

State Early Childhood Advisory Council  
 Thursday, December 21, 2017  
 MEETING MINUTES

Agenda Topic	Discussion Summary	Action Needed	Due Date
<p>Welcome</p> <p>Welcome/Acknowledgements/ Announcements</p>	<p>MSDE Division of Early Childhood Development, Collaboration and Program Improvement Branch Chief Cyndi La Marca Lessner started the meeting by welcoming everyone and introducing the film <i>Resiliency</i>. It was explained that the State Early Childhood Advisory Council is comprised of diverse stakeholders—each member plays an important role in supporting children and families. The goal of viewing the film and the discussion that follows will determine how to best collaborate and coordinate our efforts to support families and children experiencing trauma.</p> <p>MSDE Deputy Superintendent Dr. Carol Williamson welcomed the group as they returned from lunch. She started the meeting by asking all members and guests to introduce themselves.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dr. Williamson provided opening remarks and an overview of 2017 accomplishments.</li> <li>▪ MSDE received the Striving Readers Grant. It is \$15 million per year for three years (The first year award is final; the additional two years is pending due to budgets cuts by Congress.)</li> <li>▪ Maryland received an additional \$560,000 from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, a total of \$1,300,000 for the Family Engagement Grant. This additional funding allows the state to have two cohorts and help to support 14 states as they develop their family engagement frameworks.</li> <li>▪ Ready At Five's former Executive Director Steven Hicks is now MSDE's Division of Early Childhood Development Assistant State Superintendent.</li> <li>▪ Elizabeth Kelley will be retiring from her position at MSDE as the Director of Office of Child Care and most recently, the Acting Assistant State Superintendent. Dr. Williamson thanked her for years of service and dedication to children and families.</li> </ul> <p>MSDE Division of Early Childhood Development, Early Learning Branch Chief Judy Walker provided an update on the Comprehensive Literacy Plan. It was stated that this grant was accomplished by working together across divisions. The grant will provide more opportunities to support</p>		

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	<p>school readiness and close the achievement gap. Focus groups will help review the proposal once it is finalized. It will then be released.</p> <p>Cyndi La Marca Lessner gave a brief update on the Pre-K – Grade 2 Suspension and Expulsion Workgroup. The group’s goal is to obtain input from stakeholders on the draft regulation of SB651 and to identify local school system needs for effective implementation. The workgroup is currently drafting three guidance documents: Reactive Guidance, Prevention Guidance, and School Psychologist/Mental Health Guidance. Deb Nelson and Michael Muempher are leading the Pre-K – Grade 2 Suspension and Expulsion Workgroup.</p> <p>Dr. Williamson opened the floor for additional announcements or updates. There were no additional announcements or updates.</p>		
Old Business	<p>Cyndi La Marca Lessner and Elizabeth Kelley reviewed the discussion points and feedback from the previous meeting regarding priorities of the Council as well as the proposed meeting structure and dates of future meetings. Dr. Williamson facilitated a vote that approved the Council’s bylaws, priorities and meeting structure.</p> <p>The Council voted to have quarterly meetings from 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Sub-committees will be formed as needed.</p>		
New Business	<p>Maryland Department of Health, Office of Family and Community Health Services, Early Childhood and Family Services Chief Mary La Casse, presented on the Home Visiting Strategic Plan. (Review <a href="#">the Presentation.</a>)</p> <p>Judy Walker gave an overview of the 2017-2018 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA). (Review <a href="#">the KRA Presentation.</a>)</p>		

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Workgroup Discussion	<p>Cyndi La Marca Lessner facilitated the small group discussion. Groups worked together to answer several questions regarding the film <i>Resiliency</i>. Groups also reviewed the KRA data and the Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Legislative Brief.</p> <p>A discussion followed about how trauma informed care impacts children and families. (Review <a href="#">the Group Questions</a>.)</p> <p>From the group discussion, three main themes emerged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding</li> <li>▪ A focus on prevention</li> <li>▪ Building awareness of resources and what others are doing to better coordinate efforts</li> </ul> <p>Members requested more information about what other counties and programs are doing in this area.</p>		
Adjournment and Future Meetings	<p>Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.</p> <p>Future meetings will be held:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ March 15, 2018 – Johns Hopkins/CTE (Columbia Campus)</li> <li>▪ June 21, 2018 – MSDE</li> <li>▪ September 20, 2018 – Johns Hopkins/CTE (Columbia Campus)</li> <li>▪ December 20, 2018 - MSDE</li> </ul>		
Notes/Minutes	<p>Cyndi La Marca Lessner, Collaboration and Program Improvement Branch Chief and Karina Hudack, Grants Specialist, DECD</p>		
Members in Attendance	<p>Brenda Hussey Gardner – State Interagency Coordinating Council  Christina Peusch – Maryland State Child Care Association  Dorothy Stoltz – Carroll County Libraries  Flora Gee – Maryland Association for Education of Young Children  Steven Hicks – Ready At Five  Meena Gafaar – Maryland State Family Child Care Association  Carol Williamson – MSDE, Deputy Superintendent  D’Lisa Worthy for Al Zachik – Maryland Department of Health  Claudia Simmons – Head Start Agency  Crystal Barksdale – Service Employees Intl Union  Loretta Hoepfner – Maryland Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  Elizabeth Miller – Local Government Agency Child Service Provider  Tresa Hanna – Head Start Collaboration Officer  Liz Kelley – Acting Assistant State Superintendent</p>		

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	Terry Bridger – MD Higher Education Institution Nancy Vorobey for Marcella Franczkowski – Assistant State Superintendent, Special Education/Early Intervention Lisa Davis – Local Education Agency Rachel London – Maryland Disabilities Council Robin Mellen – Non-Public Pre-K Provider		