



*Pulling Together for the Children of Frederick County*

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Frederick County Interagency Early Childhood Committee  
*A Subcommittee of the Local Management Board*

**ZOOM Meeting Minutes**

April 2, 2020

**Zoom Attendees:** Kathy Allen, Pilar Olivo, Shelly Toms, Nancy Boyd, Leslie Frei, Barbara May, Darcy O'Daniel, Pat Rosensteel, Cathy Nusbaum, Janet Vogel, Jim Miller, Jessica Lertora, Kathy Long, Brooke Sims, Katie McKeever, Amy Tzorzinis, Shannon Aleshire, Stacy Wantz, Jennifer Barker-Frey, Jolena Simoneau, Malcolm Furgol, Lydia Fuentes, Ann Ryan, Patty Morison, Carrie Sorenson.

**Review and Approval of March Minutes:** Pat Rosensteel moved to approve March minutes as corrected. Malcolm seconded. All approved.

**ACEs Committee Update:** Pilar Olivo will email workgroup update.

**Overview of MSDE FY21 LECAC Quality Improvement Grant:**

- Grant is due May 18<sup>th</sup>
- Grant term is three years, but first year begins in July and ends December 31, 2020. Grant continues through December 2022.
- Grant amount is \$25,000 a year but may be increased since only 6 months in first grant year. More changes/clarifications are to be announced.
- Grant must align with state goals, milestones and strategies and integrate with early childhood systems and equity assurances. For more details, check the state LECAC website, referencing page 10 for system wide goals.
- Good news: statewide grant goals already align closely with our IECC strategic plan.

**Discussion of possible grant activities/thoughts:**

\* survey of child care providers and parents about needs

\* study of impacts of shutdown

\* analysis of what we might need to do to support the recovery of our child care system, with note by Pilar that there will be another set of questions about health and safety of provider locations when back in operation.

\* Kathy A. referenced Hannah from Harvard Center for Developing Child who reminded us that we will need to address the crisis, the recovery, AND also the new normal. Hannah also had a great reference for today's situation – not social distancing, but rather physically distant and socially connecting.

\* Cathy N. suggested we start to think about vendors who might be good candidates for conducting a survey.

\* Pilar mentioned a parent engagement survey and to assess how representative the resulting ideas are across the county. We need to better understand the digital relationship, which series of messages to/with families best helps them feel connected AND heard? Ginny encouraged everyone to remind parents about Ready Rosie. And Leslie agreed that it is essential that we teach parents more ways to engage young children.

\* Should we bring back the Harvard Center on Developing Child to do another We Design? Do we need to build on first workshop or expand access to it to reach more participants?

\* Should we provide more scholarships for underrepresented populations in the early childhood development field?

\* Patty M and Ginny met with Frederick News Post to help shape a plan for possible series of articles to highlight early childhood education. We could also use some of the articles from *Frederick's Child*. FNP invited several levels of promotion, including targeting issues with a reporter to get message out to a wider audience. FNP will work with us on pricing. Patty and Ginny also met with the Plamandons about helping to make a broader statement to larger community (beyond Children's Festival) in the future.

## Networking

**Reminder to "share all" on last IECC email if you have updates or new information about resources.**

\* Check out **Judy Center** website for cool videos for families and share to all with young children.

\* **Asian American Center** is distributing food every Friday for one hour (noon-1pm) in front of their office. Also, if you want to help make masks, check out details on their website.

\* Both the **FCPS** lunch bus and **Blessings in a Back Pack** are distributing food at **Lucas Village** for kids: FCPS (11:30-12:30) M-F, and Blessing in a Back Pack every Friday from 11-1, except April 10<sup>th</sup> (moved to April 9<sup>th</sup>). In front of community center.

- \* Janet announced that the **libraries** are offering a lot of digital programming. Please visit website; also offered is virtual card registration.
- \* Shelley announced that **Family Partnership** is continuing to provide services, including virtual GED, ESL, Home Visits, and parent education.
- \* Darcy announced that **music therapy** has moved to virtual sessions.
- \* Patty M. said that the child care community is in major distress. **Child Care Choices** is receiving many calls and responding with support and information updates. She is also hearing from providers that current sites need cleaning supplies.
- \* Barbara May of **Mental Health Association** announced that she has some diapers, wipes, and pull ups available. Please call for details about pick up.
- \* Shannon announced that **Mental Health Association** is "virtualized" their walk-in services, and will have Spanish version available this week. Call Center is operating at full speed.
- \* Kathy Long reported that there are **204 centers** registered to provide care for essential personnel's children.
- \* Jim Miller of **DSS** announced that Annie Casey Foundation might provide netbooks for client families, will check on status. Calls for CPS referrals are down.
- \* **Jolena** offered information about mental health and substance abuse resource kit she will share with us.
- \* Malcolm of **United Way** reported that over \$185,000 has been raised so far in the COVID-19 Response Fund, and announced a matching grant (\$2 for \$1) initiated by Ausherman Family Foundation of another \$25,000. He also encouraged everyone to get the word out about the Census and how important it is to our community. See attachments for other updates, including Summer Serve and volunteer websites.
- \* Pat R. shared that the **IMPACT Club** has \$30,000 for next grant round. She suggested we discuss the possibility of directing these funds to United Way's Response Fund; we would need to contact Eric Verde at IMPACT Fund. She also reminded us to email her with any changes to the Strategic Plan. We thanked her for her great work.
- \* **Kathy and Janet** are looking for help in writing the grant and may be contacting you! They asked that committee members think about in-kind services we might offer, too, to strengthen the grant proposal. Also, Kathy reminded us that we will be looking for a new co-chair as Janet will be moving to Ohio!

