

State Early Childhood Advisory Council
 Thursday, March 15, 2018
 MEETING MINUTES

Agenda Topic	Discussion Summary	Action Needed	Due Date
<p>Welcome/Acknowledgements/ Announcements</p>	<p>MSDE Deputy Superintendent Dr. Carol Williamson welcomed all members. For this particular meeting, Dr. Williamson announced that the Early Childhood Advisory Council was combined with the Office of Child Care Advisory Council to solicit input for the Maryland Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The CCDF State Plan enables the MSDE Division of Early Childhood Development (DECD) to support safe and healthy child care for Maryland’s low-income parents while they are working or pursuing education and training. It also provides funding to enhance the quality of child care for all children. ▪ The CCDF State Plan is the primary mechanism that the Administration for Children and Families, a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, uses to determine DECD’s compliance with the requirements of the law and regulations. <p>Since it was a working meeting, updates on legislative bills and the 2018 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) Regional Leadership Symposium were provided for members in their folders and posted on the website.</p> <p>Dr. Williamson introduced the new DECD Leadership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Steven Hicks – Assistant State Superintendent of the Division of Early Childhood Development, Maryland State Department of Education ▪ Jennifer Nizer – Director of Office of Child Care, Division of Early Childhood Development, Maryland State Department of Education <p>Dr. Williamson welcomed all members of the Office of Child Care Advisory Council and the State ECAC. She then asked members to introduce themselves and share which Advisory Council they represent.</p>		

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	<p>Jennifer Nizer welcomed the Council members and thanked them for their participation and feedback on the CCDF State Plan. All members were broken into five (5) workgroups to review all sections of the Plan.</p> <p>The workgroups included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Family Engagement ▪ Child Care Subsidy ▪ Licensing Standards/Monitoring ▪ Recruitment/Retaining Quality Workforce ▪ Quality Improvement <p>DECD staff facilitated each workgroup. They also captured notes of the discussion and feedback for the CCDF State Plan. Notes from all workgroups were sent to all participants to allow members to comment on all sections of the Plan.</p> <p>Workgroups dismissed at noon for lunch.</p>	<p>TJ Bennet and Cyndi La Marca Lessner reviewed/merged all notes. The notes were distributed via e-mail to all workgroup participants for accuracy and additional feedback.</p>	<p>3/26/18</p>
<p>Announcements</p>	<p>Steven Hicks welcomed Council members back from lunch and allowed time for general announcements. Karina Hudack announced the 2018 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) Regional Leadership Symposium.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Typically, individual local early childhood advisory councils are briefed during these meetings. ▪ This year, the DECD Assistant State Superintendent Steven Hicks and the Office of Child Care Director Jennifer A. Nizer are hosting the briefings and bringing several counties together to review the KRA data. ▪ The goal is to establish next steps, in collaboration with the jurisdictions, to improve child and family outcomes. ▪ Invitations were sent to early childhood partners including, early learning supervisors, head start directors, child care partners, library partners, Judy Center coordinators, principals, and superintendents. <p>Steven Hicks opened the floor for additional announcements or updates. There were no additional updates.</p>		

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Presentations	<p>Steven Hicks reviewed the discussion from the December ECAC meeting where the film <i>Resiliency</i> was viewed by Council members.</p> <p>Members discussed early childhood mental health in Maryland and focused on three main areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funding ▪ Prevention ▪ Building awareness of resources and better coordinating efforts in this area <p>For this meeting, the goal of the presentations from three different counties was to help Council members better understand the work of other counties in this area and give them an opportunity to learn from one another.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Frederick County Local Early Childhood Advisory Council - <i>Awareness to Action: Frederick County on ACEs - Pilar Olivo, MPA ACEs Liaison, The Child Advocacy Center of Frederick County and David Humphries, LCSW-C, Child and Adolescent Team Clinical Coordinator, Frederick County Health Department, Mental Health Services. See attached presentation.</i> ▪ Worcester County Public Schools – <i>Behavioral Health at Worcester County Public Schools -Windy Phillips, Coordinator of Instruction- Special Education and Anna Simulis LCSW-C, Early Childhood Behavioral Health Coach. See attached presentation.</i> ▪ Howard County Head Start – <i>Alice Harris, Director of Education, Howard County Head Start. See attached presentation.</i> 		
Workgroup Discussion	<p>Cyndi La Marca Lessner and Amy Beal facilitated the small group sessions regarding the presentations and discussed next steps at state and local levels.</p> <p>Workgroup Questions/Discussion:</p> <p>Of the resources discussed, what could be adapted and implemented elsewhere? How could this information be used for planning at the state and local levels? Are there other resources that could be utilized? Are</p>		

