OCC
Office of Child Care
MARYLANDCHILD.ORG

MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE

AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSION OUTCOME	
Attendees Do not have sign in sheet	Council members:	
	Guests:	
	MSDE Staff:	
Welcome and Opening Remarks	Jennifer Nizer and Christina Peusch welcomed guests and Board members. Prior to starting the agenda, Rene Williams spoke about Emergency Response and Disaster Plans. One of the responsibilities for the Maryland State Department of Education as the lead agency for the child care development block grant is to coordinate a statewide emergency response in the event of a disaster. We will meet every quarter. We are going to need representation and input from every major organization in Maryland. Anticipate receiving an invitation to be a part of this development. We are going to look at the COOP plan that was developed four or five years ago and see how it needs to be revised. We will send out some type of email within the next two weeks. And we will send out a copy of the current COOP plan so that you can look at it. When we have our first quarterly meeting, you all can have input. We want to work together and we want to get the input of all the major organizations and we want to have representation from the centers as well as family childcare. Look for the invite and it will come from Tara. Thank you very much.	
Review Guidelines/Goals of Council	While this was not discussed at the last meeting, as a reminder: The purpose of the OCC Advisory Council is to: • Advise and counsel the Office of Child Care. • Review regulations proposed by state agencies regulating child care. • Review issues and problems relating to care of children and suggested priorities for consideration by the Office of Child Care; and • Identify interdepartmental issues of importance to child care providers and users that should be addressed by the Office of Child Care and other state agencies. • The Council meetings are "open" meetings but not "public" hearings. What this means is that the meeting is open to anyone who would like to attend. However, it is not a "public" meeting, in that the topics of discussion are limited to only those items on the Agenda. OCC Advisory Council meetings are not the appropriate forum to share concerns or complaints. • The Agenda for each meeting is set prior to the meeting in consultation between the Department and the Chairperson for the Council. A Council member who would like to have an item considered for the agenda should make the request no later than two weeks prior to the meeting by contacting Tara Bartosz@ tara.bartosz@maryland.gov or Chris Peusch, mscca1@comcast.net. The Department will share information as specified on the Agenda set for the meeting. • After all items on the Agenda are concluded, the Council meeting will be opened to "Other Business." This will allow for discussion of items not necessarily related to those on the Agenda. To ensure an equal amount of time for participation, each speaker will be asked to limit their thoughts and comments to no more than three minutes. Comments made during this time should be succinct, specific and of interest to the Council members. • Places at the table are reserved for Council members only. Therefore, non-member visitors attending the meetings should sit at the tables indicated for guests until the OCC Advisory Council chair invites visitors to sit in any remaining seats at the table. • Comments and remarks that do not coincide directly with Agenda items may not be shared until the meeting is opened to "Other Business".	
OCC Advisory Vacancies	• Member of the Senate • Member of the House of Delegates • Pediatrician w/Interest & Expertise in Child Care Issues • Parent, user of Child Care Services	

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Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2020

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	Tara will draft a letter to solicit members from the Legislature.
Legislative Updates:	- Maryland General Assembly, Council members, as well as MSDE, weighed in on a number of things with comments. - MSCCA was able to submit written testimony regarding supporting the Office of Child Care in hopes that we can continue to keep the increases and maintain them at 60% for reimbursement rates. - Kirwan bill was heard, and discussion was held regarding what was involved. - There is support for HB 533 regarding alternative pathways for teacher certification. - HB 396 was heard regarding Developmental Screening for all child care programs. Need to ensure the LOC and Family Providers are not overlooked. MSCCA did support it with amendment. We support the intent of it, and we support children being screened. We just want them to be screened properly. Disabilities Council submitted an amendment for payment for the training, payment forward, buying the tool and for technical assistance. - HB 277 We are in support of this bill. This is important for Pre-K and support for teachers - HB 1380 This bill is asking for a change in requirements for lead teachers. It is a response to the critical workforce shortage especially in Maryland **Jennifer Nizer commented** that as of July 1, we will be going to the 60th percentile, and we are crafting a letter that will go out to all childcare providers. They must report their tuition fees on the voucher. We are going to make sure that all providers put the rate on there so that we can accurately pay providers. Providers will not be paid if that is not filled out **Question from Debbie Moore**: I was wondering if you are being allowed to take a position on delegate Queen's bill house bill 1559. It seems to be shifting eligibility from a percent of state median income to percentages of the federal poverty rate. MSDE cannot; however, MSCCA can. **Question from Crystal Barksdale:** When will notifications go out? **Jennifer Nizer** response July 1st **Question from Flora Gee:** Should providers expect to get a letter like we've gotten in the past when there's been an increase, that this is the old amount for your children, and this has the new amount for your children? And is the registration fee an annual fee that each is family going to get? And does it come with a new voucher? Would there be a notice given in advance that registration fees have now stopped for annual, but for new children or something for that will be coming in? And if it is not called a registration fee, but it's called a materials fee, if that's still allowable, if an annual fee? **Rene Williams responded to all questions:** It is an annual fee if providers charge that amount. We will not pay a registration to be a provider don't charge a registration fee. Right now, we pay them once a child is enrolled in a childcare facility, but if we have to implement a waiting list and we have to cut back on funding in order to maintain our current enrollment, then we will have to look at the amount that we pay for registration fees because the federal government only requires us to pay a reasonable amount and that is based upon our funding. If we change our process, we will notify the providers in advance. In response to the materials fee, we only pay registration fees. We do not pay material fees or educational fees.
Licensing Regulations	<u>**Regulations:**</u> - All regulations have gone into effect January 13, 2020 - Regulations are available until Feb 28 on MSDE's website. After that, they are only available on State Documents website.

