



Commission on Child Care Meeting Summary January 22, 2020

Members Present: Michelle Belski, Hasan Chowdhury, Tracey Clay, Ed Krauze, Sybil Philip, Tara Philip, William Polman, Keneisha Roberts, Laura Seminario-Thornton and Verna Washington

Members Absent: Lindsey Allard-Agnamba, Barbara Andrews, L'Ornya Bowie, Pamela Dunn, Carl Eggleston, William Hegwood, Yvonne Iscandari and Greg Smith

Guests Present: Monica Ortiz (DHHS), Tamieka Thomasson (DHHS), Sarah Wilch-Spamer (DHHS), Essie McGuire (MCPS), Ramona Bell-Pearson (CUPF) Nikki Jessee (Wonders), Alicia Cross (OCCD) and Storm Innis (ECCC)

Staff Present: Erin Stilwell (DHHS)

Meeting Called to Order: Michelle Belski, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm

Welcome to Guest Speakers: Ramona Bell-Pearson (CUPF) and Essie McGuire (MCPS)

- Shared letter addressed to County Executive Elrich Council President Katz in regard to Executive Regulation 6-17 AM
- Letter introduced proposed framework for program administration
- Letter will be publicized on the County register and available to public comment
- Ramona and Essie are open to receiving feedback from stakeholders; feedback will be used to help enhance proposed framework

Welcome and Introduction of newly appointed commissioner

- Tracey Clay, Provider Representative, Executive Director, Celebree School of Germantown
- Tara Philips, Provider Representative, Senior Director, Operations, Easter Seals

Chair/Vice Chair Updates

- New child care regulations are in effect, but providers have not been notified
- ECCC sent a letter to MSDE and Sen. King expressing concern that new regulations have not published; have not received any response

Commission Discussion:

CCC agreed it would be important to send letter to Sen. King and Superintendent at MSDE expressing concerns that regs have not been published; due to brief turnaround on letter, CCC agreed to vote on letter via email; Michelle Belski will begin drafting a letter and send out to entire commission for feedback.

Approval of December 11, 2019 Meeting Summary:

ACTION: Review and vote of meeting summaries from December 11, 2019

Motion: Sybil Philip

2nd: Hassan Chowdhury

Commission Business:

- Update on Fire Marshal/Permitting Issue: Chair developed a series of questions that were submitted to the office; Fire Marshal Patsy Warnick responded with answers to the questions
- Programmatic Issues Committee Update: workforce development letter was sent to Council President Katz; awaiting response from President Katz (if no response received by February 1st, need to re-engage Council President Katz); next step is to write a letter to the State to ask about having workforce development funds restored (need additional information from Carl before drafting letter).
- Public Policy: how to collect information to identify barriers that families and provider face when trying to utilize WPA funds; considering sending a survey to providers and families; Michelle B. has also been connecting with other stakeholder groups and will use some of these groups to help disseminate the survey

Brief Updates:

ECE Initiative (B. Andrews): Committees are finalizing recommendations for the Steering Committee which will meet in early February to prioritize. The CE and the Initiative Executive Committee will approve recommendation and funding/budget and an Action Plan will be developed to be released in early April. The committees Barbara is Co-Chairing have been meeting with Directors of programs on space issues and a large group of stakeholders joined one of those committees for the development of the recommendations. the majority of all Initiative discussions are focused on reducing costs of child care for families and on reducing costs to Early Educators. The Forum in November was well attended and the feedback and ideas to committees collected from the community there are being used in the development of the recommendations.

Budget and ECE Initiative Updates (M. Ortiz): ECE Initiative to Council on January 30. It is an open session that can be attended in person or streamed on-line:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/ondemand/index.html>

Also, the Governor has released his budget and there is information on the Child Care Subsidy in the summary on page 18,

<https://dbm.maryland.gov/budget/Documents/operbudget/2021/proposed/FY2021MarylandandStateBudgetHighlights.pdf>

MSDE budget on page 58 (pg 510)

<https://dbm.maryland.gov/budget/Documents/operbudget/2021/agency/StateDepartmentofEducation.pdf>

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm