



**Commission on Child Care
Meeting Minutes-**APPROVED**
April 24, 2024
Hosted on Microsoft TEAMS**

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

Members Absent: Allison Fialkov, Yvonne Iscandari, Bill Polman and Lesley Romanoff

Staff Present: Erin Stilwell (DHHS)

Meeting Called to Order: Tara Phillips, CCC Chair, called the (virtual) full commission meeting to order at 6:35

Roll Call & Introduction of Guests

Kimberly Pena-Molina, Children's Opportunity Alliance

ACTION:

Review and vote on March 20, 2024 meeting minutes
Motion to Approve minutes as written: L'Ornya Bowie
Second: Tracey Clay
All in favor

Commission Updates (Erin Stillwell, Staff Liaison)

- Call for Nominations for CCC Chair and Vice Chair Elections: Slate to be finalized by May 22nd meeting.
 - Elka Forbes and Brandon Howard were nominated by commissioners to serve as chair and/or vice chair
 - Additional nominations can be sent to Erin via email prior to May 22nd meeting
- Membership Update
 - Appointment/confirmation of 4 new commission members is scheduled for April 30th
- Planning for June 2024 In Person Retreat
 - In Person retreat will be held on Wednesday, June 12th (2nd Wednesday of the month since Juneteenth holiday falls on 3rd Wednesday)
 - Meeting will begin at 6:00 pm and adjourned at 8:00 pm; light dinner will be served beginning at 5:45 pm

FY24 Commission Business (lead by Tara, Elka and Brandon)

- **Discussion/Debrief of April 17th Child Care Forum**

- Highlighted topics: workforce retention; benefits for providers (to include having states pay providers to have their own children enrolled in child care—as seen in Utah, Kentucky and the USAF)
- Host a similar forum next year as follow up
- Use time at the planning retreat to take a deeper look at forum feedback, organize by topics and determine if there are actionable items

Commissioner Updates/Announcements

- **Jennifer Arnaiz** provided updates on ECEI projects:
 - Shared Services and Facilities Fund studies have concluded and will be preparing to release as an RFP shortly
 - Cost of Quality Care and Supply and Demand studies are in progress and hope to be completed by fall
- **Tara Phillips** re. MSDE Market Rate Study survey participation has been extended until April 29th; this study will collect data on the cost of care in the State of Maryland; currently only 1000 providers (out of 7000) have completed the survey; providers are concerned about sharing information; MSDE is working to recruit Spanish speaking providers to participate
- **Laurie Moran** announced Office of Child Care hosted a roundtable where providers were invited to ask question about CCSS, EXCELS, etc.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm

Upcoming Events/Meetings

~~CCC May Commission Meeting: May 22, 2024 6:30 to 8:00 pm.~~