



**Commission on Child Care  
Meeting Summary  
Wednesday, October 17, 2018**

**Members Present:** Lindsey Allard-Agnamba, Dr. Barbara Andrews, Michelle Belski, Hashan Chowdhury, Carl Eggleston, Yvonne Iscandari, Jess Kelley, Ed Krauze, Laura Seminario-Thornton and Greg Stevens

**Members Absent:** Rosalba Bonilla-Acosta, L'Ornya Bowie, Pamela Dunn, Sybil Philip, William Polman and Greg Smith

**Guests Present:** Jennifer Nizer, Lou Valenti, Michael Subin, Jennifer Arnaiz, Ana Sol Gutierrez, Jennifer Rooms and JoAnn Barnes

**Staff Present:** Erin Stillwell (DHHS) and Sarah Wilch-Spamer (DHHS)

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Michelle Belski, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

**Guest Speaker Presentations**

**Jennifer Nizer, Director, Office of Child Care, Div. of Early Childhood, MSDE**

**Lou Valenti, Branch Chief, Licensing Branch, Div. of Early Childhood, MSDE**

**Jennifer Nizer: EXCELS Updates/Other Updates**

- currently have over 3,000 providers in the EXCELS program
- have received federal funds via the Impact Project: additional funds for technical assistance and coaching
- in midst of the EXCELS 2.0 conversion; updated version of EXCELS will have new graphics
- working to build better relationships with the providers as well as better implementation of policy
- EXCELS regulations will most likely change because of changes in federal regulations
- Currently looking at ways to provide an identification number for a child so that they can track their progress through the early care years
- Working to improve communication from State level
  - Sending out quarterly Impact Newsletter

- Tuesday Tidbits (must subscribe via Maryland Public Schools to receive newsletter and tidbits)
- 27 million in funding has been added to the budget; 70% had to be spent on child care subsidy
- Encouraged child care providers to complete the LOCATE market rate survey and State Cost of Care Survey (results slated to be released in November)

### **Lou Valenti, Licensing Updates**

- 80 is the average caseload size of licensing specialist in the State
- Regional office will be hosting roundtables with child care community
- Offering trainings for childcare providers in hopes to establish better communication b/w regional offices and providers
- Priority at regional office is to work on improving moral of staff; specifically, inequity of wages; and tasks that can be taken off the plates of licensing specialists

**Meeting Summary: Unable to approve September 19<sup>th</sup> meeting summary due to lack of quorum**

**Annual Report Recommendations: Unable to review and approve 2016-17 Annual Report Recommendations due to lack of quorum**

### **Updates**

- **WPA/Subsidy (Yvonne Iscandari)**
  - MSDE has sent letters to families about completing the state subsidy applications
  - 600 families that now qualify for state subsidy/500 of these families have received letters (other returned mail, outdated information)
  - cases will not close in WPA until state subsidy cases have been activated; hope is that by end of December 2018 all families will have been transferred over
  - MCCCRRRC will send out an eblast to provider community about updates
  - WPA staff are trying to reach out to families so they can explain in greater detail about what is happening in the transition
  - WPA will continue to supplement those families who are transitioning to the state subsidy
- **Additional Update on WPA (Joann Barnes)**
  - Continuing to examine the cost; currently serving families up to 331% of the 2018 Federal Poverty Level
  - MC will continue to support WPA families who do not qualify for the State subsidy

- **Additional Update (Barbara Andrews)**
  - MMF meeting on 10/15/18; looked at where funding comes from in the community and how to best use the funding to serve early childhood

**Public Policy and Programmatic Issues Committees**

(meeting from 7:45 to 8:20 p.m.)

***The next Commission on Child Care Meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 28, 2018.***