



COMMISSION ON CHILD CARE

June 10, 2020

Ms. Essie McGuire
Executive Director
Office of the Chief Operating Officer
Montgomery County Public Schools
850 Hungerford Drive, Room 149
Rockville, MD 20850

Ms. Ramona Bell-Pearson
Director
Office of Community Use of Public Facilities
255 Rockville Pike, Suite 201
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Ms. McGuire and Ms. Bell-Pearson:

The Commission on Child Care (CCC) would like to express our gratitude for all of the extremely hard work that members of our community have engaged in during this exceptionally difficult time. We recognize that the work is endless, and that many challenging and important decisions still need to be made. Many members of the Commission on Child Care are deeply rooted in the child care community and are well suited to advise on issues related to child care in Montgomery County.

The CCC is concerned about the lack of information regarding the status of child care programs located in MCPS buildings and in/on MCPS property. As the State and County are slowly beginning their phases of reopening, child care services will be essential for families to return to work and to allow our economy the opportunity to recover.

A significant number of child care programs for preschool and school age children are housed in and on MCPS property (e.g., 18 providers in 119 MCPS building providing before and after school care, 22 providers in MCPS leased space that provide preschool programs, 9 providers in modular units and 13 in joint occupancy providing preschool programs). Providers in these spaces must be given reopening timelines to allow adequate time to communicate with families about their child care needs and to plan financially. Additionally, without having any information about the possibility of a future reopening, many providers are being forced to furlough or layoff their workforce which is adding additional economic instability in the County.

Department of Health and Human Services

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montgomerycountymd.gov/311



240-773-3556 TTY

As stated earlier, we recognize that there are many challenging and possibly difficult decisions ahead that still need to be addressed; however, child care is essential and cannot wait. We ask that MCPS not delay in making decisions that could further impact child care providers and the children and families they serve.

Thank you for your time and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle Belski".

Michelle Belski
Chair

c: Marc Elrich, County Executive
Sidney Katz, President, County Council
Dr. Jack Smith, Superintendent, MCPS