



Pulling Together for the Children of Frederick County

Frederick County Interagency Early Childhood Committee
A Subcommittee of the Local Management Board
MHA Community Services Wing
Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2019

Present: Kathy Allen, FCPS Judy Center; Jennifer, Centennial Center for Early Learning; Jennifer Barker-Frey; Leslie Barnes-Keating, Office for Children and Families; David Brewster, Frederick County DSS; Steve Buckley, Frederick County Developmental Center; Barbara Dillon, Blessings in a Backpack; Leslie Frei, FCPS Early Childhood; Diana Fulchiron, Community Foundation of Frederick; Malcolm Furgol, United Way of Frederick County; Colleen Guardia, YMCA Head Start; Dr. James Lee, Frederick County Pediatrics; Kathy Long, MSDE Office of Child Care; Patty Morison, Child Care Choices, Mental Health Association of Frederick County; Darcy O'Daniel, Noteable Progressions; Pilar Olivo, Child Advocacy Center; Pat Rosensteel, Children of Incarcerated Parents Program (COIPP); Ann Ryan, Housing Authority; Ginny Simoneau, Children's Center of Walkersville; Carrie Sorenson, U of MD Extension; Shelly Toms, Family Partnership; Amy Tzortzinis, Frederick County Pediatrics; Stacy Wantz, YMCA Head Start.

Meeting Minutes Recorder: Stacy Wantz

Welcome & Introductions: Kathy Allen opened the meeting at 1:05 pm. Attendees introduced themselves.

Review and Approval of Minutes

Colleen Guardia requested a correction to the minutes, page two, second paragraph, to read, "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, children in foster care, families receiving TCA, or a family member receiving disabilities benefits. Families living at or below federal poverty guidelines are asked for proof of income –either the last 12 months or the last tax return." Colleen Guardia also suggested that the last three sentences of the succeeding paragraph (page two, third paragraph), be deleted from the minutes, as it detailed discussion that was extraneous. Pat Rosensteel made a motion to approve the minutes with the two noted corrections; Colleen Guardia seconded the motion. Motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

Agenda revisions

Kathy Allen related that Nancy Boyd was unable to attend and provide the presentation on the Asian American Center of Frederick.

Kathy Allen announced that a sign-up sheet for Frederick's Child magazine would circulate the meeting, asking committee members to indicate events for their respective programs that could be published in the magazine in the upcoming issue.

Kathy Allen provided follow-up information to last month's discussion of developing a Strategic Planning Committee for the IECC – Steve Buckley arranged a meeting with Rissah Watkins at the Frederick County Health Department for Kathy and Janet, who proposed next steps for the IECC to include a SWOT exercise. The SWOT exercise would involve IECC members to analyze the Strengths,

Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats of the committee for purposes of developing a strategic plan. Kathy indicated that IECC members will receive an email notification for a survey link prior to the next meeting (for members to indicate potential strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of the IECC), and the aggregated results will be shared at the March meeting. Pat Rosensteel asked how the SWOT exercise will feed into what the IECC wants to do as an IECC/group? Pat also shared that the SWOT exercise may elicit better responses from members if not presented as a survey format, ideas and critical thinking is often generated with the face-to-face dialog of the exercise. Kathy related that she would confer with Janet and report back to the committee.

KRA Report Data presentation – Leslie Frei

The Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) is Maryland's assessment tool to measure children's readiness skills as "Demonstrating Readiness" (consistently demonstrates the foundational skills and behaviors that enable a child to fully participate in the kindergarten curriculum); "Approaching Readiness" (exhibits some of the foundational skills and behaviors that are needed to participate in the kindergarten curriculum; and "Emerging Readiness" (displays minimal foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her to meet kindergarten expectations).

There are two formats in administering the KRA: Census (each teacher administers the KRA to all incoming kindergartners) and Sample (each teacher administers the KRA to a sample of students in his/her classroom. MSDE determines the sample size based on enrollment data). Local boards of education and individual schools choose the method of administering KRA.

