



*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*  
MHA Community Services Wing  
**Meeting Minutes**

January 3, 2019

**Present:**

Kathy Allen, FCPS Judy Center; Jennifer Barker-Frey; Steve Buckley, Frederick County Developmental Center; Natalie Cioffi, Spanish Speaking Community of Maryland; Barbara Dillon, Blessings in a Backpack; Leslie Frei, FCPS Early Childhood; Diana Fulchiron, Community Foundation of Frederick; Kerri Griffin, FCHD-Maternal Health; Colleen Guardia, YMCA Head Start; Martha Gurzick, Frederick Memorial Hospital; Keri Ann Henson, FCPS Homeless Education Program; Kathy Long, MSDE Office of Child Care; Lynda Mallory, Safe Babies Court Team; Barbara May, Mental Health Association of Frederick County; James Miller, Frederick County DSS; Patty Morison, Child Care Choices, Mental Health Association of Frederick County; Cathy Nusbaum, FCPS and Judy Center; Darcy O'Daniel, Noteable Progressions; Terri Ridenour, Child Find; Pat Rosensteel, Children of Incarcerated Parents Program (COIPP); Ann Ryan, Housing Authority; Ginny Simoneau, Children's Center of Walkersville; Shelly Toms, Family Partnership; Janet Vogel, Frederick County Public Libraries

**Meeting Minutes Recorder: Patty Morison**

**Welcome & Introductions:** Janet Vogel opened the meeting at 1:05 pm. Attendees introduced themselves.

**Review and Approval of Minutes**

Pat Rosensteel mentioned that ALICE is an acronym and should be capitalized throughout the minutes. Pat Rosensteel made a motion to approve the minutes with that correction. Colleen Guardia seconded the motion. Motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

**Resilience Film Screening**

Patty Morison gave an update on the Doodle Poll results for the screening of the film, *Resilience: The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope*. There was enough interest for two showings, one at 1:00pm on January 18, 2019 and a second showing at 10:00am on January 23, 2019. Please share with staff and board members. Please RSVP to Patty at [pmorison@fcmha.org](mailto:pmorison@fcmha.org).

**Presentation: Colleen Guardia, Frederick County YMCA Head Start**

The Frederick YMCA is the grantee for the federally funded Head Start program in Frederick County. The program provides comprehensive education, social, health, and nutrition services to eligible three and four-year-old children and their families in seven locations with 13 classrooms. They are federally funded to serve 242 children and are licensed for more than that. The minimum they can serve is 242 but they are currently serving around 250.

Children participate in appropriate educational experiences, field trips, nutritional meals, and health screenings. They also receive limited transportation services, referrals for disability and mental health issues, and school transition services. Family involvement in the program is encouraged and assistance is given in obtaining needed social services.

The plan for next school year is also 242 children and Head Start began taking applications on 1/2/19. Colleen distributed rack cards that are bilingual and left additional flyers on the table for IECC members to take. The best way for families to apply is to go to the Head Start office but they can go to the YMCA website (<https://frederickymca.org/programs/education/head-start/>) to begin the process. Referrals can also be sent by community partners to Head Start by completing that online application and Head Start staff would reach out to the family to complete the registration process. Basic information that is needed: will the child be either 3 or 4 on the first day of school; do they live in Frederick County?

The Office of Head Start asks the local Head Start to set up a prioritization list. Points are assigned to the following from highest to lowest:

Families living in transition, in foster care, or families receiving TCA or disability.

Families living at or below federal poverty guidelines-are then ask for proof of income-either the last 12 months or the last tax return.

Then points are assigned for:

Identified disabilities

ACES

This is to ensure that Head Start is serving the neediest children.

Ginny Simoneau asked if they know where the children not served end up? Head Start refers them to public pre-K and also licensed accredited child care. Terry Ridenour asked when parents are notified. Typically right after school gets out. But there are factors, transportation, are they in public pre-K, etc. Families are usually notified by August 1st but it is sometimes later due to extenuating circumstances. Martha Gurzick made the comment that this should be priority for all children based on brain research. Kathy Allen thanked her for having the health care perspective.

Early childhood delivery system does have standards that are research based. After basic licensing it is more voluntary on child care program's part. But it comes down to money to reach those higher standards.

Cathy Nusbaum said that there is good news on this front. She will share Kirwan Commission info at the next meeting.

Shelley Toms said that she just heard from Margaret Williams who has agreed to come to our next meeting to speak about the recommendations from the Kirwan Commission.

Pat Rosensteel asked about any news on Early Head Start. Colleen clarified Early Head Start is birth through 3 but there is no news for it in Frederick County at this time.

Ann Ryan asked how Liberty Elementary got a full day 3 pre-K Head Start. Colleen said they were looking to serve as many children as possible.

### **Small Group Discussion Regarding Strategic Planning:**

Should the IECCC have a strategic planning committee? This discussion is coming out of the Advocacy Group and the question: should the Advocacy Group be the strategic planning group? That is the discussion we would like each group to consider. We don't want the subcommittees to get stalled in just thinking about it issues. We have a lot of good ideas. How do we keep generating ideas but also implement them? The goal being that people feel that this is worthwhile work and since people are so busy this is one way to help implement actions. Another reason would be that sometimes there is grant money out there that the strategic committee might be able to apply for it.

So open discussion about this in the small groups. Do we want a separate strategic planning group?

### **Reports from subcommittees:**

#### **Education**

Cathy summarized for the group. They like the idea of the strategic planning committee. Talked about IECC's previous strategic plan was helpful. They are looking to narrow their focus but feel a lot will

change with Kirwan commission recommendations and feel they will have a better idea after next month's IECC meeting.

Perhaps they should have smaller action items that are more attainable.

### **Family Engagement**

Janet Vogel reported that the group talked about the things they really like about IECC such as the results of the informational presentations. For example when Lynn and Anne talked about ACES, the IECC mobilized and now it is part of the LHIP.

They did also say strategic planning group would be very helpful. They also need to really make sure that they have defined family engagement.

Actions steps around this and making sure they really engage families.

### **Advocacy**

Ann Ryan reported that the group discussed how to move forward but keep it manageable. Focus and get some traction around one goal that we all agree will make the most difference. Home visiting and ACES are really the top priorities. Getting behind the work Pilar Olivo is doing. Too many ideas from each subcommittee might be too much to take on, but to choose one, especially as it relates to reducing toxic stress for families. IECC is large but probably not large enough to support four committees. To turn advocacy into strategic planning would take away some of the work they have been doing.

Kathy Allen said what IECC would like is some help in organizing what we are trying to do.

Please keep thinking about this. The next meeting will probably take up most of time with Kirwan commissions and KRA data but the March meeting will return to this topic.

### **Pilar Olivo sent a ACES Workgroup update by email:**

At the December 2018 meeting, ACES Liaison Pilar Olivo gave a presentation gathered from her participation in the ACES 2018 Conference in San Francisco on the lessons learned by Center for Youth Wellness pilot sites working to implement ACES Screening in their organizations. Pilar is available to provide this presentation to other organizations considering implementing an ACES Screening. Please contact her at [polivo@FrederickCountyMD.gov](mailto:polivo@FrederickCountyMD.gov)

The January 2019 ACES meeting will deepen the capacity of ACES Workgroup members to be ambassadors on the impact of toxic stress. The group will review an information packed video on using communication science to talk about child development (TEASER: includes a surprise on what doesn't work!), a detailed review of the core story of brain development and a practice session. The meeting will also include time for subcommittees to meet.

### **Networking**

- Pat Rosensteel mentioned that Ryan Trout who ran for delegate and is an advocate in the community has always had an interest in how to help lower income families. He asked Pat what she thought about conditional cash transfers or CCT. Cash incentives to change behaviors. Does anyone know anything about this? Do you think this could be used to incentivize parents to get kids to school or to allow home visitors? Pat brought it to IECC for thoughts about this. Martha asked about research to show the results of this in other areas. Is this something we could look at as a pilot? Ryan Trout would like to present to IECC. Martha suggested that we get some information ahead of presentation to look at so all could come prepared with questions. Shelly suggested that we see the data for those who have done this. As in her experience, when they need more services the incentive is not large enough for families to think it is worth it. The consensus was that IECC first needs more information and data and will try to plan for him to present in a few months.
- Colleen reminded people to take Head Start flyers and posters. Contact Colleen if you need more!

