

Maryland Family Engagement Coalition

Ready at Five

5520 Research Park Drive, Suite 150

Baltimore, MD 21228

February 22, 2016

1:00p.m. – 3:30p.m.



AGENDA

- Welcome- Cyndi La Marca
- Kellogg Grant Updates
 - Local Councils RFP - Wendy Baysmore
 - Web based Modules – Tresa Hannah
 - Family Engagement Toolkit – Cyndi La Marca
 - Communications Plan – Cyndi La Marca
 - Additional Kellogg Funding – Group Discussion
- Group Planning Session (beyond Kellogg)– Cyndi La Marca
 - Mission of the Family Engagement Coalition
 - What are the key elements to explore regarding family engagement?
- Updates- Cyndi La Marca
- Future meetings- Every 3rd Monday (bi-monthly), from 1-3:30 p.m.:
April 18, 2016
June 20, 2016

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Minutes

- Welcome- Cyndi La Marca
- Kellogg Grant Updates
 - Local Councils RFP - Wendy Baysmore discussed the RFP's for Local Councils. Each Council has an opportunity to apply for the grant to increase family engagement in their jurisdiction. The grant is for \$5,000 but if not all councils apply, there could be an opportunity for councils to receive more money. All proposals are due February 26th.
 - Web based modules – Tresa Hannah discussed the web based modules. Ready at Five and University of Maryland will be working together on these web trainings. Trainings will be free and will be for providers and parents for leadership and advocacy.
 - Family Engagement Toolkit – Cyndi La Marca discussed the toolkit. The committee has been meeting monthly to develop the kit and are hoping to have a draft at the April meeting for the Coalition to review. All of the goals have been broken into separate sections and include specific strategies and activities to implement each goal. There will be Educator and Family Voices, modeled after the Guide to Pedagogy. These voices provide examples of Family Engagement strategies and activities that have been successful for educators and parents. The Effective Practices that were submitted are being reviewed for submission in the toolkit.

- **Communications Plan** – Cyndi La Marca discussed the Communications Plan. Jeff Capizzano from Policy Equity Group is writing the plan and presented his outline at the Steering Committee on the first of February. At this time, he took comments and recommendations from the committee to consider for his draft of the Communications Plan. The Communications Plan is based off of the seven goals of the framework and will provide an infrastructure to communicate with all providers and to make more providers and families aware of all of the resources in MD to increase family engagement. Also, the plan will use technology to help parents and providers access more resources and their community.
- **Additional Kellogg Funding – Group Discussion** – At this time, the floor was open to discuss possible suggestions for next steps should MSDE receive an additional year of funding.
- The following ideas were discussed
 - o Discussed needing to work with pediatricians more as they are a link to many families that we cannot reach.
 - o Increase marketing and public awareness
 - o Raising awareness of illegal child care and educating families about what illegal child care is.
 - o County wide programs to help with social and emotional activities
- **Group Planning Session (beyond Kellogg)**– Cyndi La Marca discussed that there is the possibility that we may not be funded again and it also needs to be discussed as to what the work of the Family Engagement Coalition will be without additional funding. The Coalition broke into two groups to discuss this topic.
 - o **Group 1**
 - **Mission of the Family Engagement Coalition**
 - o Build on work accomplished by the ECAC and LECAC through the Race to the Top Early learning Challenge Family Engagement Initiative.
 - o Long Term Goals – Develop and conduct a statewide media campaign that is inclusive of different cultures, races, and genders in partnership with the ECAC and LECAC, using state and local message bearers.
 - o Short term goals

- Engage partners that can further the family engagement investment, i.e. pediatricians, libraries, politicians.
- Ensure parents are aware and knowledgeable regarding the importance of the parent's role in early childhood education.
- Identify and showcase effective family engagement models.

– Key Elements in regarding Family Engagement

- Top 3 Challenges
 - Funding
 - Linking families to networking
 - Transitions
- What is important to programs regarding family engagement?
 - Being able to provide materials to support families to work with children at home and in the community.
 - Service providers and parents using the same behavioral strategies, i.e. SEFEL
 - Creating non-threatening situations where parents can learn and feel connected.
- What are program strengths and weaknesses regarding family engagement?
 - How to reach out beyond families in the program to others with young children?
 - Assessments of what families need and follow-ups should be conducted.
- Group 2
 - Mission of the Family Engagement Coalition
 - Build on work accomplished by the ECAC and LECAC through the Race to the Top Early learning Challenge Family Engagement Initiative.
 - Long Term Goals – Develop and conduct a statewide media campaign that is inclusive of different cultures, races, and genders in partnership with the ECAC and LECAC, using state and local message bearers.
 - Understanding the importance of accessibility, health and safety (illegal child care) and wellbeing of children and families as well as school readiness with family engagement.

- Breaking down silos to work more collaboratively for family engagement.

- Key Elements in regarding Family Engagement

- Top 3 Challenges

- Reaching low income and at risk families.
- Parents not understanding the importance of family engagement.

- What is important to programs regarding family engagement?

- Understanding the importance of Family Well Being. Without reaching this goal in the framework, providers are not able to address the other issues of school readiness.

- Major Emerging Themes from Group Session

- Media Campaign
- Family Well being
- Having families participate and have a voice. Parents need to be represented at the Coalition meetings and consistent effort needs to be put forth.
- Parents role as child's first teacher

- Future meetings- Every 3rd Monday (bi-monthly), from 1-3:30 p.m.:

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