



COMMISSION ON CHILD CARE

Meeting Summary

March 4, 2015

Additional Full Commission Meeting: 6:30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Barbara Andrews, Rosalba Bonilla-Acosta, Diana Holzberger, Edward Krauze, Bernadine Occhiuzzo, Shaun Rose, Barbara Warman

GUESTS PRESENT: Councilmember Hans Riemer, Councilmember Nancy Navarro, Bertha Flores (Navarro Council Office), Crystal Ruiz (Riemer Council Office), Bob Sickels, Joanne Hurt, Tamiaka Thomasson

Bernadine Occhiuzzo called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM.

VISITORS: Council members Nancy Navarro and Hans Riemer: Each Council member introduced their new proposed bills, discussed the content and the intent of each and answered questions from the Commissioners and guests. **Bills were sent electronically and available at the meeting**

Mrs. Navarro has two bills: # **xx-15 Administration- Office of Community Use of Public Facilities - Vulnerable Youth and Low-Income Families** and #**6-14 Child Care Expansion and Enhancement Initiative**, both introduced at Council session on March 3

Mr. Riemer has one bill: **xx-15 Office of Child Care Established** that is currently in draft form and his office is seeking comments. See each bill for content.

Mrs. Navarro and Mr. Riemer discussed their concern that child care be raised to a higher level in the County. Mr. Riemer specifically discussed the need for all child care in public space to be managed and programs selected by professionals with expertise in child care. His bill would create an Office of Child Care to place several functions in one place and at a higher level.

Mrs. Navarro explained that her bill related to CUPF is to introduce aligning CUPF rates for rental space for programs focused on vulnerable youth and low income families with other County policies.

Mrs. Navarro see her Child Care Initiative bill as a way to codify the concepts of the previously operating Centro Familia into HHS with a specific focus on information, training and mentoring for Spanish speaking Family Child Care Providers. She mentioned that the draft of an earlier bill written with Mr. Riemer was intended to centralize services and

initiatives into an office or service area. She is especially concerned about children, who are alingual, in unlicensed family child care who are falling behind in terms of Kindergarten readiness because their providers find getting licensed to be too hard or they don't know how to get licensed. She has heard from providers who are not aware of the R&R or LOCATE and services provided.

The Council members discussed the process for a bill from draft to approval and the collaborative work with the Executive branch.

Action: The Commission did not have a quorum to approve the summary of the February 4, 2015 full Commission meeting summary (additional full meeting).

CHAIRS REPORT: No report. Chair absent.

Commission Attendance Message/Reminder: Absences for 3 consecutive meetings of the Full Commission or 3 absences of the Full Commission meeting in a year results in a resignation of the member unless a waiver is requested and granted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Programmatic Issues: No meeting in February or March

Public Policy: No meeting in February or March

Membership: We have 8 openings and interviewed 3 people tonight. There are 4 more applicants to be sent by the Executive's office. There will be another ad. **Please get it out to your networks and suggest to others that they apply.**

NEW BUSINESS: None

UPDATES:

Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) – Focus groups for use in comprehensive Planning have been completed and initial analysis given to ECAC committees to finalize the analysis. A report will be written and publicized. The ECS Demographic Report is completed and is intended as research for comprehensive planning. Commissioners and guests received copies of the report. The ECAC will meet for a retreat on April 2, 2015.

State and County Early Childhood Update – Barbara Andrews reported that the State budget now contains a possible 8% cut to the Resource and Referral Network statewide. Maryland Family Network has told us to consider this as an 8% cut to our R&R grant. Additionally, all RTT funding ends at the end of December 2015. MSDE will not be replacing any funds cut in the State budget. This cut would be devastating for the R&R Network across the state at a time when more requirements are expected of providers and more training and support needed. Commissioners may reach their legislators as individuals if they choose to comment on the cut and the work of the R&R. Verizon has an app and a website with a legislative directory: <http://www.verizononthego.com/>

Announcements:

Barbara Warman attended the Community Action *Raise Your Voice* Community Forum on January 28, 2015 as the Commission representative. One of several forums to be led by Community Action on issues affecting families in poverty – transportation, housing, jobs and child care. Barbara led two focus group discussions on child care. Affordability, accessibility and transportation were raised by parents as major issues. Barbara Andrews was also in attendance and ChildLink had a resource table at the event. Barbara Warman forwarded the report from the forum to Commissioners through email.

Shaun Rose will be attending the next Organization of Child Care Directors (OCCD) meeting where he and Linda Owen (OCCD) will do a presentation on budgeting and discuss Child Care in Public Space. Crystal Ruiz, staff to Councilmember Hans Riemer will also be presenting on the new child care bill.

The next Commission meeting is on March 18 and our guest will be Liz Kelley, Director of the Office of Child Care, MSDE. Meeting begins at 7pm.

Council member Elrich has been invited to the April 2 meeting. If he attends, committees will meet from 6:30-7:00 and the full Commission from 7:00-8:30.

A budget meeting with the County Executive will be held at the Children’s Resource Center (CRC) on March 19 from 6-9pm. There will also be additional opportunities for Chairs of Commissions and Boards.

Collaborations with other Groups: Barbara Andrews expressed the Commission on Children and Youth’s (CCY) desire to connect with CCC for the *Tour de Cookie* fundraiser event for *The Tree House*. There are opportunities for a bike ride or race, bike routes for families, a childrens’ special ride, activities and food. At each stop on the bike ride there are cookie stands where riders are supported and given a bag of homemade cookies. More details to come if CCC is interested in a joint cookie stand with CCY. Responsibilities include baking cookies and volunteering at the stand. Morning of Saturday, May 2. More details to follow.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.