

State Early Childhood Advisory Council  
September 21, 2017  
MINUTES

Agenda Topic	Discussion Summary	Action Needed	Due Date
<p>Welcome/Acknowledgements/ Announcements</p>	<p>Dr. Karen Salmon, State Superintendent of Schools, started the meeting by welcoming the State Council and having all members and guests introduce themselves.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dr. Salmon gave opening remarks and discussed that early childhood is a priority of the State Board.</li> <li>▪ Dr. Carol Williamson announced that MSDE received the Striving Readers Grant. It is \$15 million per year for three years (first year award is final, additional two years is pending due to budgets cuts by Congress)</li> <li>▪ Judy Walker added that this grant was accomplished by working together across divisions. This grant will provide us with opportunities to support school readiness and close the achievement gap.</li> </ul> <p>The Co-Chairs of the Family Engagement Coalition, Dorothy Stoltz and Steven Hicks, gave updates. Dorothy Stoltz provided an overview of the Family Engagement Summit, <i>Engaging Families in Modern Times</i>, which was held August 3, 2017.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Over 400 people registered for the event, which resulted in a waiting list. Those who could not attend were able to view the Summit live stream event on Facebook.</li> <li>▪ Keynote speaker Lisa Guernsey from New America gave a presentation on Technology and Engaging Families.</li> <li>▪ Jeff Capizzano, from Policy Equity, Inc. facilitated a parent panel discussing challenges and barriers to accessing and working with their early child care and education programs.</li> <li>▪ Jessica Lawrence gave a presentation on <i>Baltimore Learns Every Day</i>, an initiative to connect families back to their communities and schools.</li> <li>▪ The afternoon breakout session included six different workshops ranging from Technology and Education to How to Develop and Enhance Resilience in Children and Families.</li> <li>▪ The workshops had Parent Ambassadors, which provided the parent perspective to current issues and concerns in early</li> </ul>		

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	<p>childhood.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Coalition determined they would host another state-wide Summit in 2018. For 2019, they will explore options for hosting summits regionally in order to connect more providers and families.</li> </ul> <p>Dorothy also discussed the early learning communities, which are being established through the libraries. This is a part of the Family Engagement Project and uses the goals of the Family Engagement Framework. These early learning communities provide parenting resources. They also engage families in conversations that can help them find an avenue through the public libraries to navigate community resources and the school system all to better prepare children and families for school.</p> <p>Steven Hicks reviewed some of the activities of the Family Engagement Project, which are funded through the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ReadyRosie, which engages families through videos delivered through email and text, has been offered to all Judy Centers.</li> <li>▪ ReadyRosie has countywide implementation in Washington, Worcester, Wicomico, Somerset, and Dorchester counties.</li> <li>▪ Ready At Five is developing a new Learning Party, a two-generational approach activity bringing together parents and caregivers to learn about leadership, advocacy as well and civic engagement.</li> <li>▪ Twelve counties have signed up to receive facilitator training for this learning party.</li> </ul> <p>At this time, Dr. Salmon opened the floor for additional announcements or updates.</p> <p>Margaret Williams discussed her work on the Kirwan Commission and stated that a lot of time has been spent surveying high performing school systems including, Shanghai, Singapore, Finland, and Canada. These systems are about the same size as Maryland, which makes them a great model for us. These systems have robust early care and education, and healthcare.</p> <p>Dr. Salmon added that there are three more public sessions scheduled for 9/28/17, 10/12/17, 10/25 and that a letter of support from the Council to the Kirwan Commission would be beneficial.</p>	<p>Cyndi La Marca Lessner to send out draft of letter to the Council.</p>	
Old Business	<p>Judy Walker gave an update on the Universal Pre-K workgroup. The workgroup's intent is to discuss a universal four-year-old voluntary Pre-K in diverse settings in our state.</p>		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The workgroup met a total of six times and their charge was to give background information and make recommendations for an implementation plan. The recommendations are available in the Kirwan report posted on the DECD website.</li> <li>▪ Recommendations included a mixed delivery system; funds should flow through MSDE and be distributed through a grant process to school systems and community-based programs; school systems and community-based programs must develop a memorandum of understanding; ensure a minimum threshold of slots in community-based programs; universal pre-K should be phased in over 10 years.</li> </ul> <p>Judy Walker requested that anyone with thoughts or comments regarding the report, should submit them to the Kirwan Commission.</p> <p>Judy Walker also gave an update on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan, which was submitted Monday, September 18, 2017.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The ESSA plan included inclusive opportunities for children 0-8.</li> <li>▪ Much of the August State Board meeting was spent discussing accountability. However, the Board did not approve the plan because early childhood was not highlighted.</li> <li>▪ MSDE will identify gauges for academic readiness. There is a need to start observing children earlier to see how they are performing. We should not be relying on the KRA assessment alone.</li> <li>▪ As a part of ESSA, Maryland will be part of a four-state consortium to identify priorities and best practices from other states. The goal is to make Maryland a birth – 8 state.</li> </ul>		
New Business	<p>Liz Kelley discussed the CCDF pre-print.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The pre-print has not been disseminated yet, but one of the requirements is that the ECAC be involved in developing the plan and determining how these funds are used.</li> <li>▪ Typically, the funds are used for subsidy and quality improvement.</li> <li>▪ It is being requested of the ECAC that we provide input into the development of the plan and work toward our goals.</li> </ul> <p>Liz Kelley also reviewed the <a href="#">Maryland Children’s Cabinet Three Year Plan</a> and discussed some of the highlights.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Page 20 was highlighted. There is an action item containing five items: prevention; intervention; aftercare, reunification, and reentry; reduce disparate outcomes by race; improve outcomes for children</li> </ul>		

