



**COMMISSION ON CHILD CARE
Meeting Summary
September 16, 2015**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lindsey Allard Agnamba, Barbara Andrews, Rosalba Bonilla-Acosta, Danielle Brown, Carl Eggleston, Ama Emanuel, Diana Holzberger, Brigid Howe, Yvonne Iscandari, April Kaplan, Edward Krauze, Bernadine Occhiuzzo, Laura Seminario-Thornton, Claudia Simmons, Greg Smith, Jian Wang, Barbara Warman, Mayme Claire Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rossana Espinoza-Thorndahl, Linda Janulis, Pamela Dunn, Shaun Rose, Monica Sanchez

STAFF PRESENT: Sarah Wilch-Spamer, Early Childhood Services, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

GUESTS PRESENT: Crystal Ruiz, Rene Williams

Barb Warman called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

Introductions and New Members

ACTION: Approval of the summary of the June 17, 2015 full Commission meeting – Motion: Brigid Howe; Second: Diana Holzberger. All in favor.

CHAIRS REPORT: Uma Quarterly Meeting:

- Beginning budget process for FY17
- HHS signed a Joint Statement on Mental Health last year. The concept of the statement is prevention and speaking about programs in terms of outcomes and what they prevent in terms of problematic outcomes. Uma has asked all twenty boards and commissions to participate.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Programmatic Issues: Examining the economic impact of child care costs and issues on the County and looking at the economic impact of workforce development on child care providers. Looking to connect with new entities and collaborate with other commissions where there is some alignment. Looking at tools to determine quality enhancements costs to providers.

Public Policy: Increased funding for WPA has been long-standing priority of commission, but it is difficult to find money. Concerns regarding general revenue and the outcome of the Wynne court case, which will make for challenging budget years in FY17 and FY18. Child Care in Public Space (CCIPS) – Currently four agencies provide CCIPS opportunities in Montgomery County (CUPF, MCPS, DHHS, Parks and Planning) and there is not a unified process between agencies. The Commission continues to work to determine a more transparent, uniform, and clearly defined system. CCIPS is likely to continue as an issues/CUPF sunset is one year from implementation of regulation.

Membership: Four new members on the Commission

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion: Draft Annual Report –Members reviewed and discussed draft annual report recommendations with changes and the letter from the chair. The report is officially due on 10/1.

ACTION: Brigid Howe, Carl Eggleston, Greg Smith, and Barbara Warman will work to make revisions to the recommendations and submit to Barbara Andrews to make the changes. A final draft will go to the Executive Committee for any additional changes.

Ideas for Speakers for fall and winter: Members of Board of Education; Interagency Coordinating Board, members of Child Care in Public Space agencies; Liz Kelly from Office of Child Care, Rolf Grafwallner from MSDE; members of the Children’s Opportunity Fund; Public Policy Officer

UPDATES:

Child Care Subsidy Program – “Child Care Status Update” and CCS Central fliers were distributed. CCS is now with MSDE. County CCS staff are working to execute new WPA implementation tables and will do outreach to inform everyone of the changes. COMCOR regulations will need to be updated to reflect the new tables and qualification information for the program. WPA wait list was implemented. Received approval from County Council for an additional \$550,000 to supplement some of the state funding. County CCS staff is in discussions with state on how this will be implemented. Council hearing on 10/22; commission members are invited to attend. State & county subsidy applications have been updated and a Memorandum of Understanding is being developed between CCS Central and Montgomery County for the state to automatically refer WPA-eligible families to the local office. The supplemental subsidy is only available for children two to five years of age. The Branch Chief of the statewide Child Care Subsidy program resigned as of September 11, 2015. A replacement has yet to be hired.

Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) – Now the Early Childhood Coordinating Council (ECCC). There are two new members on the Council-JoAnn Barnes and Deann Collins; full membership must be confirmed by the County Council. The ECCC is to meet nine times a year. At its September meeting, the ECCC discussed its priorities for 2015-16, budget updates, end of grant updates, and discussed the closure of the Parent Resource Centers. The Council also received information on the Children’s Opportunity Fund and briefly discussed the hub consortium described in Council bill 13-15. The ECCC also discussed the

possibility of a model classroom at the new Child Care Resource and Referral Center based on Social and Emotional Foundations of Early Learning (SEFEL) and utilization of the room for parent engagement purposes and Infants and Toddlers families. Additional Parent Café training will be offered in Montgomery County.

State Early Care and Education Updates – Maryland Family Network (MFN) held its first public policy meeting. Office of Child Care (OCC) – A portion of public portal will go live soon; the attendance tracking section is currently in the pilot phase. Licensing has view-only access at this point; it will feed the public portal. OCC has two staff vacancies Email inspections and e-blasts—providers should let their licensing specialist know if change address, or won't receive it. All appeal hearings are now in the Office of Child Care.

County and State Budget Developments – Funding for Policy Officer for six months; funding is also available for six months to bring on a Strategic Planner and an Office Services Coordinator.

Announcements:

Commission on Child Care and Commission on Children and Youth staff—Joann Barnes and Uma Ahluwalia are putting Commission staffing positions at the top of the Children, Youth and Families priority list for hiring.

Orientation for new Commission members on Wednesday, October 21 at 6:00 p.m. with a light dinner.

Executive and committee chairs will assign new members to committee based on the needs of the commission.

Discussion:

The Commission is not authorized to lobby or make public comment on federal or state legislation.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.