



**Early Childhood Coordinating Council**  
**Wednesday, June 16, 2021**  
**Virtual Meeting**  
**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Approved**

**Members Present:** Barbara Andrews, Jennifer Arnaiz, Jody Burghardt, Robin Chernoff, Cincy Chichester, Amy Cropp, Richard Crump, Joan Glick, Liran Laor, Mary Manning-Falzarano, Charlene Muhammad, Jade-Ann Rennie, Kimberly Rusnak, Charisse Scott, Louise Tolin, Taniesha Woods Myles, Vivian Yao

**Members Absent:** JoAnn Barnes, Stephanie Brant, Laurie Moran, Lauren Martino, Carrie Meyer, Bernadine Occhiuzzo, Paula Sayag, Rebecca Smith, Lynnette Weaver

**Guests:** Michelle Gallipoli, Cassandra Malik

**Staff Support:** Sarah Wilch-Spamer

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**Jody Burghardt called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.**

**Convene Meeting:** Jody Burghardt welcomed members and guests. Roll call was taken, 17 members were present. The meeting minutes from May 19, 2021 were approved unanimously after two additions were made. Motion: Cindy Chichester, Second: Kimberly Rusnak.

**LECAC QI Grant Year 1 Update (Kits) – Jody Burghardt and Taniesha Woods Myles:** The learning kits were assembled in May; thank you to the team who put them together. The kits will be distributed to Family Involvement Center families primarily via pick-up at 1401 Rockville Pike where the kits were assembled, however delivery will also be an option for families with limited transportation. Any remaining kits will be distributed to Early Head Start families.

**LECAC QI Grant Years 2 and 3 Planning – Barbara Andrews and Jody Burghardt:** The state ECAC grant is a 3-year grant for \$25,000 each year. The original plan shifted due to the pandemic and led to the creating of the learning kits. Barbara discussed Boston Basics (<https://boston/thebasics/org/>) and past year discussions on the possibility of utilizing ECAC grant monies to help fund something in Montgomery County around The Basics. Montgomery Moving Forward created a local Basics site (<https://www.nonprofitmoco.org/mmf/basicsmocomd/>). Staff to the grant will create a budget modification with Maryland State Department of Education to move years 2 and 3 funding to the Collaboration Council for continuation of The Basics program throughout the County. Questions regarding the plan should be addressed to Barbara Andrews or Jody Burghardt.

**Montgomery County FY22 Budget Update – Barbara Andrews:** The budget for Early Childhood passed as expected and includes a \$5 million increase for the Early Care and Education Initiative, “merit conversions” for five positions, five new positions, and an increase of \$50,000 for Healthy Families Montgomery. The budget also includes a reduction of one contract position and reduced funding for conferences.

**ECEI Action Plan Update Planning – Barbara Andrews:** Barbara Andrews provided an update and answered questions regarding the work of the Early Care and Education Initiative (ECEI) and reiterated its priorities—Sustainability, Access, Affordability, Alignment, and Expansion.

**Member Announcements, Updates and Commentary:**

- Liran Laor's appointment to the ECCC has ended.
- Mary Manning-Falzarano provided an update on the Montgomery County Infants and Toddlers program. In-person services will resume on July 6, 2021 however virtual services will continue to be available.
- All HHS Early Childhood Services programs have resumed in-person services.
- Amy Cropp gave an update on the status of Montgomery County Public Schools. There are multiple opportunities for staff to teach summer school this year with approximately 65,000 children set to attend. Schools are set to open in the Fall as per usual.
- Louise Tolin provided an update on PreK. Summer PreK will be virtual and in-person and the number of 3-year old classes in the County has been increased.
- The State mask mandate is being lifted on July 1, 2021, including child care programs and schools.
- Joan Glick informed the group that 90 schools are fully staffed with School Health personnel including Head Start locations and the early childhood centers. School Health is fully staffed for the summer and fall.
- Charisse Scott has been elected to serve as the Vice President of Programs for the Montgomery County Council Parent Teacher's Association. Charisse will look to ECCC members for collective projects and/or ways to promote Early Care and Education issues with the Montgomery County Council of PTA's.
- Early Childhood Services will be conducting focus groups for families with children in child care and those not in formal child care ages 6 weeks to 12 years.
- Montgomery Moving Forward has done advocacy work and will continue to do so with the American Relief Fund and give feedback on how the state will utilize those funds to support child care programs.
- Barbara Andrews announced JoAnn Barnes retirement after 43 years of service. JoAnn will officially retire on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Summer Communication and FY 22 Plans – Jody Burghardt:** This is the last meeting for this fiscal year. The ECCC is scheduled to reconvene in September 2021. Jody Burghardt, Taniesha Woods Myles, and ECCC staff will keep members informed over the summer as to any changes to the role and/or structure of the ECCC.

**Action:** Jennifer Arnaiz will send a link for the Early Childhood Services Focus Groups to ECCC members to share with their family networks.

**The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m.**