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	<p>and families through two-generation approaches.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pages 26 and 27 were highlighted. This section discusses early intervention and special education as well as behavioral health consultations. Increasing the capacity for our early care and education providers means more funding. Our existing early childhood mental health consultation project often has a waiting list. We want to keep our existing activities, but we need to expand on them to continue to build capacity.</li> <li>▪ Liz Kelley requested that members and guests review the three-year plan and provide feedback as we move forward.</li> </ul>		
<p>Additional Announcements/Questions for the Council</p>	<p>Steve Rohde – There was a significant amount of progress in this area (teacher capacity, children’s growth) when we had Race to the Top funding (RTT). Since RTT, the feedback received from programs is that there aren’t enough resources, incentives or enough time in the day. How do we grow into higher levels if we do not have the resources? We need to put systems in place to support head start, public pre-k as well as child care providers.</p> <p>Liz Kelley – There is a concern in terms of capacity to have qualified teachers. This is very challenging. Developing a strategic plan and identifying what we can do at low cost or no cost is becoming more challenging, but still necessary.</p> <p>Flora Gee – The Early Learning Assessment (ELA) is good, but it needs some tweaking. What are some next steps with the ELA on how it will be easier to use?</p> <p>Judy Walker – We only had enough funding to take the ELA to 36 months and there is no additional funding to develop or enhance the ELA system. We know more work is needed but we need to find the funding to do so.</p> <p>Flora Gee – I think a committee is necessary to gather feedback and ideas.</p> <p>Terry Bridger – The Early Childhood Consortium is looking at how we bridge the gap between credit and non-credit in early childhood education. We need to be a part of this conversation if we are looking at building the capacity of teachers and quality of programs.</p> <p>Steve Rohde – The biggest barrier for programs is teacher qualifications. Alternative programs should be considered. AT MFN, we have been using the CDA to help with their confidence and also using coaching strategies to help people who have the potential but may lack the paper qualifications.</p> <p>Liz Kelley - The biggest struggle is getting everyone certified, mostly due to their teaching internship requirement. We need to work toward a</p>		

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	<p>certification to meet the needs of three and four-year-old classrooms. Dr. Salmon – SB493 asked us to look at teacher induction and retention. We are hoping to see more flexibility in micro-credentialing. We need to have more conversations as these reports come out and take this into consideration.</p>		
Workgroup Discussion	<p>Liz Kelley reviewed the Council Bylaws and asked the Council to review them further in their groups. Any suggestions or questions should be sent to Cyndi La Marca Lessner for consideration.</p> <p>The Council divided into workgroups and discussed the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ How can we be more productive and make a difference? In addition to the priorities already determined (Communication, Workforce Development, Birth -8), are there other priorities that the Council needs to focus on? What data did you use to determine that this is a priority? Are there any other groups currently working on these priorities?</li> <li>▪ Is there a need for additional committees or task force groups? How do we determine who sits on these groups? Do these groups meet at ECAC meetings or separately? How will the work done in these groups be shared with the Council?</li> <li>▪ What type of information or data is needed at ECAC meetings? What type of work do we want to do at each meeting? What types of presentations are recommended?</li> <li>▪ How do you want the meetings to be structured? Should meetings be full day, part day or a combination of both?</li> </ul> <p>Groups submitted their responses and feedback for consideration. Final decisions regarding the State ECAC priorities and meeting structure will be voted on during the December meeting.</p>		
Adjournment and Future Meetings	<p>Meeting adjourned at 3:45pm.</p> <p>Future meetings are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Thursday, December 21, 2017 State and Local (TBD)</li> </ul>		
Notes/Minutes	<p>Cyndi La Marca Lessner, Early Childhood Coordinator, DECD  Karina Hudack, Grant Specialist, DECD</p>		
Members in Attendance	<p>Brenda Hussey Gardner – State Interagency Coordinating Council  Christina Peusch – Maryland State Child Care Association  Dorothy Stolz – Carroll County Libraries  Flora Gee – Maryland Association for Education of Young Children</p>		

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	Steven Hicks – Ready At Five Jacqueline Grant (for Meena Gafaar) – Maryland State Family Child Care Association Carol Williamson – MSDE, Deputy Superintendent Karen Salmon – MSDE, State Superintendent Al Zachik – Maryland Department of Health Elizabeth Hall – Department of Disabilities Claudia Simmons – Head Start Agency Crystal Barksdale – Service Employees Intl Union Mary Dammeyer – Council for American Private Education Loretta Hoepfner – Maryland Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics Elizabeth Miller – Local Government Agency Child Service Provider Margaret Williams – Maryland Family Network Tresa Hanna – Head Start Collaboration Officer Liz Kelley – Acting Assistant State Superintendent Karen Salmon – State Superintendent Terry Bridger – MD Higher Education Institution Marcella Franczkowski – Assistant State Superintendent – Special Education/Early Intervention Celester Hall – Child Care Advisory Council Diana Mellott – MD School Age Child Care Alliance		