



Office of Child Care  
 Child Care Development Fund State Plan Public Hearing  
 January 15, 2016

AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSION OUTCOME
<b>Attendees</b>	<p>Beth Myers – SEIU, Thomas Hardnett – Initiation Inc., Freda Milton – St. Vincent DePaul, Debbie Moore – Maryland Family Network, Nancy Pelton – Baltimore City Child Care Resource Center, Lacey Tsonis – Maryland Family Network, JoAnne Jamison – M&amp;H, Sonya Bailey, Steve Rohde – Maryland Family Network, Kim Grant – MD State Family Child Care Association, Michele Kilette – Anne Arundel County Head Start, Flora Gee – MD Association for the Education of Young Children/Greenbelt Children’s Center, Willow Emerson – SEIU, Local 500, Sarah Bollard – Baltimore City Judy Center, Cynthia Poindexter – Baltimore City Child Care Coalition, Gayle Headen – Union Baptist Head Start, Jowanna Simms - Family Child Care Provider, Venus Holly – Family Child Care Provider, Kim Cosgrove – PACT/Kennedy Krieger Institute, Fatima Whitmore – SEIU, Local 500, Crystal Barksdale – SEIU, Local 500, Lindi Budd, Rolf Grafwallner, Elizabeth Kelley, TJ Bennett</p>
<b>Welcome And Opening Remarks</b>	<p>Liz Kelley, Director, Office of Child Care, lead the welcome and opening remarks portion of the Hearing.</p> <p>Liz began by reminding the group that we were there to discuss the draft, emphasizing draft, Child Care Development Fund State Plan. She also asked that when people spoke that they introduce themselves for the record.</p> <p>Lastly, Liz requested that people submit written remarks, as well as provide their verbal testimony. The deadline for providing written comments is February 13, 2016. Liz asked that people share the information with others. We are seeking information from the public and looking for feedback on the Plan.</p> <p>Child care providers in attendance today can receive professional activity units. Send an email to <a href="mailto:Elizabeth.kelley@maryland.gov">Elizabeth.kelley@maryland.gov</a> if you would like to receive documentation.</p> <p>The State has a hard deadline of March 1, 2016, to submit the Plan on the federal website.</p> <p>There are several changes to the State Plan this year. The biggest change is the shift in the purpose of the Plan itself. Its main focus used to be as a work initiative. It has shifted now into a strong focus on children and the quality of care they receive. It also focuses on the stability for the children in child care.</p> <p>One way it seeks to accomplish stability is by providing 12-month vouchers. Instead of being able to issue vouchers for a set period of months, States will now issue vouchers to cover an entire 12 month period. There will be costs to the States.</p> <p>One of the things we learned on a conference call this week is that Maryland meets the requirements for the graduated phase-out of assistance provision of the Plan.</p> <p>Liz distributed a one-page summary of the new requirements and encouraged everyone to visit the Administration for Children and Families website <a href="http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ">http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ</a> for further information.</p> <p>Liz also encouraged everyone to review and comment on the draft Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (what Maryland calls regulations), posted on the ACF website as well. It contains some very</p>