- MD counties/jurisdictions that chose Census Administration: Allegany, Baltimore City, Caroline, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Washington, Wicomico, and Worcester
- MD counties/jurisdictions that chose Sample Administration (and the sample percentage assessed): Anne Arundel (21%), Baltimore County (20%), Calvert (27%), Carroll (31%), Frederick (31%), Garrett (37%), Harford (31%), Howard (31%), Montgomery (12%), and Prince George's (12%)

Statewide, 39% of kindergartners were assessed (*for 2017-2018, 35% of kindergartners were assessed*):

- 47% demonstrate readiness (*for 2017-2018, 45% demonstrate readiness*)
- 33% approaching readiness (*for 2017-2018, 37% approaching readiness*)
- 20% emerging readiness (*for 2017-2018, 18% emerging readiness*)

For Frederick County (31% of kindergartners assessed) (*for 2017-2018, 30% were assessed*):

- 59% demonstrate readiness (*for 2017-2018, 54% demonstrate readiness*)
- 29% approaching readiness (*for 2017-2018, 32% approaching readiness*)
- 12% emerging readiness (*for 2017-2018, 14% emerging readiness*)

Frederick County is one of six jurisdictions that performed far above the state average of 47%: Worcester (66%), Carroll (61%), Somerset (60%), Frederick (59%), Queen Anne's (57%), and Howard (56%)

The KRA assesses kindergartners in four domains: Social Foundations, Language & Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Well-Being & Motor Development

KRA Report for each domain is reported as an average numerical score (of 298 possible points):

- Social Foundations:
 - State Average Score = 273 (*for 2017-2018, average was 54%*)
 - Frederick County Average Score = 279 (*for 2017-2018, average was 63%*)
- Language & Literacy:

- State Average Score = 268 (*for 2017-2018, average was 40%*)
 - Frederick County Average Score = 272 (*for 2017-2018, average was 49%*)
- Mathematics:
 - State Average Score = 268 (*for 2017-2018, average was 37%*)
 - Frederick County Average Score = 270 (*for 2017-2018, average was 39%*)
- Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:
 - State Average Score = 275 (*for 2017-2018, average was 56%*)
 - Frederick County Average Score = 281 (*for 2017-2018, average was 65%*)

Frederick County KRA data as reported by subgroups:

- Race/Ethnicity:
 - Percentage of the kindergartners:
 - White = 59% (*for 2017-2018, 60%*)
 - Hispanic/Latino = 16% (*for 2017-2018, 18%*)
 - Black/AA = 13% (*for 2017-2018, 11%*)
 - Two or More = 7% (*for 2017-2018, 6%*)
 - Asian = 5% (*for 2017-2018, 5%*)
 - Percentage Demonstrating Readiness by Race/Ethnicity:
 - White = 68% (*for 2017-2018, 63%*)
 - Two or More = 62% (*for 2017-2018, 46%*)
 - Asian = 51% (*for 2017-2018, 60%*)
 - Black/AA = 48% (*for 2017-2018, 46%*)
 - Hispanic/Latino = 38% (*for 2017-2018, 33%*)
- Household Income (percentage Demonstrating Readiness):
 - Middle or High Income = 68% (*for 2017-2018, 62%*)
 - Low-Income = 37% (*for 2017-2018, 36%*)
 - Gap (Low to Middle or High) = 31% (*for 2017-2018, 26%*)
- Language (percentage Demonstrating Readiness):
 - English Fluent = 62% (*for 2017-2018, 59%*)
 - English Learners = 34% (*for 2017-2018, 26%*)
 - Gap (English Learners to English Fluent) = 28% (*for 2017-2018, 33%*)
- Disability Status (percentage Demonstrating Readiness):
 - Children Without Disabilities = 62%
 - Children With Disabilities = 40%
 - Gap (Without Disabilities to With Disabilities) = 22%
 - *Data for 2017-2018 not available; 2% of kindergartners in FCPS have identified disabilities, and fewer than 25 kindergartners were assessed*
- Prior Care
 - Percentage of Kindergartners:
 - PreK = 38% (*for 2017-2018, 37%*)
 - Child Care = 24% (*for 2017-2018, 19%*)
 - Non-Public Nursery = 18% (*for 2017-2018, 21%*)
 - Home/Informal = 13% (*for 2017-2018, 13%*)
 - Family Child Care = 5% (*for 2017-2018, 6%*)
 - Head Start = 2% (*for 2017-2018, 5%*)
 - Percentage Demonstrating Readiness by Prior Care:
 - Non-Public Nursery = 76% (*for 2017-2018, 67%*)
 - Family Child Care = 74% (*for 2017-2018, 68%*)
 - Child Care = 67% (*for 2017-2018, 61%*)
 - PreK = 52% (*for 2017-2018, 49%*)

