



**Commission on Child Care
Meeting Minutes
February 21, 2024-Approved
Hosted on Microsoft TEAMS**

Members Present: Jennifer Arnaiz, L'Ornya Bowie, Tracey Clay, Allison Fialkov, Elka Forbes, Brandon Howard, Laurie Moran, Tara Phillips, and Nagwa Rizk

Members Absent: Yvonne Iscandari, Bill Polman and Lesley Romanoff

Staff Present: Erin Stilwell (DHHS)

Meeting Called to Order: Brandon Howard, CCC Co-Vice Chair, called the (virtual) full commission meeting to order at 6:34 pm

Roll Call & Introduction of Guests

- Melissa Mitchell Jordan

ACTION:

Review and vote on January 24, 2024 meeting minutes
Motion to Approve minutes as written: Brandon Howard
Second: L'Ornya Bowie
All in favor

CCC Commission Business: Continued Planning of ECE Listening Session scheduled for April 17, 2024

Brandon Howard led a conversation on the continued planning for the April 17th event hosted by the CCC:

- Commissioners were asked to add contacts to invite list for event; contact list was shared with the full commission and reviewed; Commissioners were encouraged to add additional contacts of other ECE stakeholder in the DMV
- Event will be hosted on Zoom and attendees will be sent an invite via email (with Zoom registration link)
- Commissioners were asked to create a tagline that would help clarify the goal of the event for potential attendees: Brandon Howard offered the following language (*Goal of the Listening Session is to build connections and explore synergies while gathering information about issues child care providers are facing throughout the DMV and possible solutions to help address those issues*); commissioner agreed on using this language
- Agenda: Commissioner began to draft agenda for event; agreed that each attendee should be provided 2 minutes to share any pressing issue, recommendation and/or solution in the ECE space; need to define who will moderate the event, who will be a timekeeper, monitor of the chat, etc.
- Final agenda will be drafted at the March 20, 2024 commission meeting

Commissioner Updates/Announcements

- **Yvonne Iscandari, Administrator, OESS (Y. Iscandari provided her update in writing prior to the meeting)**
 - Working Parents Assistance and Community Outreach Updates
 - Number of children receiving WPA: 717
 - Number of children receiving Supplements: 1699
 - Number of nondocumented children receiving vouchers: 23
 - Outreach Attendance: Community events: 59
 - Virtual: 35
 - Drop off of WPA brochures/flyers: 92
 - OESS has started a digital campaign with vector media. Advertisement on the buses and bus shelters will be starting on March 11.
- **Jennifer Arnaiz, Administrator, ECS**
 - **EquiCare Grant**
 - The provider portal closed on 2/5; more applications were received than funds available; will re-open the portal in July 2024
 - **Shared Services Report**
 - The Shared Services study is complete; the result of the study will be completed shortly; once finalized the contractor will offer presentations on the results (one in Spanish/one in English); the shared services concept will be open to all licensed providers
 - **Family Child Care Alliance of Maryland**
 - FCC Alliance is currently recruiting for their Aspire program: Link for information: [For Providers | FCCA of MD \(fccamd.org\)](https://www.fccam.org/for-providers)
- **Tara Phillips, Chair**
 - MSDE is working on a Cost of Care study for the entire State
 - MSDE recently updated and approved the Early Learning Standards; many providers provided feedback
 - MSDE will be hosting a symposium on April 9th entitled: "A Window into Maryland's Early Learning Standards." Registration Link: <https://www.readyatfive.org/events>

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:51 pm