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	important information of which all child care professionals should be aware.
Flora Gee, MD Association for the Education of Young Children and Greenbelt Children's Center	<p>Flora expressed her concern at the lack of involvement of local governments as part of the process.</p> <p>John Surr, also a member of the MD Association for the Education of Young Children (MD AEYC), submitted written remarks, which Flora mentioned. One of John's comments was related to PTA's and if they were invited to participate.</p> <p>The draft plan is missing a description of the Developmental Screening process in which MD is engaged.</p> <p>The MD AEYC is particularly concerned that low-income children do not have access to high quality care. This is especially true when one considers the answers to Sections 4.3.1 and 4.3.2.</p> <p>TCA customers are not receiving 12-month vouchers and Flora wants to know why they are different than other customers. She believes MD can do a better job pf communicating.</p> <p>Flora does not have one slot in her Pre-K program that is funded by a voucher.</p>
Debbie Moore Maryland Family Network	<p>Debbie will provide written comments.</p> <p>Maryland Family Network is discouraged and disheartened at the reimbursement levels in the Plan. Something needs to be done about the reimbursement and the co-payment levels. If that means we need to serve fewer families then we have to do it.</p> <p>The Maryland Child Care Resource Network descriptions in the Plan do not include enough detail. The Child Care Resource and Referrals (CCRC) provide a lot more assistance than is discussed in the Plan.</p> <p>Liz mentioned that Maryland will not be allowed to permit providers to charge additional fees above the cost of the co-pay and the reimbursements paid by the State.</p>
<b>Steve Rohde</b> <b>Maryland Family Network</b>	<p>In Section 1.7.1, the Resource and Referral services do not have a good enough job done explaining what the CCRC's do. The Plan should play to the strengths of the CCRC's.</p> <p>The CCRC's are involved in the MD Child Care Credential program, they provide start/up and expansion assistance. There are places in MD that have child care deserts where they are no stable service deliveries.</p> <p>In Section 7.1.2, the involvement of the CCRC's is not elaborated. The CCRC's place a strong emphasis on consumer education and working with parents on school readiness for children.</p> <p>The State should also emphasize the chronic underfunding of the child care subsidy program.</p> <p>Steve also said that the biggest subsidizer of child care in MD are the child care providers. They are the one's who pay when the State and families do not.</p>
<b>Thomas Hardnett</b> <b>Baltimore City Child Care Coalition</b>	Mr. Hardnett provided a history of the Sandtown community of Batlimore. It has a poverty rate of 35% and an nemployment rate of 24%.



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	<p>Providers are seeing a decrease in the number of Purchase of Care children,</p> <p>Many parents cannot afford to put their children in the higher quality child care programs. When this happens, they leave their children with family members, or in illegal child care.</p> <p>The State should use social media means to spread information to providers and parents, such as facebook, Instagram, twitter, snapchat, etc. We must meet these people where they are.</p> <p>With regard to the Market Rate Survey, Mr. Hardnett finds that many of the child care providers he knows are unfamiliar with it and have never participated.</p> <p>Mr. Hardnett disagrees with not being able to charge parents additional fees.</p>
<b>Kim Grant Maryland State Family Child Care Association</b>	
<b>Fatima Whitmore SEIU – Local 500</b>	<p>MD needs to do more to recruit and retain a qualified workforce. Low wages and low subsidy rates hamper high quality child care providers.</p> <p>Over the last ten years, MD has seen a decrease in family child care providers. This is a direct result of the State's lack of investment in child care.</p> <p>The child care subsidy does not cover non-traditional hours and late fees. So it will be a problem if providers cannot charge additional fees.</p> <p>Ms. Whitmore agreed with Mr. Hardnett in saying the State needs to use social media.</p> <p>Parents are frustrated with the voucher program.</p>
<b>Crystal Barksdale SEIU – Local 500</b>	<p>In the agreement between the State and SEIU, it indicates the State will look at using the quality care model rather than the Market Rate Survey. Why didn't this happen?</p> <p>There has to be more money somewhere.</p>
<b>Beth Myers SEIU</b>	<p>SEIU has been supportive of the State's plan.</p> <p>If the State raises payment rates, then providers can raise quality. The State needs to step-up.</p>
<b>Tawanna Simms Child Care Provider</b>	<p>The Child Care Subsidy process is NOT working.</p>
<b>Gayle Hayden – Union Baptist Head Start</b>	
<b>Kim Cosgrove Kennedy Krieger Institute and PACT</b>	
<b>Ending Remarks</b>	<p>Liz thanked everyone for their comments. She also reminded everyone to submit their written comments. They can be emailed to Liz at <a href="mailto:Elizabeth.kelley@maryland.gov">Elizabeth.kelley@maryland.gov</a> or TJ at <a href="mailto:tabatha.bennett@maryland.gov">tabatha.bennett@maryland.gov</a>.</p> <p>Written comments are due February 13, 2016.</p>



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