

**State Early Childhood Advisory Council  
March 12, 2015  
MINUTES**

| Agenda Topic                               | Discussion Summary  | Action Needed | Due Date |
|--|---|---------------|----------|
| Welcome/Acknowledgements/<br>Announcements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Linda Zang, Branch Chief of Collaboration and Program Improvement Branch with the Division of Early Childhood Development, MSDE, started the meeting by welcoming the State Council and having all members and guests introduce themselves.</li> <li>▪ Linda Zang gave the following announcements and updates to the council:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ There were two Federal conference calls taking place at the same time of the meeting that several presenters were a part of. She thanked the presenters, members and guests for being flexible as the order of events may change to accommodate everyone.</li> <li>➤ It was announced that operations of the State Early Childhood Advisory Council are handled by Cyndi La Marca and Wendy Baysmore oversees the Local Early Childhood Advisory Councils.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Rolf Grafwallner was introduced and briefly discussed the EXCELS program and Ready for Kindergarten (R4K). The information from the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment will drive our future data for young children. The University of Maryland, College Park is working on an evaluation of the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge (RTT - ELC) grant. They will be looking at how the quality of our programs changed, Have the outcomes for children improved overall and if the system has been improved as a result of RTT – ELC.</li> </ul> |               |          |
| Old Business                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tracy Jost was introduced and gave an update on the</li> </ul>   |               |          |

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|               | <p>Federal Pre-K Grant. Maryland was awarded 15 million dollars over four years and implementation will begin in the 2015/2016 school year. (See Handout – Federal Prekindergarten Development Grants – Expansion Grant)</p>   |   |          |
| New Business  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Linda Zang reviewed the attendance requirements of the Bylaws. MSDE will be required to turn in the attendance of the State ECAC members for 2014 to the governor’s office. Members are required to attend 50% of the State ECAC meetings. To remain on the Council, a waiver would have to be submitted to the Governor’s Office.</li> <li>▪ Liz Kelley, Director of Child Care, DECD, discussed the Child Care Development Funds (CCDF) State Plan. Federal changes include a requirement that the State ECAC consult on the plan. (See Handout – Office of Child Care Chart) These changes included having minimum quality spending requirements, adding specific training requirements, and increasing criminal background checks for all staff in child care centers to include states lived in prior to MD.</li> </ul> <p>An updated plan must be completed by March 1, 2016 with the State ECAC as part of the planning process. Liz Kelley asked for volunteers to be a part of four (4) workgroups which would meet April 1, April 21, and April 22 at MSDE. (See Handout – Draft CCDF Content Sections and Workgroup Breakdown)</p> | <p>Cyndi La Marca will send out more information regarding the Planning Meetings.</p> |          |
| Presentations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Judy Walker, Early Learning Branch Chief, DECD, presented on R4K. Linda Carling and Angela Vann, with Johns Hopkins University, Center for Technology in Education (CTE) also presented on R4K, giving an overview of the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) and the Early Learning Assessment (ELA). (See PowerPoint presentation)</li> <li>▪ Dona Ponn, Early Childhood Coordinator, Department</li> </ul>   |   |          |

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|               | <p>of Mental Health and Hygiene, reviewed the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Grant. Dona Ponn discussed mitigating toxic stress and trauma in early childhood. (See PowerPoint Presentation – Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems)</p> <p>There will be a regional Toxic Stress Conference held on three separate dates – June 16<sup>th</sup> in Baltimore, June 23<sup>rd</sup> in Salisbury, and June 30<sup>th</sup> in Washington County. Dona Ponn is currently working on a list serve to be able to share information with all partners and is also working with the Local Councils to help create the invite list.</p>  |               |          |
| Announcements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Barbara Squires from the Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF) gave an update on the Local Early Childhood Advisory Council's (ECAC) "Leadership in Action" Booster Sessions. In the 2012-2013 school year, AECF provided RBL/RBA/RBF to all of the Local ECAC's. The Local ECACs used that data to drive their action plans for their jurisdictions. As the grants are coming to an end and one year has passed, AECF is holding another round of booster sessions to help sustain the work of the Local ECACs. The first session was held at Turf Valley with over 50 participants. The Local ECACs have found that the sessions are extremely helpful and helped them to think beyond the RTT-ELC grant. The next booster sessions will be offered April 7<sup>th</sup> and May 26<sup>th</sup>.<br/>Additionally, Laura McCoy from Towson University is working on a video featuring the work of the Local ECACs titled, "Their Journey"</li> <li>▪ Cyndi La Marca gave an announcement on an opportunity to submit a proposal to Kellogg to extend the Family Engagement Initiative. In conjunction with the Family Engagement Coalition, a Family</li> </ul> |               |          |

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|   | <p>Engagement Extension Plan is being developed and will address methods to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Assist service providers in self-assessing their family engagement capacity and quality</li> <li>➤ Effectively support families with all transitions</li> <li>➤ Infusing racial parity/equity approaches into the policies and operations of early childhood /family services providers' programs</li> <li>➤ Supporting service providers to better serve families by imbuing family culture, language and experiences into program features</li> <li>➤ Creating more professional development and an effective practices toolkit to support providers in increasing family engagement</li> <li>➤ Addressing innovative uses of technology to encourage family engagement</li> </ul> <p>The ECAC will be informed as it is developed.</p>  |               |          |
| <p>Additional Announcements/Questions for the Council</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Linda Zang announced that there is new information about Maryland's Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation. (See Handout – Maryland's Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation: Get in Early on the Greatest Investment)</li> <li>▪ Dona Ponn announced the dates for Mental Health Matters Week – May 3<sup>rd</sup>-May 9<sup>th</sup></li> <li>▪ The MD AEYC Conference will be held April 11<sup>th</sup> at the Maritime Institute in Linthicum Heights, MD. Please see the website for more details.<br/><a href="http://mdaeyc.com/index.php">http://mdaeyc.com/index.php</a></li> <li>▪ Judy Walker announced that the Early Learning Academies will be conducted again around mid-July at three locations that will be later announced.</li> <li>▪ Dorothy Stoltz announced that Kathleen Rief is working on a State and National level for increased family engagement in the libraries.<br/>Also, author Regina Calcaterra will be speaking about</li> </ul> |               |          |

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|                                 | her book <i>Etched In Sand</i> on March 27 <sup>th</sup> between 8:30 and 10:30 at the Carroll County Public Library.   |   |          |
| Adjournment and Future Meetings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Future Meetings were announced and posted on the agenda. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ ECAC and Local Councils – June 18<sup>th</sup>, Location TBA, 9-3:30pm</li> <li>➤ ECAC – September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015, MSDE, Conference Rooms 6 and 7, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, 1-3:30</li> <li>➤ ECAC and Local Councils, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015, Location TBA, 1-3:30pm</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Future Topics to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Public Awareness</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |          |
| Notes/Minutes                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cyndi La Marca, Early Childhood Coordinator, DECD</li> <li>▪ Wendy Baysmore, Grant Specialist, DECD</li> </ul>   |   |          |