



**Commission on Child Care  
Meeting Minutes  
September 28, 2022-**APPROVED**  
Meeting hosted virtually on Microsoft TEAMS**

**Members Present:** Barbara Andrews, Gearline Bryan, Tracey Clay, Allison Fialkov, Elka Forbes, Brandon Howard, Jennifer Penrose, Tara Philips, Bill Polman, Nagwa Rizk, Lesley Romanoff and Verna Washington

**Members Absent:** L'Ornya Bowie, Yvonne Iscandari and Laurie Moran

**Guests:** Sarah Wilch-Spamer (DHHS, ECS)

**Staff Present:** Erin Stilwell (DHHS)

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**Meeting Called to Order:** Tara Phillips, CCC Chair, called the (virtual) full commission meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

**Roll Call**

**Discussion and Poll: Full Commission Meeting Time**

Commissioners discussed changing the meeting start time from 6:00 to 6:30 pm to allow members more time before the start of a meeting. Majority were in favor of changing the time.

**Review and Vote on June 22, 2002 Annual Planning Retreat Meeting Minutes**

**Action:** Motion to accept the June 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting minutes as written: Brandon Howard  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Jennifer Penrose  
All in Favor

**Review and Vote of FY23 Top Policy Priorities**

**Action:** Motion to accept the FY23 Top Policy Priorities as written: Allison Fialkov  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Lesley Romanoff  
All in Favor

**Recommendation Break Outs/Report Out**

**Sustainability:** continued fall out from impact of pandemic; ECE as a public/common good and needs to be valued and recognized; lens of the eco system of all involved (providers, parents, children, etc.); predictability of future curve balls; shortage of the workforce in general; needed support from the licensing community to examine the expectations (MCPS is able to quickly change expectations/rules to meeting the need, but not the same in the child care system; COMAR rules are different); need to have some equity in the process

**Workforce:** cannot compete with public school system; need to do a study to ask the staff who are leaving/or chose not to return since pandemic the "why" they are leaving or have left (retention); staff looking for a work environment that is not possible in child care environment? Fear about returning back to an environment during the pandemic; reality of environment (long hours?); hoops you need to jump through seem arbitrary (COMAR regulations)too much for providers

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm