



Early Childhood Coordinating Council
Wednesday, September 16, 2020
Virtual Meeting
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Barbara Andrews, Jennifer Arnaiz, JoAnn Barnes, Jody Burghardt, Robin Chernoff, Cindy Chichester, Amy Cropp, Richard Crump, Liran Laor, Mary Manning-Falzarano, Lynnette Weaver, Charlene Muhammad, Taniesha Woods Myles, Monica Ortiz, Jade-Ann Rennie, Paula Sayag, Charisse Scott, Rebecca Smith, Louise Tolin, Vivian Yao

Members Absent: Stephanie Brant, Lauren Martino, Carrie Meyer, Bernadine Occhiuzzo, Kimberly Rusnak

Support Staff: Taryn Billand

Guests: Rosalba Bonillo-Acosta, Leah Bradley, Melissa Di Negro, Sharon Friedman, Michelle Gallipoli, Andrew Lett, Susan Madden, Linda Moran, Maria Navarro

Liran Laor called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Convene Meeting: Liran Laor welcomed members and guests. Roll call was performed, 21 were present which included 20 voting members – 13 is required for quorum.

Vote on Minutes:

- Action Item: Vote on June 2020 Minutes – Approved: Motion: Becky Smith, Second: Robin Chernoff
- Action Item: Vote on June 2020 Minutes - Approved: Motion Becky Smith. Second: Robing Chernoff

Member Check In: There were no comments or updates.

ECE Collaboration Updates:

- **County Executive's proposal for the ECCC** – Barbara Andrews and JoAnn Barnes
 - Restructure County ECE Initiative Steering Committee and ECCC to be new Early Care and Education Coordinating Board (ECCB)
 - Early Care and Education Initiative (ECEI) met with County Council members. Outcomes:
 - MMF will conduct the Coordinating Entity Study – due by December 31 ,2020
 - ECCC role:
 1. Remains the Local Early Childhood Advisory Committee (ECAC) within MSDE ECAC system
 2. Remains the coordinating entity for early childhood
 3. Remains in an advisory role to the County Executive, County Council and MCPS
 - JoAnn Barnes will work with MMF on the entity proposal
 - Throughout the fall and until the time the MMF Entity study is released, the ECCC will continue its scheduled work:
 - Work on the ECAC Quality Enhancement Grant
 - Strategic Plan priorities
 - Community outreach to parents and providers
 - Collaborate with MMF and the ECEI Steering Committee

Questions/Requests:

- **Who makes final decision as to what develops after December 2020?**
Council will make final determinations with County Executive based on recommended options from MMF- commissioned study

- **Request: Importance of including members of ECCC in study process – continued participation of MMF representatives in upcoming ECCC meetings (ECCC will also still have representation on MMF advisory group)**
- **Request: Intentional parent representation and inclusion in full process, especially for those not within formal organizations/programs**

Action: In invitation to the monthly ECCC meeting will be sent to Sharon Friedman through the end of the year

Update from Montgomery Moving Forward (MMF) re: Coordinating Entity Study and Council Funding – Sharon Friedman, Susan Madden and Maria Navarro

- Early Care and Education Call to Action for Montgomery County – The workforce of today are those working in the ECE field and the needs of working parents, and the workforce of tomorrow, which is focused on the school readiness and success of children entering kindergarten.
- Proposal for report and recommendations for an independent public/private ECE partnership: funding was approved unanimously on September 15, 2020 with \$75K from Montgomery County, along with \$25K generated from donations from businesses foundations in Montgomery County. MMF will prepare a blueprint for an efficient, effective, equitable system of high-quality ECE to meet the needs of children, families and employers throughout the community. Provider and parent voices will be essential to the final recommendations made. Report and recommendations will be due by December 31, 2020.
- Three partner organizations/initiatives recommended to County Council included the ECCC, the Children’s Opportunity Fund and the Collaboration Council for Children Youth and Families. MMF will provide a set of recommendations and give guidance as to how the entity might be stood up. The goal is to be a neutral, cross-sector convener of planning to stand up the coordinating entity.