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	• LOC's and Large Family Homes are required to have a copy of the regs available for parents and staff. **Important deadlines to remember** • ***Fencing for Pools:*** *Providers must meet this regulation by May 15, 2020* • ***Basic Health and Safety:*** *Providers must meet this regulation by April 13, 2020* • **Criminal Background Checks/RAP Back:** Maryland currently has a waiver for the full implementation of the CBC's. The waiver has granted the providers the ability to "watchdog" an employee until CBC's are received until September 30, 2020 • ***Medical*** If a center staff person has not had a medical in 10 years, they must have a new one by July 1, 2020 • ***1296 Form (Rental or Lease properties):*** This must be signed by anyone who is applying for a registration. For those currently operating a child care program in a rented or leased property, this form must be submitted prior to their anniversary month. Begin using this immediately. **Deputy Branch Chief** • Job posting has been posted. Closing date is: March 4, 2020 **Serious Injury and Fatality Release** • We will be deploying ELIS updates which will capture Serious Injury and Fatality for each facility as required by CCDBG. • A review of findings will no longer default to "yes." Providers must request a review. A review of findings will no longer default to "yes" - That became very problematic at administrative hearings when um, people would check that they request that a review but then not have one when they actually didn't want one
IMPACT Project	• We have a stakeholder meeting on February 21,2020, where we have invited Association Leaders and the child care community to get an overview of what we have been doing on the impact project and to begin requesting stakeholder feedback on some of the things we're moving forward with. These are critical meetings because this is what will reshape our Maryland EXCELS program and Credentialing program.
PDG Birth – 5	Rachel Demma presented and provided handouts • Primary role is to oversee the work of the preschool development grant for a group five, which is a federal grant offered by the departments of health and human services and education to support comprehensive early childhood systems building. • Maryland received an initial grant award through this grant, over the past year to support our needs assessment and strategic plan development. So, this grant is a continuation of that. Feds are calling it the preschool development grant for through five renewal grants. Maryland was one of 20 States to win this award. We were awarded 26 point $8 million. That was an amount that was determined by certain parameters placed on the grant awards by the federal government and no reflection on us. This translates to about eight point $9 million a year that we can invest in programs, services, and systems to support young children in the state. • We're using it to support our entire comprehensive mixed delivery system for kids and families. So that refers to all of our programs that serve kids and families in the state that we touch here at MSDE in coordination with our partners at the departments of health and the department of human resources in the state.
Old Business	**Definition of Volunteer** • Volunteers are considered to be staff. New regulations states and requires substitutes and volunteers to be fingerprinted if they're 18 or older. • Flora Gee shared stories about a situation regarding a grandmother in her program who had several hits on her background check. • Lou Valenti clarified what the expectation is in regard to Volunteers based from requirements of the Audit. This has been a finding for several years.

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	• OCC Advisory board will work on creating a definition on Volunteers. Assistance with distinguishing between a contractor and a volunteer.
	• Chris Peusch will look for additional guidance from public school and their policies to provide the Council with additional information.
	• Discussion on an online orientation for volunteers
	
	Vacancies on Council
	• Tara will generate a letter to request representation for vacant positions from the House and Senate. Letter will be sent once approved to the Speaker of the House.
	• There are 4 positions open currently:
	    User of Child Care Services
	    Member of the House of Delegates and Senate
	    Pediatrician w/Interest & Expertise in Child Care Issues

