



COMMISSION ON CHILD CARE
Meeting Summary: Full Commission
November 19, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: Barbara Andrews, Rosalba Bonilla-Acosta, Rossana Espinoza-Thorndahl, Hillary Fitis, Diana Holzberger, Brigid Howe, Linda Janulis, Edward Krauze, Bernadine Occhiuzzo, Shaun Rose, Claudia Simmons, Barbara Warman

GUESTS PRESENT: Uma Ahluwalia, JoAnn Barnes, Tamiaka Thomasson

Hillary Fitis called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Visitor Presentation: Uma Ahluwalia, Director, DHHS. Ms. Ahluwalia addressed the Commission's list of questions discussing DHHS priorities, WPA funds and the upcoming WPA Workgroup Report, Child Care in Public Space and the CUPF regulations and the possibility of a Child Care Office, Early Childhood Mental Health, the Commission concept of a *Year of the Young Child* and the Children's Trust. Ms. Ahluwalia was not able to discuss the WPA report until it is released.

ACTION: The Commission voted to approve the summary of the October 15, 2014 full Commission meeting summary.

CHAIRS REPORT: Michelle Green was absent and the Chair's report was tabled until the next meeting in January.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Programmatic Issues: Barbara Warman is the new Chair of the Committee. Natasha Ramberg, Director, Infants and Toddlers Program, DHHS and Amy Cropp, Supervisor PEP, Infants and Toddler Program, MCPS discussed mental health services available to young children and families through MCITP. The committee prepared a draft of questions for the November 19 full Commission guest: Uma Ahluwalia, Director, DHHS.

Membership: There are now 6 vacancies – Shaun Rose and Barbara Andrews to follow-up with County Executive's office. Shaun asked members to tap their networks. Needed are: 1 Business and Community; 2 Providers; 3 Parents. We will forward the County Executive Office's ad for posting in child care programs. We have a Vice Chair of the Commission vacancy – we will elect at the next full Commission meeting in January.

Public Policy: Discussion: October 23 Council Public Hearing re: CUPF Child Care in Public Space regulation and Oct 30 Council HHS/ED Committee meeting. Discussed and edited Michelle Green's draft of a letter to County Council President Craig Rice. Letter from Executive Committee was sent to Council members and to the County Executive re: CUPF regulations. Prepared questions for the November 19 full Commission meeting visit from Uma Ahluwalia.

NEW BUSINESS:

The new January to June 2015 Commission schedule will be sent to Commission membership.

CUPF Regulations: The full County Council meets on Tuesday 11/25 at 10:15 am and will vote on the CUPF regulation. Shaun suggested that networks be tapped and as many people attend the meeting as possible. A new letter from the full Commission to president Council Rice re: the CUPF regulation was discussed.

Action: Shaun to draft a letter asking the County Council to reject the CUPF before and after school child care regulations for reasons outlined in the previous letter or to include a "sunset provision"; letter to be circulated through email to full Commission membership. The Commission voted to approve the action.

Meeting Times Discussion: Should meetings be completed in one evening per month – completing both Committee meetings and Full Commission in one evening. The general consensus was to leave the meeting as is. No action required.

UPDATES:

Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) – Bernadine reported that the ECAC met in November and focused on roles and responsibilities of ECAC member and member organizations with a focus on collaboration between organizations – such as OCCD, FCCA, Commission, etc.

State and County Early Childhood Update – Barbara A. reported that MFN Public Policy intends to continue to work in a bipartisan way with the new Governor Elect's office. Shaun raised the reauthorization of the Federal Child Care Block Grant, which will still require funding.

Announcements and Collaborations:

Barbara A. is hopeful that a transfer candidate will accept the Program Manager I: Staff to the Commission role vacated by Mary Gies.

Bernadine announced that her program has achieved NAEYC National Accreditation for the next 5 years and is at an EXCELS 5. They will now also pursue MSDE Accreditation.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

