

**Early Childhood Advisory Council Notes**  
**Meeting 10: Thursday, November 13, 2014**  
**9:00 am to 11:00 am**  
**Johns Hopkins University**  
**Gilchrist Hall**  
**Room 207**

**Members Present:**

Rosalba Bonilla Acosta  
Jennifer Arnaiz  
Jody Burghardt  
Robin Chernoff  
Kim Grant  
Michelle Green  
Sonia Hernandez for Debra Poese  
Linda Owen  
Meredith Myers  
Bernadine Occhiuzzo  
Tobi Printz-Platnick  
Claudia Simmons  
Verna Washington  
Portia Willis  
Sarah Wilch-Spamer  
Vivian Yao

Guests:

Vickie DiSanto

**Convene/ Introduce New Members**

- Introductions of new members

**What have been the interest, reaction, concerns to the ECAC from your organizations/how can we get your leadership involved in what you are doing?**

- Committee wanted to send out materials/links but there was no letterhead and no paper and no one to sign-off on it
- Three or four sentences that can be sent out as a blurb
- No letterhead and no one to sign-off on it
- Changes to the By Laws will be coming to include elections so that there is someone official to sign-off on communications
- Newsletter and webpages from other organizations need to be able to communicate about the ECAC
- Minutes from ECAC meetings are read at Board Meetings
- Briefing sheet is needed
- The Commission on Child Care is watching and listening on what is being done on the ECAC
- What can be done to more effectively communicate with other committees in order to ratchet up the impact on childcare
- Organization of Child Care Directors had a panel and discussion including what is the priority of the ECAC?
  - Providers and Public Schools have more of a relationship
  - Developmental screenings becoming part of a child's permanent record

## **Approval of the Minutes from the September 11, 2014 Meeting:**

- Motion from Tobi Printz-Platnick: To accept the minutes from the September 11, 2014 meeting
- Second the Motion: Bernadine Occhiuzzo
- Vote: 12 in favor
- Resolved: Motion carried; Accept the Minutes from 9/11/14

## **Committee Reports**

### **Parent/Family Engagement:**

- Focus group in Olney revealed that parents did not understand that the KRA was for readiness rather than skills at the end of the year
- Parents not understanding why their children need ESOL support

### **Literacy Committee:**

- Developmental screening will be the focus of this committee
- Working with Marty Grant to send out a letter with information about ChildLink:
  - They then call Marty and schedule a time for her to come to their office
- When the practices respond back to her the ECAC will go with her
- The AAP has a developmental screening but there is no requirement for this
- The AAP has free training to invite Marty to train on developmental screenings
- Letters are sent to the nearly 60 pediatricians and family practitioners in zip codes in the Gaithersburg area who are involved in Healthy Kids
- What do we do about the offices who don't invite her in?
- We need to talk to the Steering Committee about where to move next
- Pediatricians offices conduct the screenings at that moment in time but providers/teachers conduct screenings over time:
  - Do the providers/teachers have the training to know what to look for?
  - Can Marty train the providers/training
- Developmental Screenings will be an MSDE/COMAR requirement as of July 1, 2015:
  - The tools will be in place before the training happens
  - There are five tools to choose from but not sure which one to use
  - Tools are accompanied by a table showing the attributes of each one
  - Cost of the tools will be supported by MSDE

### **Public Outreach and Media Campaign:**

- Last met in the spring and postponed the fall meeting
- Met with the principal of Gaithersburg ES working with K. teachers to formalize a transition plan between child care and MCPS
- Priority to increase ChildLink's call volume
- An internal meeting was held with staff
  - Discussed narrowing down the focus and have a Ride On bus campaign
  - Investigating cost:
    - Inside, outside, side, back
    - \$11,000 to \$12,000

- Targeted areas in the county
- Investigating photographing and graphics
  
- Gaithersburg ES catchment area:
  - Recruited 8 family child care providers
  - Orientation meeting and set their goals
  - All signed up for a MD credential
  - Hired *School Readiness* to conduct the observations/assessments:
    - In the process of assessments in all 8 using the FCCERS for environmental baseline
    - CLASS looking for interaction between the adults and children and children to children
  - Second meeting is scheduled for next week and will meet every other week through May
  - Child Care centers:
    - 4 were identified
    - 2 were not interested in participating at all
    - The child care is located within the school is being supported through the R&R
  - Increased the zip code to include 6 centers identified and 4 have agreed to participate:
    - One has gone through accreditation
    - The second center has had bottom teacher licensing
    - The first center will mentor the other center
    - ECERS and Class will be conducted later

#### **Prioritizing Top Four Priorities Process**

1. Create Birth-3<sup>rd</sup> grade system via dialogue between Birth-5 and K-3 (providers)
2. Align programmatic priorities to maximize support to families provided by programs and services (parents)
3. Expand outreach to health care services beyond pediatric offices, inclusive of all its staff (pediatrician/practitioner)
4. Personal networks – maximize!

#### **Do you think ECAC can address all 4 priorities at the same time?**

- This is not possible but number 1 and number 4 should be a priority
- No, There needs to be a discussion of how the gap between initiatives and funding needs to be discussed
- No, we can't do all 4.

#### **If no, what approach do you use?**

- The focus should be on 2 & 3 with state level support
- #2 should be an area of focus
- The personal networks should be inherent in all of our work
- Reaching out to the health care practitioners but unless the parent acts, nothing will happen
- At the MFN Policy meeting Pre-K Expansion was discussed, providers shared that they are losing money and not getting very many children
- The number of absent members today reflects their commitment to serving on the ECAC
- #1 – There needs to be some sort of process for a dialogue between Birth – 5 and K – 3 providers
  - The approach in different parts of the county are different for different populations
- Start small by having a pilot program between the schools, child care, early childhood community in the Gaithersburg catchment areas to look at building a transition program

#### **If yes, identify the stakeholders and strategies – particularly for 1 & 2**

- **Spring Symposium Discussion and Planning Committee Volunteers (Meredith Myers):**
  - For the last 5 years the ECE Congress planned the Spring Symposium on School Readiness
  - Now the ECAC will need to plan for the Spring 2015 Symposium
  - The Collaboration Council has funding for the event, which is an opportunity to attract providers and other early childhood advocates in the field
  - April Kaplan has assumed the responsibility that Carol Walsh once had and a new group is needed to plan
  - It was proposed that the ECAC collaborate with the Organization of Child Care Directors to plan the Symposium for FY15
  - Volunteers:
    - Linda Owen
    - Meredith Myers
    - Tobi Printz-Platnick
    - Sonia Hernandez

Adjourn Meeting

**Next meeting February 12, 2015**

**9:00am-11:00am at JHU Rockville**