OCC Office of Child Care MARYLANDCHILD.ORG

MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF **EDUCATION** EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE

AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSION OUTCOME	
Attendees Names taken from chat boxes.	Council members:	Christina Peusch, Dona Mullen, Elizabeth Huffman, Gloria Brown-Burnett , Joann Jamison, Lacey Egerton, Nancy Vorobey, Rachel London, Paula Montgomery, Ruby Daniels, Sharon Holloway, Shay Gurry, Delegate Jessica Feldmark and Senator Mary Washington
	Guests:	Zully Pineda, Trina Powell, Tarun Patel, Susan Lawson, Sonia Pruneda-Hernandez, Shannon Burroughs, Scott Mason, Ruth Reyes, Rossana Espinoza, Rebecca Hancock, Rachel London, Nancy Anselm, Meg McFadden, maureen Creitz, Mary L. Washington, Lisa Herbst, Joanne Jamison, Jamar Day, Flora Gee, Erica Knowles, Ellen Diamond, Dona Mullen,Diane Mellott, Debbie Moore, David O'Brien, Dana Ashley, Crystal Barksdale, Charo Torres, Bill Hudson and Alexa Massey
	MSDE Staff:	Vickie Disanto, Tharcisse Yamuremye, Steven Hicks, Sarah Urban, Rene Williams, Meghan Leach, Mary B. Johnson, LyTia Williams, Louis Valenti, Laurie Moran, Kisha Lee, Katherine Long, Jena Smith, Dianna Aquirre, Angeline Bishop- Oshoko, Andrea Zabel, Amber Riley, Allison Van Horn and Agneatha Wright
Welcome and Opening Remarks	● Christina Peusch welcomed everyone to the meeting. ● Minutes have been sent out and approved. ● Christina Peush has asked to limit the conversation to our council first and then open it up to guests.	
Review Guidelines/Goals of Council	● The Chairperson offered a reminder of the purpose of the OCC Advisory Council: ○ Advise and counsel the OCC; ○ 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 OCC; and ○ Identify interdepartmental issues of importance to child care providers and users that should be addressed by the OCC 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 at tara.bartosz@maryland.gov or Christina 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.	

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	- 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	- Parent (a user of Child Care Services) - Local Government - Discretionary position
OCC Director report	**Departures for the Division of Early Childhood at MSDE:** Jennifer Nizer: Director of the Office of Child Care Steven Hicks mentioned to the council that the position of the Director of the Office of Child Care will be restructured to have the position oversee all branches within the division, not just Office of Child Care. Steven welcomed any and all suggestions for hire once the position is posted. Cyndi Lessner: Branch Chief for Collaboration and Program Improvement Branch **ARPA Grant** - Rene Williams and her team for the ARPA funds are working on quality checks at this time. - They have been working to distribute all funding and are checking for underpays, overpays, and any other issues regarding the grant funds. - Steven Hicks has been working with the finance office to look at the remaining funds from the stabilization grant so that those can be evenly distributed. - The Division of Early Childhood also received 50 million of stabilization funds from the governor's office. - The Division is working with the grants office on all logistics to make sure the funding is distributed to as many childcare providers as possible. **Stabilization Grant 193 Million** - The Division of Early Childhood has increased the provider reimbursement rate on the tuition for Child Care Scholarship from the 60th percentile to the 70th percentile using the funds provided to the Division. - The Child Care Scholarship program will also be eliminating or reducing the parent copay required with the assistance of additional funding. There will be a small copay for those that don't qualify under the new benefits. - The Child Care Scholarship program will also increase the income eligibility from 65% of state median income to 75% of state median income. - The Division also wants to bring back Maryland EXCELS bonuses back as well as increase credentialing bonuses with the additional funding.

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	Pre-K Expansion grants and the Pre-K state Program ● There were a total of 93 applications submitted for the Pre-K expansion grant and the Pre-K state program. ● Maryland state pre-kindergarten program received 32 applicants. ● The Pre-K expansion grant received 61 applicants. ● Of the 32 applicants, 15 were scored and 11 were awarded grants for maryland State Pre-Kindergarten program ● Of the 61 applicants, 58 were scored and 46 were awarded the Pre-K State program. ● This is due to the fact that the grants are very competitive and have rigorous guidelines that must be met by all applicants. ● Letters have been sent to those who will receive the grant award. ● We would like to work on in the fall having seminars for providers with assistance from the grants office to help with writing grants, making sure that providers understand the process. So that more providers can apply for the grant and can be awarded the grant.
Maryland Legislation 2022	**HB 89/SB 480:** Asks for continuation of Child Care Stabilization Grants. This was the grant Steven was speaking about earlier and what funding is being used for in the childcare community. **HB 513:** Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Program-Established. There was an additional 2 million added to funding. **HB 664**: Child Care Programs-Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program-Information and Assistance. (Previously the developmental screening bills) **HB 467:** Education- Teacher Certification-Montessori Schools. Speaks about If an individual has completed an approved Montessori education course and has a bachelor's degree, they may be eligible for a state teaching certificate.
Old Business	Chris Peusch mentioned that there are still concerns regarding the Maryland Blueprint and requirements set forth for Childcare. Chris P. suggested a committee needs to be created to review some of the guidelines and requirements set in the Maryland Blueprint. Chris P. would reach out to committee members to organize a workgroup.
New Business Identifying Priorities	**Overview:** ● Stabilization Grant, Maryland Excels Bonuses, Credentialing Bonuses, Child Care Scholarship ● Workforce shortages ● Council and guests discussed priorities, agenda and topics related to equity and the challenges to participate/meet percentages recommended in the Blueprint as a community based provider of mixed delivery public pre k, especially for family child care. ● The Council and guests engaged in discussion about possible regulation changes relevant to non-public nursery schools and including family child care as a step to addressing challenges and equity. A vote was taken to quickly form a subcommittee to research and

