



Commission on Child Care Meeting Summary April 18, 2018

Members Present: Barbara Andrews, Michelle Belski, Rosalba Bonilla-Acosta, L'Ornya Bowie, Hashan Chowdhury, Carl Eggleston, Sybil Philip, Laura Seminario-Thornton, Greg Smith and Greg Stevens

Members Absent: Lindsey Allard-Agnamba, Pamela Dunn, Yvonne Iscandari, Jessica Kelley, Ed Krauze, William Polman, Claudia Simmons and Dr. Mayme Williams

Guests Present: Mónica Ortiz (DHHS) and Mike Subin (Office of the County Executive)

Staff Present: Erin Stillwell (DHHS) and Sarah Wilch-Spamer (DHHS)

Greg Smith, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:42 p.m.

Chair's Report Out from BCC Annual Meeting with County Executive

- CE answered questions about strategic plan

Discussion about SB379/HB430 (State Child Care Subsidies Bill)

After discussion, it was agreed upon that the CCC will not respond as a commission (commissioner can respond and individuals)

Vote for CCC Chair/Vice Chair

Current nominations: Greg Smith for Chair; Michelle Belski for Vice Chair
No other nominations so vote by acclamation

ACTION: Motion to have Greg Smith serve as the chair (2nd term) and Michelle Belski serve as the vice chair (1st term)

Motion by: Rosalba Acosta

Seconded by: Greg Stevens

All in Favor

Discussion about future commission meeting structure

- CCC will move both committee meetings (executive, public policy and programmatic issues) to the same night as the full commission meeting (typically the 3rd Wednesday of every month; with exception of July, August and December)
- Executive committee will meet from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m., committees will meet from 6:00 to 6:45 p.m. and full commission will meet from 6:45 to 8:15 p.m.

(this schedule would be subject to change with the addition of guest speakers)

- CCC will build in an alternative meet date in the event that a regularly scheduled meeting is canceled due to a weather emergency

Updates

- **WPA/Subsidy** (Erin Stillwell for Yvonne Iscandari)
 - 613 families on WPA
 - 890 children on WPA
 - Program has cleared the waiting list (181 children/127 families were removed from the waitlist)
 - Supplements have been issued to families on the State program with children age 0-8
- **Early Childhood Coordinating Council** (Mónica Ortiz)
 - ECCC had a meeting on April 18, 2018
 - Reviewed Pre-K Research Report that was recently sent to County Council; as well as some of the Kirwan Report
 - Pre-K Expansion Idea (Presented by Dr. D. Collins): Concept of creating regional centers (MCPS building that would be built out for Pre-K space, other Title I programs and training centers)-nothing has been finalized at this point
 - JoAnn Barnes shared information on the CE budget
 - Viewed the MMF early care and education call to action video; some concerns about footage used was not developmentally accurate; would like the opportunity to provide feedback and offer ways to improve
 - State ECAC report out was discussed
 - Discussed future meetings for liaison groups (CCC/ECC); formulated questions for possible future conversation
- **State Early Care and Education Update** (Barbara Andrews/Mónica Ortiz)
 - Children's dental bill has stalled
 - Green cleaning products bill-not passed
- **County and State Budget Development** (Barbara Andrews)
 - Today (4/18/18) was the first session for joint ED/HHS committee re. budget
 - Committee members look at all of the budget pieces that apply to their committees (create reconciliation list)
 - Subsidy cut money and MC scholarship fund were added to the reconciliation list
 - Councilmember Navarro shared concerned about the readiness gap with children who are Latino and living in low income communities; looking at ways to support family child care providers
 - Monica Ortiz shared that councilmembers would like more data on outcomes on providers, how many are accessing the services of the R&R, etc.
 - Monica also shared that school health is expected to receive some additional funds to support expansion of head start classrooms

Announcements

Carl Eggleston, Office of Child Care, shared recent retirement of licensing specialist, Deborah Brown; also shared that OCC is currently going through a State audit; shared concern about staffing agencies (temps) for child care programs as far as background checks

Michelle Belski shared that OCCD (Organizations of Child Care Directors) had a meeting with Councilmember Navarro (Michelle Belski also attended). Council Vice President Navarro shared that funding for early care and education needs to be an economic imperative as well as a moral imperative; need to have a thoughtful campaign about ways to have support funding stream

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.