



Early Childhood Coordinating Council
Wednesday, September 15, 2021
Virtual Meeting
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes-Approved

Members Present: Barbara Andrews, Jennifer Arnaiz, Jody Burghardt, Robin Chernoff, Amy Cropp, Richard Crump, Cassandra Malik, Mary Manning-Falzarano, Laurie Moran, 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: Stephanie Brant, Cindy Chichester-Olivierre, Joan Glick, Carrie Meyer, and Paula Sayag

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

Jody Burghardt called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

Roll Call and Introduction of Guests

Review and Vote of Meeting Minutes from June 16, 2021 ECCC Meeting

ACTION: Motion to accept the minutes as written; all in favor

ECCC UPDATES

- **LECAC Grant Updates:** Year 1 funds: 160 learning kits were distributed to families at the Family Involvement Center (FIC); the remaining kits were shared with Early Head Start families; Year 2 and Year 3 funds: the next two years of the grant will shift funding support of the BASICS program
- **2020-2021 Annual Report:** The executive committee will focus on drafting some of the “highlights” for the annual report; a draft version of the report will be reviewed at the October meeting
- **Member Update:** Charisse Scott provided an update on her role as the Vice President of Programs for MCCPTA; MCCPTA is also creating new subcommittees to work on supporting first generation families and identifying gaps between generations and cultures; also looking for ways to find connections between MCPS and early care and education
- **ECEI Action Plan Update:** Barbara Andrews provided an update on the work of the Early Care and Education Initiative (ECEI); working to create a pilot program where there can be contracted subsidy “seats” in child care programs; also looking to create “seats” in child care programs for approximately 72 three year old children who age out of Head Start; continue to work with Montgomery College on offering scholarships for providers to earn 2 year degree; Montgomery County is going to hire a legislative analyst to help interpret the Kirwan Committee Blueprint
- **ECCB Update:** Barbara Andrews explained that an update to the ECCB (Early Care Coordinating Board) proposal was sent to the County Council in August; the MMF proposal for a coordinating entity is still in front of Council; Vivian Yao explained that Council is also working on a separate piece of legislation, but no timeline for a release date has been set

- **Child Care Recovery Update and Discussion:** Jennifer Arnaiz provided an update on the recover efforts in Montgomery and the State as it applies to child care providers; 96% of child care programs have reopened, but many still struggle with enrollment; ECS nurse is working with programs to help create protocols around safety and social distancing; ECS and the Women’s Business Center are providing “chats” to help support providers; MSDE provided a state grant to help child care providers recover; ECS assisted over 6,000 providers get vaccinated; Laurie Moran (MSDE) added that licensing specialists are starting to do virtual site visits, but will continue to do “in person” initial inspections

ECCC NEW BUSINESS

- **ECCC Policy Priorities for FY 22:** Jody shared top policy priorities from FY 21 and discussed members’ thoughts on keeping similar broad priorities for FY 22; agreed to keep SEFEL/Pyramid Model as focus for priority one with an additional focus on the social/emotional needs of parents, caregivers and providers; agreed to keep sustainability as second priority with an added focus on teacher compensation and retention; the broad priority of advocacy will remain as the third priority; the executive committee will draft the language of the FY 22 policy priorities and share will all members prior to October meeting

ACTION ITEM: Executive Committee will work on drafts of the FY22 Top Policy Priorities and the 2020-2021 Annual Report and send to full membership prior to October meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.