



Commission on Child Care Annual Planning Retreat Summary May 16, 2018

Members Present: Lindsey Allard Agnamba, Barbara Andrews, Michelle Belski, Rosalba Bonilla-Acosta, Hashan Chowdhury, Carl Eggleston, Jessica Kelley, Ed Krause, Sybil Philip, Laura Seminario-Thornton, Greg Smith and Greg Stevens

Members Absent: L’Ornya Bowie, Pamela Dunn, Yvonne Iscandari, William Polman, and Claudia Simmons

Guests Present: Monica Ortiz (DHHS, Policy Officer), Jacqueline Grant (President of Maryland State Family Child Care Association and Secretary of the Family Child Care Association of Montgomery County)

Staff Present: Erin Stillwell (DHHS)

Greg Smith, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:42 p.m.

Announcements

- Carl Eggleston provided Office of Child Care staffing updates

Introduction of Commissioners and Guests

Activity One: Conversation with Fellow Commissioners about Successes of the Past Commission Year

Activity Two: Small Group Break Out Brainstorming: CCC’s Role with New County Leadership

Feedback from Break Out Sessions:

Providers

- Host focus groups with parents, “boots on the ground” providers and associations—then share the results of these focus groups with the CC
- Ask for an introduction with the new CE and the new councilmembers and have face to face introductions (after November election, need to get moving contacting elected official to get time on calendars)

Business & General Public

- Multiple hats of business & general public representatives (many have background and vestment in child care and early education)

- What are ways to recruit from varying business?
- Need to have more education about the County budget and allocation of funding (most conversation seem to focus around about numbers served)
- In coming year have more local businesses come and speak about impact on quality child care has on their workforce
- Recruitment: try to have a fact sheet to help new recruits understand why it is important to have the B/GP on the CCC
- Have mentors on the CCC for new commissions to assist with the learning curve
- Need to work to have the CCC more present in the community (how are we different?)

Parents

- Need to hear parent's point of view (not always provider focused conversations)
- How to help parents in Montgomery County locate child care, where to go?
- What about quality—what do first time parents need to know about what to look for in quality child care
- Universal pre-K: We are hearing the gov't idea of what is best...provider what is best...but parents not included in this conversation; should parents have more input into the conversation about what is going to be included in pre-k plan
- Should the CCC be having parent focus groups or surveys to find out what certain zip codes want for their 0-5 children?
- Making sure the CCC is not speaking for all families; need to be better listeners and seeking input from parents about what is important to them
- Need to listen closer to parents on the CCC
- Also need to listen to the parents in middle socio-economic levels (not just those parents who are consumers of WPA and other services that are available to those in needier socio-economic levels)
- How can the parent representatives on the CCC share information with other parents in the community? What are outlets to share information?

Activity 3: Discussion of Proposed Priorities*

- Priority #1: To create two or three publications (briefs/memos) on important child care topics for the County Council and County Executive
- Priority #2: Continue listening sessions with and ongoing learning from various stakeholders in the child care community as a way to stay current around pressing needs
- Priority #3: Meet with various commissions and early childhood groups to create a more aligned focus in communicating the identified needs throughout the child care community

*Commission will vote on these three (3) priorities at the June 20th meeting

Exit Card

- Each member of the CCC was asked to complete an exit card prior to leaving the retreat
 - Gather preferences for committee assignments
 - Guest speaker ideas for next commission year
 - Other unique skills/specialties commissioners can lend to the CCC in the new commission year

Adjournment

The annual planning retreat was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.