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	work on language for a formal recommendation to the State Board of Education from the Office of Child Care Advisory Council to request their approval as quickly as possible. Senator Mary Washington and Delegate Feldmark, Ruby Daniels and Bill Hudson expressed interest in the subcommittee, along with Co-Chair Chris Peusch.
	Child Care Scholarship Branch ● Increase in Income Eligibility Scale 　○ From 65% of State Median Income (SMI) to 75% of SMI ● Increase in Child Care Provider Reimbursement 　○ From up to the 60th percentile of provider reimbursement based on the Child Care Provider Market Rate Survey (MRS) to the 70th percentile of the MRS **Maryland EXCELS** ● In April 2022, 82% of all licensed child care programs and 56% of all registered family child care homes are participating in Maryland EXCELS. ● Since January 2022, 34 Maryland EXCELS programs have published first time quality 3, 4, or 5 ratings. ● Maryland EXCELS Bonuses will be awarded in FY2023 for programs who publish a first time quality rating, a higher quality rating, and republish a quality rating 5. Be on the lookout for more information ● Continuous Quality Improvement Visits are being conducted by Maryland EXCELS Quality Assurance Specialists. Visits are scheduled and provide Maryland EXCELS quality rated 1, 2, and 3 programs an opportunity to receive feedback and resources for ongoing program improvement from their Quality Assurance Specialists. ● Maryland EXCELS Toolkit has a new look and new resources. To visit the new and improved Maryland EXCELS Toolkit go https://marylandexcelstoolkit.org/. **Maryland Accreditation** ● 359 child care centers, school-age only programs, and public prekindergarten hold Maryland Accreditation. ● 665 programs are participating in Maryland Accreditation. ● Register for upcoming Maryland Accreditation Orienation at https://marylandexcels.org/maryland-accreditation/orientation-schedule/. 　○ Upcoming Maryland Accreditation Orientation dates: 　　▪ June 16, 2022 10:00am-12:00pm 　　▪ July 14, 2022 1:00pm-3:00pm ● To access the Accreditation Support Fund visit: 　○ National Accreditation Support Fund https://onestop.md.gov/forms/msde-application-for-national-accreditation-support-616997c46538850287f378be

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	o Maryland Accreditation Support Fund https://onestop.md.gov/forms/msde-application-for-maryland-accreditation-support-616997c46538850287f377f5 **Licensing** HB 664 MD Infant and Toddlers Program-Information & Assistance Beginning July 1, 2023, at least once each calendar year, child care programs shall make the following information available to parents/guardians of each child under the age of 3: 1. Information about the MD Infant and Toddlers Program 2. Contact information for the agency responsible for the administration of the MD Infant and Toddlers Program Information may be provided: 1. A personal message to the parent guardian, including by email 2. A document for which the parent/guardian acknowledges receipt, or 3. A text message Inspection surveys: All providers will be provided with a customer service survey after each initial inspection, conversion inspection, mandatory and full inspections. The survey will be sent with a copy of the inspection report. **Workforce Advancement** **Training Approval** ● The 2022 Trainers Conference is currently being planned. The date of the virtual conference will be October 18, 2022. The title is Spectrum of Opportunities: It Starts With Us and will focus on supporting the adult learner. **WIDA Early Years** ● The 2022 WIDA Annual conference will be in Nashville, Tennessee this September 28-30, 2022. This premier event for educators of multilingual learners from early childhood through grade 12. The theme of this year's conference is: Advancing Learning Together. **Maryland Child Care Credentialing:** ● Total number of credentialed providers: **Center Staff – 7,360** and **Family Providers 839** ● Applications must be submitted directly to Child Care Central by Email:

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	cccredential@conduent.com Fax: 410-229-0145 and Mail: Child Care Central, PO Box 598 Baltimore Maryland 21203 ● Applications are processed within 30 days. ● Help desk telephone number: **1-877-355-1229** **Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund** **Continuation student** ● The deadline to submit an application for continuation students is June 30th 2022. ● Child Care Career and Professional Development student must meet with the college coordinator before submitting an application via Maryland OneStop **New Student** ● A total of 109 students applied for the fund. Currently working on new student approvals. **Enrollment Data** ● FY22 - 385 students are enrolled in the program. ● FY 21 - 74 students graduated with a Bachelors/Associates degree. ● FY 21 - $2,565,055.89 paid towards tuition, books, fees, and learning device. **Private Universities** ● Starting FY23, Maryland State Department of Education will no longer pay tuition on private university self determined rate. **Coppin Online Degree** Online Degree (Coppin State University) ● Coppin State University online ECE degree program will launch in the fall 2022. ● Please contact Benjamin Simmons (Education recruiter and Marketing Coordinator) E: besimmons@coppin.edu to learn more about the program. **Training Voucher and Reimbursement** ● Continuing Education units(CEUs) are required to verify attendance at virtual and in person national conferences. Verification will be required for credentialing and training reimbursement. **Child Development Associate (CDA)** ● The Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Early Childhood provides funding to support child care providers with obtaining their Child Development Associate® (CDA)Credential™ from the Council for Professional Recognition. **Who is eligible for CDA funding?** ● Registered Family Child Care Providers

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	● Licensed Child Care Center Staff **What is covered under the fund?** ● $425-Initial online assessment fee ● $125-Renewal online application fee ● $33- Child Development Associate® National Credentialing Program and CDA® Competency Standards For more information, please visit, https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/CDA
Next Meeting	November 17, 2022
Future 2023 Meetings	To be determined.