- Home/Informal = 39% (for 2017-2018, 43%)
- Head Start = Unavailable, fewer than 25 children assessed (for 2017-2018, 38%)

Thirty-five percent of Frederick County's 3,011 Kindergartners were enrolled in publicly funded PreK programs last year (2017-2018). *Whereas thirty-eight percent of Frederick County's 2,849 Kindergartners in school year 2016-2017.*

Of those 35%, zero percent attended full day programs. *Whereas, four percent of the 38% attending public-PreK attended full day programs during 2016-2017.*

There was discussion around why the reporting format changed this year (from last year), and that this year's graph information seems to be vague and unclear of its representation. IECC members would like clarity and if possible, a representative from MSDE to attend a future meeting to engage/participate in this discussion.

Kirwan Commission Presentation: Margaret Williams, Executive Director, Maryland Family Network (mwilliams@marylandfamilynetwork.org)

“Maryland Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education” took on the name of the Kirwan Commission after Dr. William Kirwan, Commission Chair.

Essentially, this report effects every man, woman and child in Maryland; yet the work remains unfinished.

The Commission consists of 25 members, and includes representation of the MSDE Superintendent, David Brinkley, a Maryland school principal, County Executive, eight elected officials, and the business community.

The report presented to the General Assembly is available at the website: mgaleg.maryland.gov (click on “Committees” tab; scroll down to “Other” section; click “Innovation and Excellence in Education, Commission on”; scroll to bottom of page and click on “Meeting Schedule, Agenda, and Supporting Documents”).

The Commission’s charge was to research:

- Availability of innovative educational opportunities; and
- Adequacy and equity of State funding for pre-K through grade 12 public education.

The Commission began by asking, “What do high performing systems do?” Their findings indicated more agreement on what to do with Early Education than any other area. The Commission’s Report includes a \$4 billion price tag, with recommendations that are radically different from what we are currently doing in Maryland.

In 2017, workgroups were established:

- Early Childhood Education
- High Quality, Diverse Teachers and School Leaders
- College and Career Readiness Pathways
- Resources for At-risk Students
- Governance and Accountability

The Early Childhood Education workgroup’s efforts included:

- Analysis of Maryland Pre-K programs, recommendations, and funding models (conducted by Augenblick, Palaich and Associates (APA);
- Gap analysis by National Center in Education and Economy (NCEE) –
 - Looked at high performing countries/areas (Finland, Ontario, Shanghai, Singapore)....of the 60 countries in the study, USA was 30th
 - Looked at high performing states within US (MA, NH, NJ)...of 50 states, Maryland is 30th
 - Results indicated that all high performers have broad-based supports, child care for 0-3, and Early Childhood Education
 - Broad-based supports include: family allowances, pre-natal care and home visits, and parental education and social services
 - Child care for 0-3 include: care for 0-2 yr olds limited due to family leave, heavily subsidized care for 3's, and competitive salaries for providers
 - Early Childhood Education includes: public and private programs for 4's & 5's, and free or very low cost education
 - NCEE's recommendations include: expand Family Support Centers (FSCs) and Judy Centers, raise income ceiling for Child Care Subsidy Program, raise the level of subsidy, create a career ladder for providers, expand mentorships and professional development, support universal education for 4s with sliding scale, and add early childhood educators to schools' career ladder system & link opportunities to the ladder
- The Commission's ECE workgroup recommendations include: Pre-K for 4 year olds, Pre-K for low-income 3 year olds, capacity building for new and current programs, FSC's, Judy Centers, and I&T, and KRA Census Administration statewide

Commission's current status:

- Detailed policy recommendations and total costs for the plan to be completed (*\$4 billion price tag, how much funded from state, how much funded local governments?*)
- Detailed ten year implementation plan in all 5 policy areas completed
- Funding recommendations for FY 20 completed
- Commission report to be delivered to Governor and General Assembly in January
- Presiding Officers' Letter to the Commission

Desired actions in 2019 Legislative Session:

- Approval of policy framework
- Allocation of up to \$325 million as a jumpstart Commission recommendations
- Reserve \$750 million for FY21 as state's share of implementation plan's first year

Final thoughts:

- Confident the Commission has developed a report that could transform Maryland PreK – 12 education into a high performing system
- But will the State have the resolve and persistence to fully implement them?
- The Massachusetts example and the Grand Bargain (Grand Bargain = commitment to not be political)
- Critical moment for Maryland
- Our choice: continue making incremental changes and hope for significantly different results, or be bold and change the future for our children and state

Questions from IECC members:

- Malcolm Furgol: What was the response from the General Assembly on the Report? *Margaret: In general, how are we going to pay for it?*

- Dr. Lee: Any on the outside looking in, with regard to the Commission? *Margaret: NCEE, APA*
- Ann Ryan: Has ACE's been woven into the discussion, if so, to what degree? *Margaret: Yes, nothing extra - captured with the home visiting piece evidenced in high performing school systems*
- Leslie Frei: Timeline for funding? *Margaret: Next year, if approved in April 2020, will be implemented 2021-2022 school year*
- Pilar Olivo: Universal home-visiting program? *Margaret: State ECAC grant applications to support home visiting/parenting programs*

Networking

Patty Morrison: (1) almost 70 people attended the Resilience screenings at the library, will add 2 additional dates for future screenings; (2) Children's Festival Planning Committee – soliciting IECC members to join the committee, meets at noon just prior to the IECC meeting.

Diana Fulchiron: Women's Giving Circle grant application period 2/11 – 3/11, information available on the Community Foundation of Frederick County's website

Malcolm Furgol: (1) Free tax preparation 2/5 – 4/11, call 211 to schedule an appointment, PDF of the flyer in English and Spanish is available on the United Way's website; (2) April Live United grant cycle information available on United Way's website; (3) United Way's advocacy platform – met with elected officials and shared the ALICE Report information, more data specific to Frederick County (i.e., Seniors to be released in March – presenting ALICE Report to the Women's Giving Circle in March, extend the invitation to present the information to other groups/agencies (please let Malcolm know if interested); (4) Unity Campaign 2019 – information available on United Way website, required information session scheduled for 2/22/19; (5) Summer Serve registration is open (12-17 year olds)

Leslie Frei: Pre-K registration opens March 18th - early registration will help secure classrooms (i.e., locations, class size, etc.) for the 2019-2020 school year.

Pilar Olivo: (1) April 5th Wear Blue Day for Child Abuse Prevention; (2) Proclamations occurring throughout the County: March 27th @ 7:30pm in Walkersville, April 1st @ 7:30pm in Emmitsburg, April 2nd @ 7pm in Thurmont, and April 9th @ 7pm in Brunswick; (3) CAC is sponsoring First Saturday in April

Shelly Toms: New Child Advocacy Center Director (Robin Grove) will begin 2/18/19

Meeting adjourned at 2:40pm

Next Meeting – Thursday, March 7, 2019

Minutes Recorder – Cathy Nusbaum

Presentation – Dr. James Lee, Frederick County Pediatrics