



**Early Childhood Coordinating Council**  
**Wednesday, November 18, 2020**  
**Virtual Meeting**  
**10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Jennifer Arnaiz, Stephanie Brant, Jody Burghardt, Robin Chernoff, Amy Cropp, Richard Crump, Liran Laor, Mary Manning-Falzarano, Lauren Martino, Charlene Muhammad, Taniesha Wood Myles, Bernadine Occhiuzzo, Monica Ortiz, Jade-Ann Rennie, Kimberly Rusnak, Paula Sayag, Charisse Scott, Rebecca Smith, Louise Tolin, Lynnette Weaver

**Members Absent:** Barbara Andrews, JoAnn Barnes, Cindy Chichester-Olivierre, Joan Glick, Carrie Meyer, Vivian Yao

**Guests:** Leah Bradley, Michele Dean, Melissa Di Negro, Alice Grear, Rousana Sotu,

**Staff Support:** Taryn Billand

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**Jody Burghardt called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.**

**Convene Meeting:** Jody Burghardt welcomed members and guests. Roll call was performed, 20 members were present, including one non-voting member. 14 voting members are required for quorum. The meeting minutes from October 21, 2020 were approved unanimously. Motion: Robin Chernoff, Second: Bernadine Occhiuzzo.

**Presentation to Council:** ECCC Chair, Jody Burghardt, presented the ECCC 2020-21 Priorities to the Health and Human Services Committee of the Montgomery County Council on Wednesday, November 18, 2020 [ADD LINK TO PRIORITIES](#) Councilmember Alborno shared ideas for support of child care facilities, including use of vacant office and commercial space to increase capacity, possibly using CARES funding. Councilmember Glass also recognized the ECCC for the work they perform in championing child care providers throughout the county.

Member Charisse Scott raised a question on the possibility of the ECCC creating a list of providers, based on area, to connect parents and caregivers who are in search of child care with child care providers who have slots available. Jennifer Arnaiz noted that the creation of a real-time list of available slots for parents seeking childcare is one of the goals of the Early Care and Education Initiative (ECEI), years 2-4.

**Action:** Link for Locate will be provided to members

**ECAC Grant Recruitment:** Through the Preschool Development Grant: Building a Birth – 5 system (PDG B-5), the ECCC was awarded \$25k for quality improvement grants. Part of these funds will be used to create Ready Reader kits, modeled after the kits distributed by the Gaithersburg Judy Center. Volunteers from the ECCC were requested to assist in ordering, receiving, packaging and distributing these kits to children who are not connected to programs like the Judy Centers or Family Involvement Centers. Children in underserved areas will be identified through meetings with Judy Centers and other existing programs.

**Action:** Grant fact sheet and volunteer form will be provided to members.

**Annual Goals:** The annual priorities each year inform the work of the group and create the ECCC committees. The committees were reviewed, and the group was asked to select a first and second choice. It was noted that the platform used by the county to conduct meetings does not currently support breakout rooms. If this is still the case by the time the group meets again in January, an alternative meeting option will be provided.

- **Advocacy Committee:** Focusing on communication with MSDE, as well as allowing the ECCC to shift its areas of focus to address a broad range of topics and needs as they come up throughout the year. It will also allow the ECCC to support different groups, projects and initiatives. MMF will partner with the ECCC on advocacy.
- **Child Care Sustainability and Systems Committee:** Integrating a broad approach to the sustainability of child care as an industry, as a workforce and as a provider of enriching experiences for children.
- **Mental Health and Social/Emotional Well-being of Children, Families and the Early Childhood Workforce:** Supporting families and their children, as well as the early care and education workforce teaching those children.

**Action:** Please use the form sent to all members and email the form to:

[taryn.billand@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:taryn.billand@montgomerycountymd.gov)

**ECEI Report Release:** The highlights of the ECEI Year One report and action plan, as well as the focus of years 2-4, will be released on Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. The original intention of the ECEI was expansion of child care throughout Montgomery County, but as a result of COVID-19, the initiative has pivoted to focus on sustainability and retention of county programs to include all programs birth-5. Members were encouraged to attend the event.

**Action:** A link to the ECEI Report event will be provided to members.

**Updates:**

- **ECCC Hiatus:** The ECCC will be on hiatus for the month of December and will reconvene in January. The meeting in January will include an update from Montgomery Moving Forward, including results of their ongoing research around the public/private entity to coordinate early childhood education throughout the county.

**The meeting was adjourned at 10:43 a.m.**