



COMMISSION ON CHILD CARE

Meeting Summary April 30, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: Barbara Andrews, Shernet Dixon-James, Carl Eggleston, Laurence Fabre-Welmond, Hillary Fitis, Nuri Funes, Michelle Green, Bernadine Occhiuzzo, Shaun Rose, Aurora Sanchez, Claudia Simmons, Tamiaka Thomasson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sandra Cortez, Pamela Dunn, Mimi Hassanein, Richard Patterson, Monica Sanchez, Felicia Turner, Carol Walsh

STAFF PRESENT: Mary Gies, Early Childhood Services, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

GUESTS PRESENT: Diana Holzberger, Bright Eyes

Shaun Rose, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

GUEST SPEAKER: The Commission welcomed Hannah Matthews, Director, Child Care and Early Education, CLASP. She discussed with the group strategies to support child care subsidy programs, Federal child care subsidy updates and national early childhood trends.

ACTION: The Commission voted to approve:

- January 15th Full Commission Meeting Summary
- February 19th Full Commission Meeting Summary
- March 5th Committee Meeting Summaries
- March 19th Full Commission Meeting
- April 2nd Committee Meetings

ACTION: The Commission unanimously voted for Tamiaka Thomasson to serve as Chair and Michelle Green to serve as Vice Chair of the Commission from May 2014 – April 2015.

CHAIR'S REPORT: Mr. Rose provided an update on the County Council Health and Human Services Committee/Education Committee joint worksession on the FY15 budget. This update led to a discussion on how to elevate child care to a top priority in Montgomery County.

ACTION: The Commission drafted and approved a letter to the County Executive, County Council and Department of Health and Human Services based on its Priorities Agenda that highlighted the need to elevate child care and Early Childhood Education to become a much higher priority in our County

COMMITTEE REPORTS: The Programmatic Issues Committee reported on its April 7th meeting with the Family Child Care Association, at which they obtained feedback about the implementation of Maryland EXCELS.

The Public Policy Committee summarized its April 2nd meeting, providing information about its members' participation in the Child Care in Public Space Workgroup and the Child Care in Public Space Workgroup.

The Membership Committee announced that it will hold new member interviews on Thursday, May 8th.

OLD BUSINESS:

Retreat Planning – The Commission will hold its annual retreat on May 21st from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM at Montgomery Child Care Park Street, 1010 Grandin Avenue, Rockville, MD 20851. The Commission will add to the agenda a discussion about strategies to elevate child care to a higher priority in Montgomery County.

Child Care in Public Space (CCIPS) Workgroup – Mr. Rose distributed draft Montgomery County Executive Regulation for Before and After School Childcare Programs in Public Schools and the associated administrative procedures. He asked Commissioners to review and provide feedback, which he will report at the next workgroup meeting.

Early Childhood Advisory Council – Bernadine Occhiuzzo and Barbara Andrews reported on the ECAC's recent strategic planning retreat. The group will meet again on June 11th.

Working Parents Assistance (WPA) Workgroup – Tamieka Thomasson reported that the workgroup presented its recommendations to the County Council. The Council requested that the workgroup continue meeting through October 1, 2014 to discuss and make recommendation on the following policy issue: *Updating the WPA income and subsidy tables would create a significant disparity between the families that fall within the WP A income guidelines and the lower income families that fall within the guidelines of the State Child Care Subsidy Program (SCCSP). WPA families would receive higher payments than lower income SCCSP families that do not have the options to participate in WPA.*

UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Early Childhood Services and Budget Updates – Barbara Andrews reported on the implementation of Pre-K expansion and the addition of early childhood services to the Kennedy Cluster project.

Collaborations with Other Groups – Tamiaka Thomasson reported on the Commission’s meeting with members of the Community Action Board regarding universal pre-K. The group will meet again to discuss potential avenues for collaboration.

Announcements

- Laurence Fabre-Welmond announced that she will resign after the May retreat, as she is moving out of the country.
- Aurora Sanchez announced that she was elected as president of the Montgomery County chapter of the Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.