- Lynda Mallory shared an overview of Safe Babies Court Team services. The Frederick County Safe Babies Court Team (SBCT) has been up and running for about seven months and is currently providing services to four families with six children. SBCT services are offered to any family with a child under the age of three who is coming under the court's jurisdictions as a Child in Need of Assistance (CINA), whether in foster care or an Order of Protective Services (OPS). Families who agree to participate in the SBCT are given monthly court hearings as opposed to the standard two to four hearings a year. They are also seen monthly at Family Team Meetings (FTM)s where the biological family, the foster family and all the professionals involved with the family, sit at the table to discuss the successes and challenges the family has faced and problem solve solutions to the challenges. The SBCT also holds monthly Stakeholder's meetings on the first Friday at 8:30am in the Courthouse Jury Room #2 where community agency representatives can discuss service availability and identified needs from a broader perspective.
- Darcy announced that the next round of Sprouting Melodies starts Saturday Jan. 12th for 8 weeks.
- Janet Vogel announced that library cards can be applied for at our organizations. She even brought her iPad if anyone needs one today. You can get one if you live, work, or go to school in Maryland. Contact Janet if you'd like to do a library card sign up event at your organization for staff or participants.
- Kathy Long shared that MSDE received the grant it applied for this fall to strengthen Early Learning. The press release is included following the minutes.

**Meeting adjourned at 2:35 pm.**

**Next Meeting – Thursday, February 7, 2019**

*Minutes Recorder – Stacy Wantz*

*Presentation – Margaret Williams, Maryland Family Network, Update on the Kirwan Commission Recommendations; Cathy Nusbaum, KRA Data for Frederick County*



**Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.**  
State Superintendent of Schools

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Maryland Awarded \$10.6 Million Federal Grant to Further Strengthen Early Learning** *Funding Targets Expanding Quality Programs*

**BALTIMORE (January 3, 2019)** – The Maryland State Department of Education has received a \$10.6 million federal grant to help improve programs for children, birth to five, throughout the State.

The Preschool Development Grant will allow Maryland to conduct a needs assessment on the availability and quality of early childhood programs, and develop a strategic plan to fuel continued improvement.

“Early childhood education provides a strong foundation for future success in the classroom,” said Governor Larry Hogan. “This federal grant will help expand educational opportunities for our youngest learners and give our children the start they deserve.”

Maryland’s new grant is one of 45 recently announced by the US Department of Health and Human Services. The \$10,618,584 grant is one of the largest awarded in the current cycle of the Preschool Development Grant program.

“This critical funding allows Maryland to strengthen collaboration and program improvement throughout our State on behalf of our youngest learners,” said Dr. Karen Salmon, State Superintendent of Schools. “By enhancing care and education for Pre-K students, particularly those from low-income households, we are investing in the future of our State.”

Maryland’s grant will help the State develop a plan to better utilize existing federal, state, local, and non-governmental resources to improve delivery of services, as well as to increase the number of children in high quality programs. Specifically, the grant will allow Maryland to:

- Hold eight regional Town Halls as part of a Prenatal to Age 5 needs assessment for the delivery of childcare services, focusing on the State’s most vulnerable children.
- Provide funding for all 24 local Early Childhood Advisory Councils.

- Provide training and coaching for nearly 200 early childhood educators on Maryland's new integrated curriculum for 4-year-olds.
- Modernize its early childhood data system.
- Support the expansion of the Maryland EXCELS program, a voluntary quality rating system for childcare programs.
- Develop an inventory of early childhood education programs at Maryland higher education institutions.
- Invest in family engagement activities.
- Provide grants for libraries to support children without access to early childhood programs.

Maryland's new grant is initially for a single year, but MSDE intends to apply for a three-year renewal grant.

More on the federal Preschool Development Grant program can be found here:  
<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/resource/pdg-b-5-initiative>

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