Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Barbara Andrews, Jennifer Arnaiz, Stephanie Brant, Robin Chernoff, Deann Collins, Amy Cropp, Richard Crump, Michele Dean, Joan Glick, Michelle Green, Storm Innes, Liran Laor, Mary Manning-Falzarano, Charlene Muhammad, Mary Mulcahy, Meredith Myers, Bernadine Occhiuzzo, Mónica Ortiz, Mary Ellen Savarese, Paula Sayag, Marcia Tivoli, Vivian Yao

Members Absent: JoAnn Barnes, Rosalba Bonilla-Acosta, Carl Eggleston, Christine Freeman, Jacqueline Grant, Dede Marshall, Shaun Rose, Claudia Simmons, Rebecca Smith,

Support: Taryn Billand

Guests: Michelle Gallipoli

Michelle Green called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

Action: Approval of the minutes from May 16, 2018 meeting of the Early Childhood Coordinating Council – Motion: Joan Glick, Second: Marcia Tivoli

Agenda Overview: Michelle Green gave a brief overview of the agenda.

ECCC Administrative Requirements and Voting Process – Mónica Ortiz

Mónica discussed the main point of the ECCC annual calendar.

- ECCC Legislation requires an annual report February 1st of each year
- End of March transition date for term limits
- Retreat and annual planning will occur in February
- Recess in July, August and December
- November – annual meeting with County Council, and selection of annual priorities
- Legislation requires the ECCC have both a Chair and Vice Chair, appointed by the County Executive, list of names submitted by members of the ECCC. A formal election process is not required; however, no member may serve as Chair or Vice Chair from more than two consecutive terms. This will occur early in the year, so that the outgoing leadership may provide guidance to the incoming leadership.
- Leadership positions should be community-based, since County government staff is already well-represented on the ECCC.
- Chair and Vice Chair positions will be held for two years. Going forward, the selection of new leadership will take place in May, but transition will not take place until September.
- Mónica Ortiz’s staff role is more administrative. The role of the Staff is to provide resources, and to assist in the process, but leadership comes from the ECCC elected officials.
Alternate dates for ECCC meetings have been identified in the event a regularly scheduled meeting is canceled. All Boards, Committees and Commissions are required to list the dates for all meetings no less than 30 days prior to the meeting. These dates will be sent to the group before the September gathering.

**Action:** Selection of the new Chair and Vice Chair will be held during the September 2018 meeting to allow absent members from the June 2018 meeting to participate.

**ECCC Year in Review: Accomplishments and Next Steps – Michelle Green**

Michelle Green provided a handout, created from the annual report provided to County Council, that elaborates on the mission of the ECCC, the purpose of the ECCC, and the accomplishments from the year. While there is no mission statement in the legislation, the annual report defines the work of the ECCC. Discussion ensued around the accomplishments of the ECCC from the past year; what was done well, what could have been done differently.

**Accomplishments:**

- Coordinate information sharing with Montgomery Moving Forward (MMF) and emphasizing the birth – 5 focus
- Creating a table of definitions for MMF
- Ensuring that MMF’s definition of high-quality child care is developmentally appropriate
- Instituting information sharing with all stakeholders 0-3, including schools and non-profits
- Developing a stronger position of identifying ourselves as experts with issues and current events to the Kirwan Commission and regarding the MMF video
- Communicating that, despite our differences, there has been a commitment in providing high-quality child care in all settings
- Responded quickly to the various entities with the ECCC’s stance on the Child Care subsidy, the MMF video, The Kirwan Commission report and the MCPS Curriculum
- Started meaningful conversations around early childhood and Universal PreKindergarten

**What could be done differently going forward:**

- Communicate information to the group between meetings
- Refocus on legislative duties
- Be more aware of the perception of the ECCC from outside stakeholders
- The duties of the ECCC should inform the priorities – Note: Duties 1-6 are the same for all state ECACs and the ECCC, duties 7-10 come from the County Council and are specific to the ECCC
- Examine issues with the workforce
- Enhance the voice of the community at ECCC meetings
- Strengthen the cohesiveness of the ECCC
- Coordinate activities of ECCC meetings with Strategic Plan and legislative duties

**Critical challenges and solutions:**

- Why is licensing so complicated and how can the ECCC advocate to help improve the process?
- The Strategic Plan informs the work of the ECCC but where does the work begin? The ECCC hasn’t defined “Kindergarten Ready”. What does that look like?
- The ECCC is a large group, with many viewpoints. How do we get to consensus?
- One of the duties of the ECCC is to conduct a county-wide needs assessment. Can the ECCC recommend metrics next year to measure improvements to early childhood services?
- How does the ECCC interact with other Boards, Committees and Commissions (BCC) when other BCCs identify a focus around early childhood?
• In relation to early childhood services, how do we keep a strong workforce without putting child care centers out of business? How is it funded?
• How do we advance our voice with a focus on making sure parents know about supports and resources?

Montgomery Moving Forward – Sharon Friedman, Susan Madden (MMF co-chair, Montgomery College), and Arlene Pietranton (MMF co-chair, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association)

Sharon Friedman and Arlene Pietranton presented MMF’s Collective Impact model and its goals around early care and education. Discussion ensued around the opportunities for collaboration between the ECCC and MMF. https://www.nonprofitmoco.org/mmf/

MCPS Updates on ECE Programs – Deann Collins and Amy Cropp:

• Council approved expansion for Prekindergarten from part-day to full-day for 8 existing classrooms. But there are challenges including:
  o Finding teachers: Most PreK teachers are part-time employees; the solution for now is to have two teachers share the full-day classes where the current part-time teaching staff cannot commit to a full-day schedule
  o Supplying the materials required for a full-day class
  o Educating the Principals on what it means to go from a half-day class to a full-day class

• $2.5 million has been allocated for PreK expansion; three additional classrooms have been added for summer school this year, the hope is to add additional classes next year.
• MacDonald Knolls Early Childhood Center will be open in September, with focus on staffing first.
• Part of PreK expansion funding expands the number of full-day slots by 40 slots in existing locations
• Staffing in general is an issue, there is a shortage of PreK teachers

Liaison Updates:

Commission on Child Care: Meeting on June 20, 2018. Commission will be voting on their three priorities for FY19. The Commission may also sign on to the MMF Call to Action

Quality of Care Cost Modeling: Deadline has been extended, final report will be out in mid-July, the final draft will be shared with the ECCC

Member Announcements:

• Michele Dean is now the Program Manager for the Gaithersburg Judy Center
• Early Care and Education Policy Office (ECEPO) has a landing page on the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) website. Link will be sent to the ECCC https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/CYF/ECEPO/EarlyCareEducationPolicyOffice.html

Meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.