



Commission on Child Care Meeting Summary December 11, 2019

Members Present: Barbara Andrews, Michelle Belski, Hasan Chowdhury, Tracey Clay, Carl Eggleston, William Hegwood, Ed Krauze, Sybil Philip, Bill Polman, and Laura Seminario-Thornton

Members Absent: Lindsey Allard-Agnamba, L'Ornya Bowie, Pamela Dunn, Yvonne Iscandari, Tara Phillips, Keneisha Roberts, Greg Smith and Verna Washington

Guests Present: Alicia Cross (OCCD), Tamiaka Thomasson (DHHS) and Leslie Frey (OIR/DHHS)

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

Meeting Called to Order: Michelle Belski, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm

Welcome and Introduction of newly appointed commissioner

- Tracey Clay, Provider Representative, Executive Director, Celebree School of Germantown

Welcome Guest Speaker: Leslie Frey, Legislative Analyst, Office of Intergovernmental Relations/HHS

- Provided overview of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and answered questions regarding advocacy and the state legislative process
- Maryland General Assembly website: www.mgaleg.Maryland.gov

Chair/Vice Chair Updates

- Resignation update: Greg Stevens has resigned from the CCC.

ACTION: Review and vote of meeting summaries from November 20th

Motion: Tracey Clay

2nd: Hasan Chowdhury

Commission Business:

- 2018-19 Annual Report has been published on CCC's website
- MMF Comparison Document discussion regarding possible partnerships/advocacy
- Fire Marshal/Permitting Issue: developed a series of questions that were submitted to the office—CCC should receive a response soon

- CCC Committee Updates: Beginning in January 2020, CCC meetings will start with committees; 6:00-6:45 p.m.

- Public Policy: Developed letter to Council to request restoration of the Professional Development Fund
 - **ACTION:** Review and vote on letter number 2 to be sent to Montgomery County Council
Motion: Ed Krauze
2nd: Will Hegwood
- Continuing work on recommendation to fully restore and utilize WPA funds by collecting data from WPA parents via roundtable and/or online survey in March 2020; e.g. what works, what doesn't, barriers, etc.

Brief Updates:

- **Early Childhood Coordinating Council (Michelle Belski)**
 - Continued work on using the grant money received from the State ECAC; the grant has been extended until April 2020
 - The search for a Marketing Consultant continues
 - Working with Montgomery College on a Reading Corner group at Fox Chapel ES
 - Putting together a screening of "No Small Matter" for February 2020
- **ECE Initiative and County Budget (Barbara Andrews)**
 - see below for written update (sent earlier)
- **Working Parents Assistance (Sarah Wilch-Spamer for Yvonne Iscandari)**
 - Active Families as November 30: 82
 - Active Children as of November 30: 128
 - Supplements Families to date: 734
 - Supplements Children to date: 1,059
- **Community Awareness and Engagement**
 - Idea proposed to have CCC members attend community events as representatives of the Commission and report back at each meeting
 - Discussion regarding use of volunteers, e.g. coordinating focus groups, etc.
- **Office of Child Care (Carl Eggleston)**
 - Recommended regulation changes were approved by the Board of Education and will go into effect January 1, 2020; roundtables are being planned for next year to discuss the changes
 - Carl is working with HR to fill a soon-to-be vacant Child Care Specialist position

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Addendum:

ECE Initiative and County Budget Update (provided by Barbara Andrew)

ECE Initiative: The Community Forum was held on November 25th and even though it was Thanksgiving week there were about 125 people in attendance! After greetings from all of the Executive Group for the Initiative and an overview by JoAnn Barnes, Chief of Children, Youth and Families stakeholders in attendance split into the standing sub-committee groups to provide feedback on draft recommendations and on discussions and considerations developed by the committees. The Initiative Steering Committee is organizing those responses, together with updated recommendations to develop FY 20 recommendations and looking forward any FY21 and FY22 budget recommendations to

share with the Executive Group. Andrew Kleine, the County CAO stayed for the committee work at the forum and listened in at groups to hear the stakeholder feedback.

Maryland Pritzker planning grant and National Governor's Association grant - The planning process for this initial planning grant related to children birth to three, their families and especially children in low income families is nearly complete and the grant application will be submitted in mid-January. If Maryland receives the three year grant the focus will be on strengthening infrastructure to align services, thereby providing more services for children under 3 and living at 200% of the Federal Poverty Line or lower. The grant application addresses child care, Early Head Start, the Infants and Toddler Program, mental health home visiting and consultation and a variety of health concerns. Maryland Family Network and MSDE are leading the process. Barbara Andrews, Monica Ortiz and Charlene Muhammad are assisting with the development of the grant.