Office of Child Care (OCC)
Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2022

AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSION OUTCOME	
Attendees Names taken from chat box.	Council members:	Christina Peusch, Jennnfer Nizer, Dona Mullen, Elizabeth Huffman, Gloria Brown-Burnett , Joann Jamison, Lacey Egerton, Nancy Vorobey, Rachel London, Paula Montgomery, Ruby Daniels, Sharon Holloway, Shay Gurry
	Guests:	Bill Hudson, Charo Torres, Dana Ashley, Bob McDermott, David O'Brien, Ellen diamond, Erica Knowles, Meg McFadden, Hope Adelman, Nancy Anselm, Naushaba Bokhari, Sandra Graham, Sandy Buckwater
	MSDE Staff:	Tara Bartosz, Agnetha Wright, Allison V.Horn, Donald Corbin, Dianna Aguirre, Jena Smith, Jennifer Campbell, John Lamb, Beth O'Connor, Keisha Maxwell, Kimberly Sympton, Kisha Lee, Louis Valenti, Manjula Paul, Mary Johnson, Meghan Leach, Nicole Johnson, Payal Jariwla, Rene Williams, Rosemary Lober, Rosemary Colman, Steven Hicks, Sandy Klunk, Sara Urban, Shelly Downs.
Welcome and Opening Remarks	- Chris P and Jennifer Nizer welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2022 - Minutes have been sent out and approved. - Co-chair 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 Chris 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. - 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.	

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MARYLANDCHILD.ORG

MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE

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	• 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	**ARPA Grant** • MSDE received total 6,119 applications. • We have reviewed and completed 5,362 applications, • The award amount for applications that's been reviewed and completed. • The total number of awards process in the CCATs that have gone over to the controller's office is 90 million. • Additional funds remaining will be distributed once all grants and quality assurance checks are completed. • Asked providers that if the funds do not seem correct to contact MSDE for verification. **193 million funding** MSDE just recently had our budget amendment approved. MSDE is working on a document that we can share with our community, as well as those that participated in our town hall sessions There were great ideas and we're working with Child Trends. They looked at all the data that John's Hopkins had collected. MSDE plans on having a public document to share in hopefully mid-March or the end of March. This will have the data that we heard and collected, and it'll have some of the activities that we will want to move forward with. MSDE does plan on increasing income eligibility for the childcare scholarship program, from the 60th percentile (which was just recently implemented last year) to the 70th percentile. That will be based on the new market rate survey Families will see that those scholarships are going to cover a large portion of the tuition costs. And in addition, we are waiving copays as well. So that means that if scholarship covers the full tuition, the parents won't have to pay anything. The state will cover the entire cost of that tuition. When you're at the 70th percentile, that means a lot of programs will be covered. In addition, we are increasing income eligibility from 65%, which MSDE was at about four years ago. **Steven Hicks states:** • The previous income eligibility, 65% of state median income, was around $74,000 for a family of four when MSDE first instituted that a couple years ago. • Based on the market rate survey, when we go to the 75% state median income, the income for a family of four will be $90,033. • A lot of childcare programs that currently, or even are not participating in this program may want to help their parents to complete their applications because this is going to make a lot more families eligible for the childcare scholarship program.

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	COVID 19 health and safety guidance • MSDE doesn't have any updates. There are no changes. • Mask mandate will end in schools but the Board of Education will be using special metrics to determine what occurs in public school MSDE continues to work closely with MDH to look at the trends, look at the variants that occur, look at the occurrences of hospitalization, look at the CDC recommendations and research and making those decisions on how to update the guidance. **Budget: Maryland $445 million investment** 5 buckets of funding. • Mixed- delivery PreK • Program Quality • Workforce • Expanded Support Programs • R4K Assessment System **1. Mixed-Delivery PreK** • Prekindergarten Expansion Grant • Maryland State Prekindergarten Program **2. Program Quality** • Maryland EXCELS • Child Care Accreditation Support Fund • Child Care Incentive Grant Program **3. Workforce** • Maryland Child Care Credential Program • Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund **4. Expanded Support Programs** • Ulysses Currie Head Start State Supplemental Grants • Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program • Judy Centers • Patty Centers (Family Support Centers **5. R4K Assessment System** • Kindergarten Readiness Assessment • Ready for Kindergarten (R4K) Grants

AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSION OUTCOME
	Six Goals 1. **Strengthen availability and access** by **increasing availability and choice** for all families and especially vulnerable families, **decreasing barriers**, serving more children with special needs in inclusive settings, and improving coordination between early childhood education and health services. 2. **Improve and support program quality** by increasing quality across sectors, focusing on equity, increasing kindergarten readiness for all children, and improving capacity to **meet infants' and children's mental health needs**. 3. **Deepen family engagement** by increasing families' awareness of high-quality programs, **expanding 2-generational programming**, and enhancing families' opportunities to engage. 4. **Ensure successful transition experiences** by **strengthening institutional support** for transitions, **supporting families** through transitions, and improving transition-focused **professional development** opportunities. 5. **Expand and enhance workforce development** by **improving professional development** opportunities, strengthening equity, coordination and alignment efforts, and **improving compensation** for early childhood education professionals. 6. **Improve systems for infrastructure, data and resource management** by improving coordination across agencies, **modernizing the data system**, using resources in ways that promote equity, and streamlining funding mechanisms.
Maryland Legislation 2022	There was an introduction by the Pre Senate-president Ferguson and the house leader speaker, Adrian Jones that rolled out with a legislative package that really focuses on childcare. **HB 89/SB 480** Asks for continuation of Child Care Stabilization Grants, Bill has been heard on both sides. There will be State funds made available. **HB 513** Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Program-Established. Frame work was approved from the last session. Program that will be developed by MSDE that will address the need. Don from Mary Washington's office stated that they aware that the bill is there and they are hopeful that the revisions that will fund will come through for that. They are making preparations for MSDE to adequately support those programs. **HB 376** Outdoor Preschool License Pilot Program: This bill is an interesting concept, and as we know, children learn best through play and the outdoors. There is a program in the state of Washington. In the original bill it was asked for the waiving of regulations however an amendment was placed in stating that MSCCA and MFN are against this request.

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	HB 664: Child Care Programs-Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program-Information and Assistance. (Previously the developmental screening bills) Worked with Delegate Boyton and had made some changes where childcare programs, both family and center based, would refer families to Maryland infants and toddler programs and assist them with meetings
	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.
	The Time to Care bill has presented itself again.
	Improving Child Care Scholarship System is a presumptive eligibility where parents are presumed eligible for the scholarship and can immediately enroll their children and care while the Maryland State Department of Education reviews their paperwork for a period of time and then formal approval is pending. They could still get into a participating program and then presumed eligible until they get that approval back formally. But the childcare programs would still receive funding whether they are approved, if not approved then the state has decided in their budget that they would pay.
	Intern Hope From Senator Feldman's office stated additional context about the package that you had mentioned that Senate president Ferguson and task speaker Jones introduced.
	It is a package that includes five bills. The first would improve the childcare scholarship program. The students on the edge of eligibility will be automatically enrolled and allows childcare providers participating in the scholarship program to receive their payments faster. It creates a $35 million revolving loan fund available to childcare providers participating in the scholarship program and the loans will be available at no interest and can be used for expansion, new construction/acquisition and renovations of childcare facilities.
	It provides $16 million in retention and new hire bonuses and provides a grant program for childcare providers who support students with developmental disabilities and priorities.
	Family childcare allows providers in most need a better opportunity to take advantage of the state's 50 million stabilization grant this fiscal year.
Old Business School Age Regulation Updates	**Jennifer N stated:** There are many changes that are related to teacher qualifications and building permits. We are looking into the changes. MSDE doesn't have the authority to change anything with the permit and zoning since it is contingent of their regulations. As far as the teacher qualifications, we are looking at that, but we think that it's very important to have some teacher qualifications for the programs. We've received requests to separate regulations for school age, and also to look at regulations for nature camps. So we're looking at revising all of our regulations to try to be inclusive of all the requests that we're getting and to be as flexible as we can with them.

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New Business Identifying Priorities	**Overview:** • Wanting to make sure priority includes barriers to pre-K expansion for the community-based providers, including certification. • Workforce shortages • Awareness on the quality initiatives, including the CCCPDF and how people can move towards those goals of certification.
	Maryland EXCELS **Maryland EXCELS Program Participation** **Additional Achievements Update** • Maryland EXCELS has re-launched its Additional Achievements initiative for participants who provide child care services above and beyond the Maryland EXCELS Standards. Programs earn Additional Achievement badges, which are highlighted in their online profile on the Maryland EXCELS website. • When using the website's "Find A Program" feature, prospective families can easily identify programs that have attained Additional Achievements, which are: Accredited Program, Asthma & Allergy Friendly, Eco-Friendly Program, Cultural and Linguistic Competency,

Maryland EXCELS Program Participation

January 2021	January 2022
Percentage of all Licensed Child Care Programs	
62%	65%
Percentage of all Child Care Centers Programs	
80%	82%
Percentage of all Family Child Care Homes	
53%	56%

Maryland EXCELS Published Program and Quality Ratings

Quality Rating	January 2021	January 2022
1	2,748	2,660
2	428	362
3	650	770
4	85	83
5	396	406

AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSION OUTCOME
	Health and Wellness, and Quality Business Practices. • Learn how to earn an Additional Achievement badge by visiting the Maryland EXCELS website. **Maryland Accreditation as of January 2022** • 653 Programs (Child Care Centers and Public Prekindergarten) are participating in Maryland Accreditation **Accreditation Support Fund: July 1, 2021-January 31, 2022** • National Accreditation Support = $20,755.00 to support 34 programs • Maryland Accreditation Support = $2,454.00 **Licensing** The amendments to the child care regulations were published in the Md. Register on January 28th for public review and comments. There are 2 proposed amendments: • The regulation regarding the mandatory exclusion for manufacturing, distributing, or dispensing a controlled dangerous substance will now be specific to the preceding 5 years. Charges that are older than the previous 5 years would be discretionary and evaluated for suitability. • The definition of domestic violence would include the term "intimate partners" effecting the regulation regarding the mandatory exclusion charge for crimes involving domestic violence. The link for the registry is: **13A.14 Child and Family Day Care; 13A.15 Family Child Care; 13A.16 Child Care Centers; 13A.17 Child Care – Letters of Compliance; and 13A.18 Large Family Child Care Homes** Md. Register, Volume 49, Issue 3, Friday, January 28, 2022, p. 142 **Scholarship Branch** • Completed 8 Months Transition-In Without Interruption in Payment/Service • 12 Month Eligibility Extension, Effective January 2022. • Customer Service Inquiry Link @ Money4ChildCare.com

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	Workforce Advancement Development Branch **Training Approval program:** - Training data for FY 2022 (July 1 – December 31, 2021): - 1,876 trainings conducted (face-to-face/virtual/online) - 27,286 participants in attendance - 45 Hour Critical Competencies for Infant Toddler Educators - 9 trainings have been conducted - 132 teachers trained - Supporting Maryland's Multilingual Learners: WIDA Early Years Essential Actions - 10 trainings have been conducted - 237 participants **Maryland Child Care Credentialing:** Credential providers within July 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 **Child Care Teachers**

Credential Level	Number of Center Staff
Staff Level 1	543
Staff Level 2	508
Staff Level 3	1693
Staff Level 4	1467
Admin Level 1	155
Staff Level 4+	199
Admin Level 2	19
Staff Level 5	840
Admin Level 3	5
Staff Level 6	1355
Admin Level 4	88
Total	**6872**

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	Family Child Care <table><tr><td>Credential Level</td><td>Number of Family Providers</td></tr><tr><td>Staff Level 1</td><td>35</td></tr><tr><td>Staff Level 2</td><td>51</td></tr><tr><td>Staff Level 3</td><td>150</td></tr><tr><td>Staff Level 4</td><td>194</td></tr><tr><td>Admin Level 1</td><td>37</td></tr><tr><td>Staff Level 4+</td><td>97</td></tr><tr><td>Admin Level 2</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>Staff Level 5</td><td>98</td></tr><tr><td>Admin Level 3</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Staff Level 6</td><td>92</td></tr><tr><td>Admin Level 4</td><td>16</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>775</td></tr></table> **Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund** New Student Application ● The deadline to submit an application for FY23 is March 1st, 2022 **New!** Master's Degree Program ● Funding is available through CCCPDF for providers to pursue a master's degree in one of the approved areas. ● Priority will be granted to students who are graduating with a bachelor's degree. **CCCPDF 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. **Empowering Teacher Grant** Online Degree (Coppin State University) ● Coppin State University is expected to launch the new on-line ECE degree program in the fall 2022.

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	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. **Maryland Onestop** • Effective Jan 1, 2022, all Training Voucher and Reimbursement application and Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund applications must be submitted via Maryland OneStop application portal. **Child Development Associates (CDA)** • Funding is available for the following: Initial assessment fee ($425), Renewal ($125) and Publication orders ($33) • A total of 273 CDA were redeemed as of December 2021 **WIDA Early Years** • WIDA Year 3 contract negotiations in process with a focus on trainer support and translations of resources in Arabic, Simplified Chinese and Spanish. • Look What I Can Do! Toolkit Pilot Study ongoing with initial round of observations and interviews completed the week of 1/24/22. • MSDE WIDA Early Years Steering Committee to meet 2/23/22 with a focus on provider feedback and expanding localized training. • 2022 WIDA Conference in Louisville, Kentucky September 28-30, 2022 **The Maryland Early Childhood Leadership Program** • Cohort II fellows have presented their Capstone projects and are now participating as mentors and in the Community of Practice, • Cohort III fellows have completed their Orientation and have begun their coursework. • The 2022 webinar series will begin in March 2022. **Abilities Network** • Professional Development for in Special Needs Training and Technical Assistance • For information and registration for trainings: https://ccrcbc.com/training/ **ECE Workforce Workgroup** • Reviewers are working on editing the workgroup recommendations.
Next Meeting	August 18,2022
Future 2022 Meetings	November 17, 2022