



Early Childhood Coordinating Council
Wednesday, October 19, 2022
Virtual Meeting
10:00am-12:00pm
Meeting Minutes
Approved

Members Present: Jennifer Arnaiz, Stephanie Brant, Jody Burghardt, Robin Chernoff, Amy Cropp, Richard Crump, Cassandra Malik, Mary Manning-Falzarano, Charlene Muhammad, Bernadine Occhiuzzo, Charisse Scott, Rebecca Smith, Beka Urgessa, Vivian Yao and Lynnette Weaver

Members Absent: : Barbara Andrews, Laurie Moran, Jade-Ann Rennie, Kimberly Rusnak, , Louise Tolin and Dira Treadvance

Guest Present: Laura Jahromi (Children Opportunity Alliance), Sarah Wilch-Spamer (DHHS) and Ben Wikner (Cross Community Organization)

DHHS Staff: Michelle Gallipoli and Erin Stillwell

Charlene Muhammad, acting chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 am

Roll Call and Introduction of Guests

Review and Vote of Meeting Minutes from September 21, 2022 ECCC Meeting

ACTION:

Motion to accept the minutes as written: Rebecca Smith

2nd Motion: Robin Chernoff

All in Favor

Update on HHS Committee Policy Priorities Meeting

On October 26th from 8:30-10:30 am the HHS Committee of the County Council will host a policy priorities meeting with those BCC under the HHS umbrella. Jody Burghardt has generously volunteered to represent the ECCC at this meeting and share the top FY23 policy priorities. The meeting will be held in person at the Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Ave., Third Floor Hearing Room, Rockville. There will also be a virtual option for presenters and attendees.

Final Review and Vote: 2021-22 ECCC Annual Report

ACTION: Motion to accept the 2021-2022 ECCC Annual Report as written: Jody Burghardt

2nd Motion: Bernadine Occhiuzzo

All in Favor

Committee Break Out Sessions and Report Out

Update: Children’s Opportunity Alliance (Laura Jahromi)

The Children’s Opportunity Alliance is now a stand-alone, non-profit organization awaiting the IRS to grant them 501 c3 status. The Board of Directors is meeting monthly, and details of their meetings can be found on their website: www.mocochildren.org. To date they have approved their leadership board and have a draft work plan. On October 31st the COA will be providing an update to the HHS and Education/Culture committees of the County Council. The COA will be working with MMF to send out a survey to various ECE organizations/systems to help understand and analyze the current ECE landscape. They hope to have the results of the survey by November or December 2022.

Update: Infants and Toddlers Program Equity Project (Mary Manning-Falzarano)

Mary Manning Falzarano shared information about the upcoming equity project that will be conducted by MCITP. Stakeholders are encouraged to attend [focus groups](#) scheduled for October 27th to share their thoughts and insights. Those who cannot attend the focus groups are encouraged to share their feedback via [a survey](#).

Update: Head Start Community Base Support (Charlene Muhammad)

Charlene Muhammad provided a brief updated on the pilot program that is targeted to help those 3-year-olds aging out of Early Head Start. The pilot is working to enroll those identified children into 2 community programs (Centro Nia and FSI).

Announcements:

- Ben Wikner, Executive Director with Cross Community, shared an update. Cross Community is a Gaithersburg base organization that is doing “on the group work” to advance equity in Montgomery County. They have currently partnered with the Collaboration Council to help spread the word about the Basics Project. They also host the Equity Center at Lakeforest Mall and were responsible for helping to organize food distribution programs and equity hubs during the pandemic. They have a website that provides more information on all of the work they are engaged in within the Gaithersburg and Montgomery Village communities: www.cross-community.org
- Jennifer Arnaiz shared information about the upcoming Fall 2022 Conference for providers sponsored by Child Care Support Services. Registration is filling up quickly so those interested in attending should register soon.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 am

The ECCC will host the next council meeting on Wednesday, November 16, 2022.