



**Commission on Child Care  
Meeting Minutes  
October 25, 2023-**APPROVED**  
Meeting hosted virtually on Microsoft TEAMS**

**Members Present:** Jennifer Arnaiz, L’Ornya Bowie, Allison Fialkov, Elka Forbes, Brandon Howard, Yvonne Iscandari and Nagwa Rizk

**Members Absent:** Gearline Bryan, Tracey Clay, Laurie Moran, Tara Philips, Bill Polman and Lesley Romanoff

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

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**Meeting Called to Order:** Brandon Howard, CCC Vice Chair, called the (virtual) full commission meeting to order at 6:36 pm

**Roll Call**

**No quorum: unable to vote on September 27, 2023 meeting minutes; will move to November 29<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

**Discussion: Recommendation Section for 2022-23 Annual Report: Focus on Workforce**

- Finding and retaining qualified individuals who are experienced and licensed.
- Working with individuals to become credentialed to meet criteria of Blueprint.
- Retaining staff and providing compensation that supports retention.

**Discussion: Work Plan to Move FY24 Priorities Forward**

- Host a summit with local ECE stakeholder with an eye on **solutions** (what have others done to address workforce issues? Hiring/retention? How to attract qualified and committee people to the ECE industry?)
- November meeting: focus on “who” needs to be at the table for this event; review event plans (host in March or April 2024); virtual event.

**Updates**

- **(Jennifer Arnaiz)**
  - Saturday (10/28/23) Early Childhood Services will be hosting a fall conference to include an award ceremony honoring local ECE Excellence Award winners.

- MSDE announced that all providers in licensed programs must complete Basic Health and Safety course (online) by 12/31/23; more information can be found at the MSDE site: [Basic Health & Safety Training | Division of Early Childhood \(marylandpublicschools.org\)](https://www.marylandpublicschools.org/Basic-Health-Safety-Training)

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm