



COMMISSION ON CHILD CARE

Meeting Summary June 18, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: Barbara Andrews, Sandra Cortez, Pamela Dunn, Carl Eggleston, Laurence Fabre-Welmond, Nuri Funes, Michelle Green, Bernadine Occhiuzzo, Claudia Simmons, Tamiaka Thomasson, Felicia Turner

MEMBERS ABSENT: Hillary Fitis, Shaun Rose, Monica Sanchez, Carol Walsh

GUESTS PRESENT: Diana Holzberger, Bright Eyes Child Care Center

STAFF PRESENT: Mary Gies, Program Manager, Early Childhood Services, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services

Chair Tamiaka Thomasson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

ACTION: The Commission voted to approve the summary of the May 21, 2014 annual retreat.

ACTION: The Commission voted to approve the June 4, 2014 Committee meeting summaries.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- The **Programmatic Issues Committee** is working on its priorities for 2014 – 2015 and finalizing its contributions to the Commission’s annual report.
- The **Public Policy Committee** hosted Felicia Turner, Administrator, Office of Eligibility and Support Services, and Rene Williams, Program Manager, Child Care Subsidy Programs at their June 4th meeting. The speakers helped the committee understand the current state of the Working Parents Assistance Program. The Committee will address its priorities for 2014 – 2015 and contributions to the Commission’s annual report at the July 9th meeting.
- The **Membership Committee** reported that the County Executive’s appointments to the Commission are scheduled to be confirmed by the County Council on July 8th. The County Executive’s office is currently seeking additional applicants to fill remaining business/general public representative vacancies.

NEW BUSINESS:

2014-2015 Speakers - The Commission agreed to invite the following guest speakers during the 2014-2015 year:

- July 16th – Bertha Flores, Office of Councilmember Nancy Navarro
- September 17th – Uma Ahluwalia, Director, HHS
- October 15th – Debbie Moore, Maryland Family Network
- November 19th – Richard Madaleno, Maryland State Senator

OLD BUSINESS:

2013-2014 Annual Report – The Commission agreed to add as a priority, “Continue to work to better align the standards and processes that govern child care and school-age care in public space to ensure that families receive quality and reliable care.”

UPDATES:

State Early Childhood Education Update - Barbara Andrews reported that State Senator Richard Madaleno was awarded the Dr. Nancy J. Grasmick Leadership Award in Early Care and Education. She also updated the Commission about the Early Head Start/Child Care Partnership RFP.

Working Parents Assistance (WPA) Workgroup – Tamiaka Thomasson and Felicia Turner updated the Commission about the WPA Workgroup and its continued efforts to make WPA a program that works for Montgomery County families.

Early Childhood Advisory Council – Barbara Andrews updated the Commission on the work of the ECAC and its contributions to the County’s early childhood strategic plan.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Michelle Green formally thanked and professed deep gratitude to departing Commissioner Laurence Fabre-Welmond and wished her the best of luck on her move overseas.

Carl Eggleston updated the Commission on staffing at the Maryland State Department of Education, Office of Child Care. He also informed the Commission that child care providers are to immediately begin using the revised Release of Information Form.

Staff announced that the Commission will hold its New Member Orientation on September 17th at 6:00 PM.

Barbara Andrews announced that Early Childhood Services (ECS) has put forth its recommendation for a new Program Manager I to oversee Child Care in Public Space for HHS. She also announced that ECS will be hiring a new Early Childhood Mental Health Therapist II and the Child Care Resource and Referral Center is searching for a new Preschool Specialist.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.