



**Early Childhood Coordinating Council
Wednesday, February 16, 2022
Virtual Meeting
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Barbara Andrews, Jennifer Arnaiz, Stephanie Brant, Jody Burghardt, Robin Chernoff, Cindy Chichester-Olivierre, Richard Crump, Cassandra Malik, Mary Manning-Falzarano, Charlene Muhammad, Bernadine Occhiuzzo, Jade-Ann Rennie, Kimberly Rusnak, Charisse Scott, Rebecca Smith, Louise Tolin, Lynnette Weaver, Taniesha Woods Myles, and Vivian Yao

Members Absent: Amy Cropp, Carrie Meyer, Laurie Moran, and Paula Sayag

Guest Present: Jenice Bruce, Michele Dean, Andrew Lett, Sean O'Donnell, and Jennifer Wiedel

DHHS Staff: Michelle Gallipoli, Erin Stillwell and Sarah Wilch-Spamer

Jody Burghardt, chair, called the meeting to order at 10:06am

Roll Call and Introduction of Guests

Review and Vote of Meeting Minutes from January 19, 2022, ECCC Meeting

ACTION:

Motion to accept the minutes with amendment/correction: Bernadine Occhiuzzo

2nd Motion: Taniesha Woods Myles

All in Favor

Update on Early Childhood Independent Coordinating Entity:

(Dr. Barbara Andrews and Vivian Yao) February 15, 2022, County Council unanimously approved Bill 42-21; will require the Council to designate a nonprofit corporation to serve as the County's Early Care and Education Coordinating Entity as well as establish its guidelines and duties; Council has not confirmed the nonprofit that will serve in this capacity; part of the initial work of this entity is to examine what ECE advisory groups already exist in the County and determine their future role/purpose; ECCC will continue to focus on their work as planned until decisions are made about the future role of advisory groups

Update on *The Basics* Program:

(Jade-Ann Rennie, Collaboration Council) Collaboration Council continues their work on the Basics program; met with implementation partners to find out the strengths and needs; working to identify parts of the program that need to be tweaked to improve future implementation; working to train staff on the Basics; planning larger community events once weather warms

Announcements:

Charisse Scott: MCCPTA will be hosting February's Fourth Friday Forum on February 25, 2022; topic will be "Unmasking the Myths Behind Gifted & Talented Programs & Special Needs Education; "Charisse will share a flyer with the details about the event

Dr. Barbara Andrews shared that she will be retiring in at the end of the summer 2022

Dr. Barbara Andrews: MC HHS has named a new chief for Children, Youth and Families-Ms. Dira Treadvance; ECCC will invite

Ms. Treadance to attend an upcoming meeting

Guest Speaker, Mr. Sean O'Donnell, Sean O'Donnell, MCDHHS Public Health Emergency Preparedness Manager

Mr. O'Donnell shared updated information on quarantine and isolation guidance specific to early childhood; data on Covid transmission, vaccine, and death rates in the County; efforts in the County to expand access to vaccines and testing

Presentation: Charlene Muhammad, Head Start, Community Action Agency/HHS, Program Manager: Head Start Three Year Olds Mixed Delivery Model

Legislative Updates

(Dr. Barbara Andrews) Maryland General Assembly is currently in session; there are a number of bills focused on child care sustainability; joint bill package will focus on revolving loans for providers, workforce initiatives and improvements to the State Child Care Scholarship Program; House Bill 513 will focus on greater funding for the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Program

ECE Forums

(Jennifer Arnaiz) ECS, Child Care Support Services will be hosting a series of forums in the coming months for both providers and parents; information gathered from these forums will be used to identify gaps; forums focused on parents/caregivers will be offered in both Spanish and English

Request from the Chair

(Jody Burghardt) Jody reminded the ECCC that elections for a new chair and vice chair will be held in May and would like members to consider stepping up into a leadership position; call for nominations will begin at the March meeting

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 am

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