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	<p>there other partners and/or additional information that are needed as we explore this area?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Making Access Happen: Making Access Happen funding ending ▪ SEFEL: Social foundations and emotional skills most critical. Vast majority math and language scores have connection to social emotional. ▪ Howard County SHIP Organization ▪ Local Early Childhood Advisory Councils: LECACs need more support to better coordinate services in jurisdictions and to be able to carry out state initiatives effectively. <p>What are some barriers to implementing these resources and strategies? How can we work around these barriers?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funding <p>When focusing on prevention, the potential cost savings may appeal to the business sector; what other lessons from implementing these strategies and from the film <i>Resiliency</i> (viewed at the December ECAC meeting) would resonate with various audiences? (e.g., law enforcement, educators, health, and other organizations)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All stakeholders should be present at meetings. ▪ Include legislators at meetings. <p>When reviewing the data, consider the following: What are the factors influencing the data?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All data is influenced by social emotional piece. ▪ Define school readiness and quality care. <p>To improve data, which partners and what information are needed; what work will change the data (low cost/no cost, bang for buck ideas, off the wall ideas); what does the group propose as next steps?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Homelessness and the impact of attachment, and ACES ▪ Howard County SHIP organization works with the homelessness population. Resources for those experiencing homelessness and addressing those issues. 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Homelessness is increasing among early childhood years. ▪ Displacement due to disaster. Children come from other states and enroll in child care and head start programs. Issues surrounding transferring states, paperwork, etc. ▪ Possible bills to make funding available for displaced students and other areas. ▪ MSDE gathered preliminary data for transitioning families to Maryland. ▪ State point of contact for foster care potential resource. <p>Training/Quality Improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Add mental health to Core of Knowledge and incorporating into COK. ▪ Additional achievement in SEFEL for EXCELS: going above and beyond completing training and participating in coaching and mentoring in regards to successful implementation and programs. (SEFEL Badge) ▪ Leverage the libraries: the community helps to push out content information. Libraries capture children and families not yet enrolled in other programs. ▪ Child care community has longer day without access or money to attend school. ▪ Possible next steps include training through licensing to leverage effort to multiple benefits. Communicate CEUs to community colleges for credits to make it all work together. ▪ There is a discrepancy in regards to course work in higher education and transferring to a larger school. There is limited amount of school work not focused on mental health. ADA training is minimal. ▪ A course offering options other than SEFEL. Also introduce understanding of mental health and strategies to providers. ▪ Technical assistance to meet specific criteria; and the need is necessary to shift to preparing programs and providers to quality. ▪ More recognition of the mental health of providers and resources for them. ▪ The cost of special needs, the difference early intervention can make, and the associated savings should be promoted. 		
Adjournment and Future	Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.		

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Meetings	Future meetings are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ June 21, 2018 – MSDE ▪ September 20, 2018 –Johns Hopkins/CTE (Columbia Campus) ▪ December 20, 2018 - MSDE 		
Notes/Minutes	Cyndi La Marca Lessner, Branch Chief, MSDE Division of Early Childhood Development, Collaboration and Program Improvement Branch		
Members in Attendance	Christina Peusch – Maryland State Child Care Association Dorothy Stoltz – Carroll County Libraries Flora Gee – Maryland Association for Education of Young Children Robin Hopkins – Ready At Five Min Kim - Maryland Department of Health Meena Gafar – Maryland State Family Child Care Association Carol Williamson – MSDE, Deputy Superintendent Crystal Barksdale – Service Employees Intl Union Tresa Hanna – Head Start Collaboration Officer Steven Hicks – Acting Assistant State Superintendent Nancy Vorobey for Marcella Franczkowski – Assistant State Superintendent, Special Education/Early Intervention Rachel London – Maryland Disabilities Council Robin Mellen – Non-Public Pre-K Provider Diana Mellott – MD School Age Child Care Alliance Meredith Callanan – Business Community – Leadership in Early Childhood Education Celester Hall – Child Care Advisory Council		