



Maryland Family Engagement Coalition
Meeting Notes
10-16-2017

Attendees: Amy Beal, Julie Dobies, Evelyn English, Liza Frye, Steven Hicks, Mary Gunning, Tresa Hana, Loretta Hoepfner, Maria Jison, Cyndi Lessner, Melanie Martin, Kia McLeod, Dayana Muniz, Lisa Rhodes, Dorothy Stoltz, Chris Swanson, Linda Zang

- “It’s Never Too Early ...” Campaign: Malkia “Kia” McLeod presented the background and an overview of the upcoming phases of the campaign.

--Phase Two: The “It’s Never Too Early ...” campaign is based on the recommendations of “Creating a Communications and Technology Infrastructure to Meet Maryland Family Engagement Goals: [A Communications and Technology Plan](#).” Phase one was to establish the family engagement social media presence @MDEngageEarly on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#), which was launched during the 2017 Summit.

Over the next couple of weeks, the MSDE Division of Early Childhood Development, Collaboration and Program Improvement Branch will launch phase two of the campaign, which includes the family engagement bi-annual electronic newsletter (spring and fall editions). The purpose of the newsletter is to offer additional support to early care and education providers as they implement the goals of the framework. The Branch decided to take a narrow approach in terms of topic selection because the Division already distributes a newsletter with broader early childhood topics. In addition, the goal is to address the feedback from early care and education providers about how to use the toolkit.

--Phase Three: The Branch is currently undergoing the planning process for phase three of the campaign, which is the Maryland Family Engagement Hub.

- The Maryland Family Engagement Hub: Malkia “Kia” McLeod presented an overview of the new family engagement website.

--Website Overview: The new website will connect state agencies, early child care and education providers, and families around Maryland’s common family engagement goals.

The new website will be powered by a database of local and key national resources— a curated collection of research, best practices, innovations, initiatives, policies, events, and community organizations relating to family engagement. Within the next couple of weeks, members of the Coalition will have an opportunity to vote on a name for the new website.

--Coalition "About Us" page: There will be an "About Us" page where the Branch will need input from Coalition members. The page will include the definition of family engagement, history, mission and vision statements, and a listing of the Coalition membership.

-- What we do: In addition, the page will include the bylaws or an overview of the responsibilities of the Coalition.

- The Maryland Family Coalition- Co-Chairs Dorothy Stoltz and Steven Hicks led the discussion about the process for formalizing the Maryland Family Engagement Coalition.

--Formalizing Membership: Dorothy Stoltz explained that formalizing the Maryland Family Coalition membership will start with developing mission and vision statements, and the bylaws.

--Mission/Vision Statement: Steven Hicks asked the members to take a few moments to review the draft document. Dorothy Stoltz explained that the draft bylaws were adapted from the State ECAC.

--Bylaws: Steven Hicks asked the members to start by reviewing the **Article IV. Membership** section in order to determine, by yes or no, whether or not the membership included the following organizations (see draft bylaws, the **Article IV. Membership** section).

Steven Hicks thought number 23 (*23. One representative of the Maryland School Districts*) was vague. Chris Swanson suggested nominating an influencer. Maria Jison, representing MSDE Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services, suggested reaching out to family support services members that provide training and activities for families. Cyndi Lessner suggested the Coalition members should set priorities before reaching out to any potential new members.

Loretta Hoepfner asked members for the difference between non-public and public prekindergarten providers (*26. One representative of a nonpublic Prekindergarten Provider*); and for an example of a philanthropic institution (*27. One representative of a philanthropic institution with demonstrated leadership in Early Childhood Care and Education*).

Melaine Martin asked how many parents should be included in the Coalition membership (*30. One representative of a parent or caregiver*). Steven Hicks suggested there should be at least three. Chris Swanson said the members should consider developing a table with current and potential members.

Evelyn English asked if home schooling families were represented. Chris Swanson suggested the members should consider adding parents of young children who are incarcerated to the list of potential members. Loretta Hoepfner suggested adding the foster care and mental health

associations. Chris Swanson suggested adding trainers, credit and certification organizations such as CCBC.

Steven Hicks asked the members to take a few moments to review the mission and vision statements again. Chris Swanson asked the members if birth to eight or birth to five needed to be defined. Evelyn English asked if the members needed to use adjectives to describe what kind of outcomes. Loretta Hoepfner asked if the use of “family engagement practices” is an industry standard.

The Co-Chairs requested that the members review the draft bylaws as a homework assignment and submit feedback before the December 18 meeting.

- 2018 Priorities: Co-Chairs Dorothy Stoltz and Steven Hicks requested that the members review the 2018 priorities and submit feedback before the December 18 meeting.
 - Promoting family engagement
 - Training and resources
 - Supporting local efforts for family engagement
- ~~Future Funding Opportunities~~
 - Kellogg Grants: Steven Hicks clarified that there were no new funding opportunities, just updates.
 - ReadyRosie: Steven Hicks provided an overview of the ReadyRosie program. Dorchester, Somerset, Washington, Wicomico, and Worcester counties all launched county-wide implementation of the ReadyRosie program this fall. Howard County is implementing countywide separate from the Kellogg grant funding. Most all of the Judy Centers are also participating. Moving forward, the goal is to find additional counties interested in participating in the program.
 - Parent Leadership Learning Party: Ready At Five also hosted its first Parent Leadership Learning Party training for 24 participants with another one and a Train the Trainers scheduled in the spring.
- Future Meetings - 3rd Monday - every other month from 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
 - Monday, Dec. 18, 2017