



Early Childhood Coordinating Council
Wednesday, April 19, 2023
Virtual Meeting
Meeting Minutes
APPROVED

Members Present: Stephanie Brant, Robin Chernoff, Amy Cropp, Richard Crump, Cassandra Malik, Mary Manning-Falzarano, Charlene Muhammad, Kimberly Rusnak, Charisse Scott, and Beka Urgessa

Members Absent: Jennifer Arnaiz, Laurie Moran, Bernadine Occhiuzzo, Jade Ann Rennie, Rebecca Smith, Louise Tolin, Dira Treadance, Lynette Weaver and Vivian Yao

Guest Present: Dr. Amanda Holliday-Bembridge (Parent), Rosalba Bonilla (Cento Nia) and Laura Jahromi (Children's Opportunity Alliance)

DHHS Staff: Michelle Gallipoli and Erin Stillwell

Charlene Muhammad called the meeting to order at 10:06 am

Roll Call and Introduction of Guests

Review and Vote of Meeting Minutes from March 15, 2023 ECCC Meeting

ACTION:

Motion to accept the minutes as written: Kimberly Rusnak

2nd Motion: Mary Manning-Falzarano

All in Favor

Presentation: Children's Opportunity Alliance Updates (Kimberly Rusnak, COA)

As the COA moves forward with strategic planning, they will be examining the roles of various groups, including the ECCC, to identify strengths and areas of duplication. The COA will take the lead in creating a partnership with MCPS and HHS to have conversations on the future of the ECCC as it is currently structured. The COA will organize a survey to share with members of the ECCC. ECCC members are also encouraged to speak individually to Laura Jahromi (COA) with any question or concerns. The COA is in a fact gathering stage so there is identified timeline at this point.

State Legislative Summary (Michelle Gallipoli, ECS)

Michelle Gallipoli provided an update from the 2023 Maryland General Assembly legislative session. Michelle provided members of the ECCC a written summary of ECE bills that were heard during the 2023 session.

Community Announcements and Updates

- Amy Cropp shared that MCPS will be hosting a special education fair for students and families on April 29th from 9am to 12pm. Amy shared a link to the event in the meeting chat.
- Kimberly Rusnak shared that the COA recently opened their first grant cycle to support Montgomery County organizations serving children and families; information on the grants can be found on the COA website: <https://mocochildren.org/grants>
- Laura Jahromi announced that MSDE has opened the Pre-K Blueprint funds application for community-based providers: <https://marylandpublicschools.org/about/Documents/OFPOS/GAC/GrantPrograms/PreKExpansionFY24/PreKExpansionGIG.pdf>

- Cassandra Malik shared information on a MCPL pilot program called “Hatchlings” which is an interactive early literacy program for expectant parents; also teaches about brain/body development; Part 2 of the pilot will be offered in October 2023 for infants up to 4 months and their parents/caregivers.
- Richard Crump announced that next month Quality Time ELC will be breaking ground on a new site that will allow them to provide 220 additional children.
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Committee Break Out Sessions: Mental Health and Well Being Committee and Sustainability, Systems and Advocacy Committee (meeting adjourned at 11:45 am directly from committees)

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am

The ECCC will host the next council meeting on Wednesday, May 17, 2023