Questions:

- **Will information and/or requests be taken to the community?**
- **What would participation of the ECCC involve?**
- **What is the consultant, advocate and stakeholder roles?**

Action: Invitation to the November MMF symposium will be forwarded to the ECCC members

Nominations and Elections: Vote by roll call

- **Chair**
 - **Nominations – Jody Burghardt, Kimberly Rusnak**
 - Elected Chair: Jody Burghardt
- **Vice Chair**
 - **Nominations – Taniesha Woods Myles, Richard Crump (withdrew)**
 - Elected Vice Chair: Taniesha Woods Myles
- **Vacancies – Taryn Billand** has contacted members whose terms end this year

Update on Local ECAC Quality Improvement Project – Monica Ortiz

- Flyer for members to share information to other groups re: at-home kits and materials for children
- Request for volunteers to assemble kits
- Request for partners to distribute kits to children

Letter of Support for EHS Project – Barbara Andrews

- DHHS Early Childhood Services submitting grant application for federal funding to provide additional EHS services (pregnant women and children ages birth through age 3) – partnership with DHHS ECS and Community Action and Sheppard Pratt EHS to coordinate service areas and waitlists
- Letter of support is being requested from ECCC to include in grant application
- There are currently 3 other EHS providers in the county: CentroNía, Sheppard Pratt (Family Services), Lourie Center
- Received letters of support from MMF, MCPS, Community Action Board, Head Start Policy Council, Sheppard Pratt (Family Services)

Action: A letter of support will be drafted by the ECCC

Family Survey Report – Monica Ortiz

- Data will be presented to the ECCC Executive Committee in October
- The draft report will be sent to ECCC members
- Partners will be identified for distribution of the report in October

Update on Child Care Reopening – Jennifer Arnaiz

- MSDE allowed reopening in July
- As of Monday, September 14, 2020, 75% of Child Care Centers and 80% of Family Child Care had reopened, although not all programs were at previous capacity; 650 programs replied to R&R survey, results show that 98% of Child Care Centers and 90% of Family Child Care (number of household members counts toward capacity maximums: no more than 15 total) are operating at an average of 50% of allowable COVID capacity.
- School-aged programs – new need during school hours so young children have supervision and older children have academic and technical support while parents are engaged in their work or out of home at work; MCPS has allowed DHHS CCIPS sites to reopen for young children and CUPF space to be identified for school-aged children; these operations meet all the MDH and MSDE public health precautions. The County is prioritizing care for children of teachers, essential workers, and from low-income families. The Community Foundation has done fundraising for child care scholarships at targeted school communities. MSDE is not allowing child care waivers for other types of group care such as recreation, libraries, learning pods, etc.
- A reference guide and posters will be available in October

Infants and Toddlers, ChildFind and MCPS Special Ed. Services – Mary Manning-Falzarano and Amy Cropp

- Program design during remote MCPS instruction
- Family engagement – additional supports for parents to continue activities within the family throughout the week so not solely relying on weekly therapist appointment; Family Support Network Coordinator focused on engagement to send information and resources to families twice a week at the beginning of the isolation period; continued outreach to families at least monthly for the families who withdrew from weekly/regular visits
- At-home supports – MCITP paused services for 2 weeks in March, began to research virtual service options; resumed when MCPS restarted classes; continue billing through Medicaid and using HIPAA compliant platform as well as expanded Zoom features; most families opting for shorter than 45min visits due to engagement difficulties with young children through virtual settings; county provided Chromebooks and hotspots for families who requested them; facilitating virtual playdates twice a week, including break-out rooms, to conduct group activities (providers and families have both enjoyed these activities)
- MCITP referrals are down, but have started to increase in September, same trend across the state
- MCITP part of DHHS telemedicine planning group; face-to-face planning, but will not resume until MCPS begins
- Families in Maryland can keep their children in Infant and Toddler Program until age 5 if preferred, at this time more families are choosing to stay and not transition to MCPS at age 3

The meeting was adjourned at 12:29 p.m.