



**Commission on Child Care
Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2023-Approved
Meeting hosted virtually on Microsoft TEAMS**

Members Present: Jennifer Arnaiz, L’Ornya Bowie, Allison Fialkov Elka Forbes, Brandon Howard, Yvonne Iscandari, Jennifer Penrose, Tara Philips, Nagwa Rizk, Lesley Romanoff, and Verna Washington

Members Absent: Dr. Gearline Bryan, Tracey Clay, Laurie Moran and Bill Polman

Guests: Laura Jahromi, Children’s Opportunity Alliance

Staff Present: Erin Stilwell (DHHS)

Meeting Called to Order: Tara Phillips, CCC Chair, called the (virtual) full commission meeting to order at 6:34 pm

Roll Call and Introduction of Guests

Review and Vote of February, 22, 2023 Full Commission Meeting Minutes

Action: Motion to accept the February 22, 2023 meeting minutes as written: **Brandon Howard**
2nd: Jennifer Penrose
All in Favor

Call for Nominations (Erin Stillwell, Staff to CCC): In May 2023 the CCC will host an election to select a new (or returning) chair and vice chair. CCC members are encouraged to consider nominating themselves or others for these leadership positions.

Guest Speaker Presentation: Ms. Laura Jahromi, ECE Consultant to the Children’s Opportunity Alliance (COA). Ms. Jahromi provided an overview of the COA, its structure, systems building initiative and future strategic planning ideas.

Updates:

- **State and County Updates (Jennifer Arnaiz):**
There are still three RFPs in the works: 1) Shared Service Study, 2) Cost of Quality Child Care Study and 3) Supply and Demand Study. MFN has recently released their updated LOCATE online data base for use by parents and providers. Child Care Support Services will be offering “chats” in the near future to help providers learn how to create and update their profile. MFN has also released a new mapping tool that will identify child care “deserts” throughout the State.
- **Child Care Scholarship and WPA Updates (Yvonne Iscandari):** OESS and partners are still attempting to spread the word about the updated eligibility requirements—specifically highlighting that children without documentation (undocumented) can be eligible for WPA. Updated Stats: Number of children receiving WPA FY23: 626; Number of children receiving Supplements FY23: 1165; Number of nondocumented children receiving vouchers: 4

Committee Break Out Sessions and Adjournment for Committees

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm