



COMMISSION ON CHILD CARE
Meeting Summary: Full Commission
February 4, 2015
Additional Meeting at 6:30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Barbara Andrews, Rosalba Bonilla-Acosta, Carl Eggleston, Rossana Espinoza-Thorndahl, Michelle Green, Diana Holzberger, Brigid Howe, Linda Janulis, Bernadine Occhiuzzo, Shaun Rose, Claudia Simmons, Barbara Warman

GUESTS PRESENT: Linda Owen, Crystal Ruiz

Michelle Green called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

ACTION: The Commission voted to approve the summary of the November 19, 2014 full Commission meeting summary.

CHAIRS REPORT: Michelle Green reported that the new CUPF Before and After School Regulation passed with a one year sunset provision in effect to January 3, 2016. CUPF rebids to begin in February. The Commission Executive Committee met with Council President Leventhal, his Chief of Staff and Vivian Yao on January 22. The Committee will continue to dialogue, monitor and gather facts as it related to the CUPF regulation and to Child Care in Public Space. Shaun Rose and Michelle both received responses to their letters to Mr. Leggett and to Mr. Rice.

Michelle Green attended the Maryland Family Network Public Policy meeting on January 28 which included an update on the Governor's budget:

- Maryland Pre-K expansion funding is at \$18.5million for FY16
 - Licensed child care programs that are at a Maryland EXCELS level 5 can apply to a fund of \$60 million over the next 4-5 years/federal funds appropriated by the State annually – but must be continued and approved by Congress
 - No major cuts to Early Childhood Programs
- Additionally MFN has developed on-line training for modules on developmental disabilities

Michelle attended the Boards and Commission budget meeting with the County Executive where he reported a \$200 million deficit for the County and that he is considering a property tax increase, but his focus is on “do no harm” and on preserving the social safety net.

Action: Election of Vice Chair: Shaun Rose nominated Bernadine Occhiuzzo; Michelle Green seconded; Unanimous in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Programmatic Issues: Barbara Warman reported: Focus has been on Early Childhood Mental Health Services in the County; committee has had several guests and are planning on digesting the information. They developed questions for Liz Kelley's visit (to be rescheduled). They will look at their work plan and focus their next efforts.

Membership: Shaun Rose reported: Three interviews to set up; 5 openings; request that members let possible candidates know; he will send out an announcement.

Public Policy: Shaun Rose reported: Discussion in the committee re: WPA and Public Space; County Council meetings held; will focus in on work plan.

NEW BUSINESS:

Barbara Warman attended Uma Ahluwalia's budget meeting where the County deficit was discussed and Commissions and Boards were asked to consider their work plans and requests in light of the deficit. HHS has a mark of a 3% budget reduction.

Discussion: Uma Ahluwalia's request that HHS Boards and Commissions sign on to a statement on mental health and the use of the "Pathways" model. After discussion on needs in early childhood mental health members determined that the Commission can sign on to a general mental health statement, but they do not have enough knowledge of the "Pathways" model to suggest its use. Michelle Green to write and email response to the request. The Programmatic Issues Committee will discuss other Boards and omissions strategies on mental health issues.

Discussion: Working Parents Assistance Program (WPA) Work Group Report. The report will be discussed at County Council HHS/Ed Committee meeting on February 12. Letter to Council to be drafted (Shaun Rose) and circulated to members for comment which will use the Commission Annual Report and the budget testimony to emphasize that something must change in the WPA program.

UPDATES:

Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) – Tabled to February 18 meeting.

State and County Early Childhood Update – Tabled to February 18 meeting.

Announcements and Collaborations:

Carl Eggleston that the revisions to the State licensing requirements will be posted this month with a 30 day comment period and that this is a major revision to the licensing requirements.

The next meeting of the Full Commission is on February 18 and will begin at 6:30PM by unanimous vote.

Michelle Green adjourned the meeting at 8:45 PM.