Maryland EXCELS Updates	As of February 2020, Maryland EXCELS has 4,680 participants and 4.222 published programs. Quality rated programs have increased by 109 from February 2019. 58% of all eligible child care programs are participating in Maryland EXCELS. **Community Outreach** Maryland EXCELS keeps busy in the community engaging with programs and families. On February 6, Maryland EXCELS attended the Harford County Judy Center Parent Café. The event provided opportunities to connect with families one-on-one and in round table style discussions on parenting tips, finding child care and getting help paying for child care. This evening (February 20), Maryland EXCELS is hosting an informational event for providers. The event, titled Social/Emotional Curriculum: Positive Strategies to Help Our Little Ones Thrive, aligns with Maryland EXCELS standards for Developmentally Appropriate Practices. In March, Maryland EXCELS Quality Assurance Specialists will participate in several conferences and fairs including: • South Penn Baby Shower (March 4, 2020) • School English Learners Advisory Council Early Literacy Forum (March 5, 2020) • Cecil County Parent Resource Fair (March 7, 2020) • Calvert County FDCA Provider Appreciation Conference (March 7, 2020) • Allegany County Readiness Fair (March 7, 2020) • Special Education Conference (March 7, 2020, Gilpin Manor) • Early Childhood College and Career Fair at Harford Community College (March 12, 2020) • Chesapeake Child Care Resource Center Professional Day at Chesapeake College (March 28, 2020) • Lower Shore Resource Center Annual Conference (March 28, 2020) On March 2, Maryland EXCELS is thrilled to be collaborating with Maryland Families Engage to co-host Read Across America events at Maryland EXCELS programs throughout the state. View the Facebook Live on March 2 to see Facebook Live posts capturing this important celebration.

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	Maryland Accreditation • During the January 2020 Decision Committee, 27 programs were fully accredited. • There are currently 363 programs accredited by Maryland Accreditation. Maryland EXCELS is looking forward to attending the Maryland State Child Care Association "Vision for Diversity" Conference by the Sea taking place April 30 – May 3, 2020. Several Maryland EXCELS team members will present or speak, including Branch Chief Lindi Budd, Accreditation Specialist Nicole Johnson and Quality Assurance Specialists Vickie DiSanto, Darlene Schmidt, Sharon Vance and Dianna Aguirre.

Credentialing Updates	**Maryland Child Care Credentialing Program**
	
	• Child Development Associate (CDA): Through the Preschool Development Grant B-5 early childhood teachers working in a licensed program in the state of Maryland will be able to apply through the Council for Professional Recognition for the CDA credential at no cost. Early Childhood teachers must have completed the required 120 hours of training in order to apply.
	• Credentialing completed the hierarchy deployment for CCATs which allows for accurate credential levels to be calculated.
	• Anticipating a revamp of the Maryland Child Care Credentialing program.
	Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund
	
	• Transform Early Childhood Education Lead Teacher Preparation Programs Grant: Announces an investment of approximately 10 million to support partnership state/territory/tribal nations and four years institutions. DEC anticipates a partnership with interested colleges to pursue an online degree program
	• Anticipating recruitment of Frostburg State and Garrett College to participate in the program.
	• Anticipate recognizing graduates from the fund with the leadership team at MSDE.
	• Bowie State University has conveyed an interest in developing an online ECE degree.
	• Conducting monitoring visits for all Colleges/Universities under the fund.
	• Anticipating increase in applications due to increase in funding.
	
	ECE Workforce Workgroup
	
	• Develop an ECE Career pathway
	• Online ECE degree with a focus on 0-5
	• Articulation agreements between Community Colleges and Universities
	    o AAS degree transfer
	    o Online degree transfer
	
	Grants
	
	• Child Care Quality Incentive Grant Program: Licensed Child Care Centers and registered Family Child Care providers are eligible for a quality incentive grant award once every three (3) years, as long as funds are available. Currently, applications are being placed on hold. As funding becomes available applications will be processed.
	• Expansion of Child Care for Medically Fragile Children Birth to Five: In a collaborative effort five grantees have drafted and submitted legislative justification for additional grant funding.
	• State Coordinating Entity (SCE) for the Maryland Child Care Resource Center Network (MCCRCN): Planning for FY21, the components of the existing grant will be presented as two distinguished grants, to include statewide:
	    o Information and referral services to assist families with finding regulated child care that meets their needs; and
	    o Services for families, licensed child care centers and providers serving infants and toddlers. The primary goal of the CCRCs is to address the needs of parents seeking quality early care and education programs and to improve capacity building for child care professionals and licensed child care programs.

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	Training Approval • Finalizing the COMAR Training Regulations • Workgroup has been meeting to update the Knowledge and Competency Framework for Child and Youth Care Professionals • Planning the 2020 Trainers conference - October 13, 2020 at Turf Valley • Completed the Zero to Three Critical Competencies for Infants and Toddlers training of trainers. Planning roll-out. • Updated the Training Policies and Procedures Manual - currently under review • Have requested that trainers update their 45-hour pre service trainings • Assembling workgroup to review and update the Healthy Beginnings document • First Trainers Newsletter completed - currently under review • Conducting Monitoring Visits of training organizations.
Next Meeting	**June 4, 2020** 10:00 am – 12:00 Noon MSDE 8th Floor Conference Room 6
Future 2020 Meetings	August 20, 2020 November 20,2020 10:00 am – 12:00 Noon MSDE 8th Floor Conference Room 6