

State Early Childhood Advisory Council
December 18, 2014
MINUTES

Agenda Topic	Discussion Summary	Action Needed	Due Date
Welcome/Acknowledgements/ Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ State Superintendent of Maryland Schools, Dr. Lillian Lowery started the meeting by welcoming the State Council and the Local Councils and having all members and guests introduce themselves. ▪ Dr. Lowery gave the following brief updates to the council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The passage of the Reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) that focuses on promoting families' economic self-sufficiency by making child care more affordable, and fostering healthy child development and school success. ➤ On December 10th, President Obama announced that Maryland is the recipient of a Preschool Development grant. The four year grant will provide \$15 million for the first year to expand the reach of high quality preschool programs. This will allow the state PreK program which started this year to continue to grow and continue towards our goal of bridging learning gaps so that all children enter the school ready to succeed. ➤ The Maryland awardees for Early Head Start/Child Care Partnership Grants, including the Reginald Lourie Center, the Southern Maryland Tri-County Community Action Agency and the Maryland Family Network, were announced. 		
Old Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The members of the council reviewed the ECAC Bylaws. Linda Zang received and incorporated suggested changes from members from the last ECAC meeting and sent out the draft for the Council's review. 		

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	<p>There was no discussion of the changes. A motion to adopt the changes was made and seconded. The motion was approved by Dr. Lowery and ECAC members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr. Rolf Grafwallner reviewed and provided highlights for the <u>Task Force on Teacher Education in Early Childhood Report</u>. The purpose of the Task Force was to develop a framework to increase access to teacher training in early childhood education and improve the quality of teacher education in early childhood learning programs. 		
New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr. Lowery reviewed the Legislative Report <u>Best Practices to Engage Parents and Guardians in Early Education Programs and Services</u>. This report was authorized by the Prekindergarten Expansions Act of 2014. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The report contains information on the Maryland Family Engagement Framework that was created by the Maryland Family Engagement Coalition and addresses family engagement in many types of early learning settings, including child care, libraries, Head Start, Judy Centers, Maryland Infant and Toddler Programs, and Preschool Special Education. ➤ Also presented in the report are publicly funded initiatives under way to provide outreach and expand family support across Maryland. 		
Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wendy Baysmore presented on the progress of Local Councils on their action plans. (See PowerPoint presentation) ▪ Kathy Kearns, Judy Center Coordinator from Washington County Public Schools presented updates from their Local Council (See PowerPoint presentation) 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jane Wildeson, Director of Early Childhood/Elementary from Garrett County Public Schools presented updates from their Local Council and how they are aligning their programs with the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA). (See handout – Kindergarten KRA Simulation) ▪ Cheryl DeAtley, the State Judy Center Coordinator and Cristina Lopez, Campaign Director for Baltimore Community Foundation presented the innovative partnership between the Judy Centers and the Baltimore Community Foundation in Baltimore City. (See handout – BCCF Judy Center Story) 		
Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pam Brown from Anne Arundel County’s Local Management Board gave a presentation on sustainability to continue with their successful early childhood initiatives. (See handout – Systems Transformation Project, Birth – Five and PowerPoint presentation) ▪ Kathleen Reif, Director of St Mary’s County Library, presented and discussed their local early childhood initiatives. (See handout – St. Mary’s County Library, Early Childhood Services) ▪ Jean Mitchell from the Maryland Family Network briefly discussed the Early Head Start/Child Care Partnership grant. ▪ Dr. Grafwallner held a question and answer session for the Preschool Development Grant. Facts from this discussion were as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Funding for the Preschool Development grant will be awarded to Maryland by January 1, 2015. For newly contracting programs, the funding period will be September 2015 – December 2018. ➤ There will be a community vendor to assist programs receiving the grant. 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In years one and two, all Grant funded programs will serve families at 200% of the poverty guidelines and below. In years three and fours, the limit will rise to 300%. ▪ Dr. Grafwallner also clarified state-funded PreK expansion questions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Funding for the PreK Expansion is in law for \$4.3 million to reoccur yearly. 		
Additional Announcements/Questions for the Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Paula Minsk announced that the target goal for Reach Out and Read (ROAR) was 75%. ROAR is in 88 practices and is serving 100,000 children and has reached its capacity. 		
Adjournment and Future Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Future Meetings were announced and posted on the agenda. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ ECAC- March 12th, 2015 MSDE, TBA, 1-3:30pm ➤ ECAC and Local Councils – June 18th, Location TBA, 1-3:30pm ➤ ECAC – September 17th, 2015, MSDE, Conference Rooms 6 and 7, 8th Floor, 1-3:30 ➤ ECAC and Local Councils, December 17th, 2015, Location TBA, 1-3:30pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Future Topics to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Public Awareness 	
Notes/Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cyndi La Marca, Early Childhood Coordinator, DECD ▪ Wendy Baysmore, Grant Specialist, DECD 		