



Early Childhood Coordinating Council
Wednesday, May 17, 2023
Virtual Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Approved

Members Present: Jennifer Arnaiz, Stephanie Brant, Robin Chernoff, Amy Cropp, Mary Manning-Falzarano, Laurie Moran, Charlene Muhammad, Bernadine Occhiuzzo, Kimberly Rusnak, Charisse Scott, Rebecca Smith, Louise Tolin and Beka Urgessa

Members Absent: Richard Crump, Cassandra Malik, Jade Ann Rennie, Dira Treadvance, Lynette Weaver and Vivian Yao

Guest Present: Dr. Amanda Holliday-Bembridge (Parent), Laura Jahromi (Children's Opportunity Alliance), Amy Beal (MCPS) and Sarah Wilch-Spamer (ECS/CCSS)

DHHS Staff: Michelle Gallipoli and Erin Stillwell

Charlene Muhammad called the meeting to order at 10:03 am

Roll Call and Introduction of Guests

Review and Vote of Meeting Minutes from April 19, 2023 ECCC Meeting

ACTION:

Motion to accept the minutes as written: Jennifer Arnaiz

2nd Motion: Kimberly Rusnak

All in Favor

Discussion on Plan for June 2023 ECCC Meeting

Option 1: Postpone the annual planning retreat schedule for June 2023 and host a "regular" meeting on June 21st

- Allow for an opportunity to better understand the ECCC's role moving forward (as related to the work of the COA)
- Utilize the June 2023 meeting to wrap-up and present committee work done to date
- Reconvene in the fall with a more definitive role and opportunity for future priority discussions

Option 2: Host ECCC Annual Planning Retreat in June 2023 (as scheduled June 21, 2023)

- Utilize retreat to wrap-up committee work
- Discuss ways to keep work of ECCC structured without any formal leadership
- Brainstorm priorities or work plans for 2023-24 ECCC year

After a brief discussion and poll, the majority of the ECCC members opted to postpone the annual planning retreat until the fall and host a ECCC meeting on June 21, 2023.

Community Announcements and Updates

- Jennifer Arnaiz shared that ECS/CCSS recently hosted a Director's Retreat focused on empathetic leadership; over 40 ECE directors were in attendance
- Mary Manning-Falzarano (ECS/ITP) shared that ITP has recently hired a contractor to manage the early screening

and medical outreach initiative; currently working to create outreach materials; also working to purchase [CHADIS](#) to help facilitate communication between the child’s pediatricians and early interventionists

- Laurie Moran (MSDE/OCC) shared that almost all of the licensing specialists vacancies have been filled; Laurie also shared information on the “emergency suspensions” procedure of child care programs and the collaboration with Child Welfare Services; OCC is taking a closer look at the policies/procedures around this process; Jennifer A. recommended that Laurie host a “chat” with child care providers and parents so they can be updated on the emergency suspension procedure
- Laura Jahromi (COA) stated that the open grants round provided by the Children’s Opportunity Alliance will be closing in one week

Committee Break Out Sessions: Mental Health and Well Being Committee and Sustainability, Systems and Advocacy Committee (meeting adjourned at 11:46 am directly from committees)

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 am

The ECCC will host the next council meeting on Wednesday, June 21, 2023