



**Commission on Child Care**  
**Full Commission Meeting: Meeting Minutes**  
**September 25, 2024-APPROVED**  
**Location: Virtual Meeting Hosted on Microsoft TEAMS**

**Members Present:** Jennifer Arnaiz, Tracey Clay, Allison Fialkov, Elka Forbes, Niambi Heyward, Brandon Howard, Maya Massey, Eden Medhanie, Melissa Jordan, Laurie Moran, Bill Polman, Nagwa Rizk, and Lesley Romanoff

**Members Absent,** Yvonne Iscandari and Tara Philips

**Guests Present:** Kim Pena-Molina (COA), Jessica Argueta, Dorcas Onyia and Nkemamaka Onyejiaka

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

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**Meeting Called to Order: Brandon Howard, CCC Co-Chair,** called the September meeting to order at 6:35 pm

**Review and Vote on June 12, 2024, annual planning retreat minutes**

**Action: Motion to accept the June 12, 2024 meeting minutes as written: Brandon Howard 2<sup>nd</sup>: Tracey Clay**

**All in Favor; minutes accepted as written**

**Commission Updates: Erin Stillwell, Staff Liaison**

- BCCs Presentation to HHS Committee of County Council will be held on Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> 8:30 to 10:30 am in the Council Office Building; FY25 Policy Priorities Statement due to Council staff by October 9<sup>th</sup>
- Montgomery County Committee Evaluation and Review Board (CERB) Report-Due October 30<sup>th</sup>

**Guest Speaker: Kimberly Pena-Molina, Early Care and Education Manager, [Children's Opportunity Alliance](#)**

**Highlights of Presentation:**

- Pre-K Report highlighting barrier with MD Blueprint
- Fiscal Mapping Analysis completed for FY22 and FY23
- Development of data dashboard in progress
- Launching public awareness campaign
- Building a common agenda; currently hosting listening sessions for community input

**Update on Status of Working Parents Assistance (WPA) Program and Brainstorm on "Reimagining WPA" : Jennifer Arnaiz, Administrator, ECS**

**FY25 Top Policy Priorities Discussion Lead by Brandon and Elka**

- **DRAFT Priority Statement (Commissioners will be asked to review and provide edits to vote)**

**The Commission will advance its mission in FY25 through a focus on the following priorities:**

**Priority 1:** Develop recommendations in line with County efforts to support the County's child care system with a specific focus on equitable access and affordability for families.

**Priority 2:** Identify best practices to improve, recruit, retain, and expand the evolving early care and education workforce by hosting collaborative events, collecting data, and providing recommendations to inform and guide stakeholders.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm

The next CCC virtual meeting will be October 23, 2024