



Early Childhood Coordinating Council
Wednesday, April 24, 2019
1401 Rockville Pike, Rockville MD 20852
Lobby Level Training Room 1003
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Jennifer Arnáiz, JoAnn Barnes, Rosalba Bonilla-Acosta, Stephanie Brant, Lynn Cavanaugh, Robin Chernoff, Deann Collins, Amy Cropp, Richard Crump, Carl Eggleston, Joan Glick, Michelle Green, Liran Laor, Carolyn Maddox (for Christine Freeman), Mary Manning-Falzarano, Dede Marshall, Charlene Muhammad, Meredith Myers, Mónica Ortiz, Mary Ellen Savarese, Louise Tolin

Members Absent: Barbara Andrews, Jacqueline Grant, I. Storm Innis, Carrie Meyer, Bernadine Occhiuzzo, Paula Sayag, Charisse Scott, Rebecca Smith, Marcia Tivoli, Vivian Yao

Support Staff: Taryn Billand

Guests: Melissa Di Negro, Michelle Gallipoli, Kimberly Rusnak

Michelle Green called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. and welcomed visitors

Action: Approval of the minutes from the March 20, 2019 meeting of the Early Childhood Coordinating Council were voted on and approved. Motion: Joan Glick, Second: Mary Ellen Savarese

MSDE ECAC Grant Application Process:

- The Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five for Local Early Childhood Advisory Councils will be awarded in July 2019. The \$600k grant will be conferred to competing ECACs in amounts of approximately \$25k, depending on the number of ECAC submissions, and funds must be spent between July 2019 and December 31, 2019. The deadline to apply is May 31, 2019, therefore the document must be submitted, through proper channels, for signature by May 15, 2019.

The group discussed the use of the grant for:

- Marketing campaign and hiring a PR firm to bring awareness to the importance of the first five years
 - Facilitated focus groups with parents
 - Space rental for the full-length viewing of the film *No Small Matter*
 - Parent materials and translation services
- The members viewed the trailer *No Small Matter* and discussed the use of the film to highlight transitions to kindergarten and school readiness. Multiple viewings, translation of the film into other languages and a PR campaign around the full-length film were also discussed as next steps. The overarching theme of the movie is the importance of the first five years. When other stakeholder groups viewed the film, their observations were:
 - Providers want to get to the level of those in the film
 - Parents want more accessibility – there are too many barriers
 - There is a disconnect between the parents need for “child care” and the need for EXCELS improvement

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Shm-KRh4LFg>

- The members broke out into their respective committees to discuss the use of the grant award and ways the film and a PR campaign could be used to further the goals of early care and education. Some of the ideas and questions expressed were:
 - The need for long-term plans
 - How to reach all parents and help them understand what PreK readiness is, where to find information and resources, and how to access services
 - Adapt the *Boston Basics toolkit* to create a Montgomery County awareness campaign with a name that creates buy-in from all stakeholders and becomes easily recognized throughout the community
 - Target community partners (Linkages to Learning, Libraries, pediatricians, churches etc.) to obtain information on changes needed to access services, and use this information to supplement policy-makers' knowledge of change needed
 - Pop-up parent resources

Current look at Home Visiting in Montgomery County – Meredith Myers

Meredith Myers shared the access and availability of home visiting services within Montgomery County. Early Head Start (EHS) has three providers serving 162 families: Family Services, Inc. (FSI) 124 (80 home/44 center; CentroNia (25 home based) and The Lourie Center (13 home based). Home visits last 90 minutes, following the Parents as Teachers curriculum to addresses family goals, education, health, and school readiness. Parents may join Policy Council to develop leadership skills. EHS is supported by Federal funds, in-kind donations and private foundations.

Healthy Families Montgomery is a child abuse prevention home visiting program for first-time parents and served 117 families in 2018. The HFM program goals: promote preventive health care, reduce the incidence of child maltreatment, optimize child development, promote positive parenting, and promote family self-sufficiency. The budget of \$800k comes from Montgomery County DHHS, the Collaboration Council, private foundations and the City of Gaithersburg. FSI also offers the Keys to Success program -- a 2Gen approach, working with pregnant and parenting teens, at Gaithersburg and Watkins Mill high schools. The program provides comprehensive supports including tutoring, summer workshops and case management and currently has a 100% graduation rate.

Montgomery County Early Care and Education Initiative – JoAnn Barnes

Overseen by the County Executive's office, the initiative will be comprised of many stakeholders and agencies. County Executive Marc Elrich, BB Otero, Special Assistant to the County Executive, Caroline Sturgis, Assistant Chief Administration Officer (CAO) and JoAnn Barnes, DHHS Chief of Children Youth and Families (CYF) will meet with multiple agencies to form an Executive committee, an Interagency group and a Stakeholders group. The Interagency group has it's first meeting on April 24, 2019 and will, at that time, form several work groups around Access, Affordability and Unique Populations, Facilities, Workforce and Training, Financing and Child Care Centers. These work groups will meet in June, although the date has not been solidified.

Nominations for ECCC Chair and Vice Chair

Liran Laor was nominated for Chair and there were no nominations for Vice Chair. Dede Marshall said that she will remain as Vice Chair if there are no other nominations. Members were encouraged to email any other nominations to Michelle Green, Dede Marshall or Mónica Ortiz. Elections will be held at the May meeting of the ECCC.

Liaison Updates and Member Announcements

- **Commission on Child Care – Rosalba Bonilla-Acosta**
 - Chair and Vice Chair elections will be held on April 24, 2019
 - Planning Retreat will be held on May 15, 2019
- **WPA – JoAnn Barnes**
 - No updates at this time

The meeting was adjourned at 11:49 a.m.