure from MCPS, membership on other commissioners/boards/groups so can share that perspective, experiences as a family child care provider, help parents in need, experience as a parent, entrepreneurial skills, creative side, provide insight from the national landscape

- **Question: What do you leave behind when focusing on the work of the CCC?**
- **Sample of Responses:**
 - Work obligations, family obligations, home life, going to the gym, other volunteer obligations, sleep, commute, children, volunteer in the community, gardening, business/clients, active in sorority, work at home, walking the dog, caring for the hamster, caring for the spouse, exercise

Open Space Activity (facilitated by Lindsey Allard Agnamba)

- Use “your feet and your voice” to determine what is important
- People can contribute most to what they have energy about
- Looking forward and not in the past
- Roles: using our non-voting members to be the experts and bring the perspectives
 - *Pitches Activity (Priority Ideas):*

Directions: Write your pitch down on a sticky note (state why is this important? why is this a priority?); share your pitch with the entire group

- *“Pitches” Proposed by the CCC:*
 - Disconnect b/w the provider and what they can do with the voucher and the families that have the vouchers; create trainings on how to utilize the voucher and business side (both County and State)
 - Greater community engagement, get the word about the CCC out to the community
 - Collaboration with stakeholders (parents, children); County wide essay about how families feel about their child care situation; families can share their stories with the CCC, community organizing and events
 - Educate the policy members; broad strategies and then focus down the conversation; specific conversations; think strategically and well intentioned
 - Focus on what is happening with after school childcare; excel beyond the bell creating programs; concern that some services
 - Continue work on WPA; funding is in jeopardy; need to continue focusing on recommendations to increase funding; success would be to develop proposals for funding; recommendations on how to use funds where they are needed; need to be responding not reacting; and more focused
 - Focus on specific goals; ECE and the impact on family childcare

Group Discussion About the Pitches/Priorities

- Expanding Family Child Care Seats increase number of seats in quality programs

I Expanding Family Child Care Seats:

- Partnerships with family Child Care Providers and Centers that meet the requirements for MSDE
- Focus on families with Scholarships

II Why is this priority necessary?

- Following the initiative set in motion by the County Council.
- Focus is on quality, affordable, and accessible child care with the experience of Family Child Care Providers and Centers

III Measurement of Success:

- An increase number of seats in quality programs with licensed Providers
- Experienced and newly credentialed Providers in Montgomery County

IV

Look Like = Quality will be reflected on the children
 Sound Like = Parents sharing success stories of access to quality child care
 Feel Like = A sense of community and meeting the goals

BARRIERS

- Cost to Providers (Time, Language, Funding)
- Parents seeking easily accessed unlicensed care due to low cost;
- Hours of operation

- Issues surrounding Before/Afterschool Care options for all families in Mont Co.

Issues surrounding Before/Afterschool Care options for all families in Mont. Co.

Looks Like

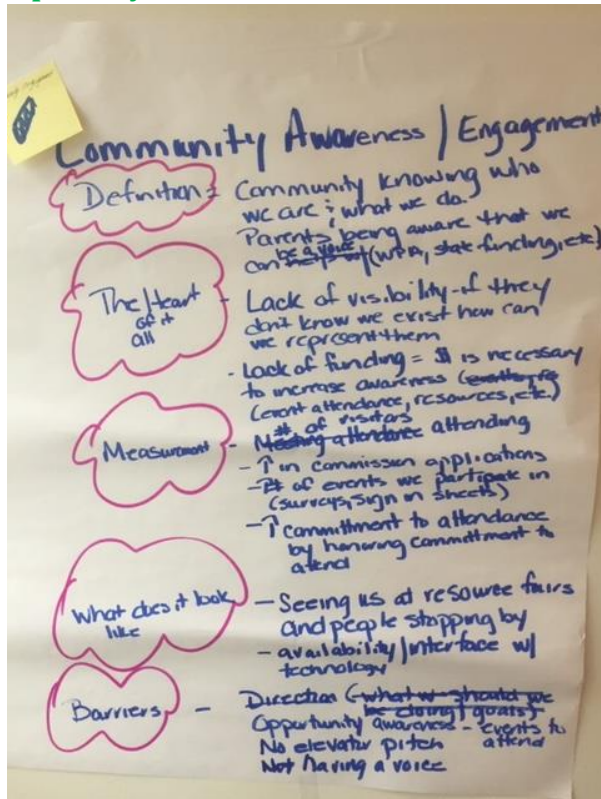
Getting out there
 Families + children - who it impacts
 Availability of care - hours/days / Quality + Safety
 Providers - all Business

- Important
 Policy - legislation - next 6 months
 Funding - not sustainable WPA

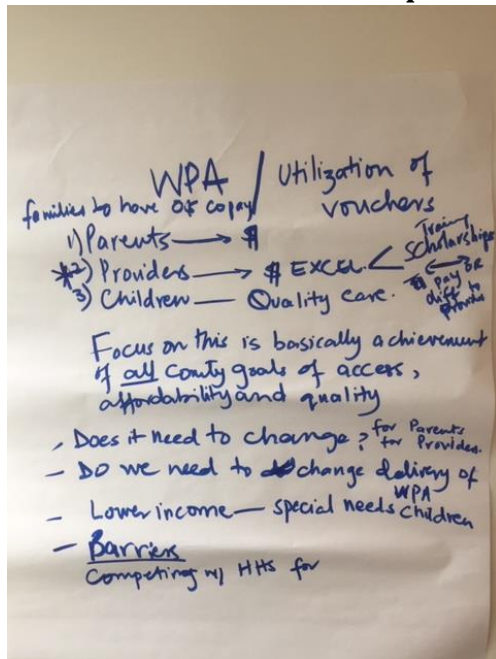
Impact

- Impact policy
 - Get funding from County for providers

- Community Awareness/Engagement (who is the CCC? Why do we exist? How to best represent the community?)—Is this an approach more than a priority??



- WPA/Utilization of Vouchers (how it impacts provider and parents; better business models for providers)



Envisioning the Path Forward

- Idea to have three priorities broken into 3 workgroups
- Have Community Awareness and Engagement as a standing issue on each agenda

Onboarding of New Members:

- Staff provides dinner and orientation
- May not need specific formal process – bring passion with you
- Possible assign “buddy” for new or mentor
- Exec work on bullets on buddy or mentor’s role
- Michelle, as chair – new members give her a call or email and if someone else has more info and she’ll connect you for current group/structure
- Planning for next round of new commissioners

Formalizing Materials and Structure for outreach materials

- Erin can add website info/materials
- Poss. Photos and who are commissioners
- Pro Bono Communications Support with Commissioner expertise
- Should we have a logo?/Use competition site for development (Lindsey has name)

Next Steps (Michelle)

- 2 homework questions from Open Space Activity
- Put community awareness and engagement as standing item on agenda
- Executive (Lindsey and Michelle) on bullets for buddy role
- Focus on nominating and new process
- Requests to new county council members – only one response (Gabe Albornoz) – others silence/address at next meeting- letters from Chairs
- ECCC and use of “No Small Matter” and Vivian Yao’s support – show to legislators – Michelle to coordinate with Vivian to do a showing at Council building
- Stephanie Bryant from OLO to June meeting/Executive email questions
- Lindsey create workplan template for use at June meeting

Closing Activity: “One Word” to Reflect from Retreat

Adjournment at 7:37 p.m.