



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

December 5, 2019

- Attendees: Patty Morison, Pat Rosensteel, Kathy Allen, Jennifer Barker-Frey, Stacy Herbst, Leslie Frei, Malcolm Furgol, Kathy Long, Cathy Nusbaum, Janet Vogel, Ginny Simoneau, Sarah McAleavy, Colleen Guardia, Steve Buckley, Jim Miller, Jolena Simoneau, Janet Speak, Leila Gualfari
- Review and Approval of Minutes: Approved unanimously
- Janet passed around a sign-up sheet for “It’s a Brain Thing” articles in *Frederick’s Child Magazine*
- Presentations:
 - Leslie Frei, Frederick County Public Schools Early Childhood Education—See attached handout
 - What is the plan for pre-K expansion? Hopefully, 4 schools will be added next year.
 - Official stance on KRA census—Currently all schools that have a specialized grant must do census. This year it is 9 schools. The ECE department will be presenting to the BOE early next year to ask for all schools to be census schools.
 - What is the window for early entry?—Parents can apply beginning in March through May 31st. If a family moves into the area after that, they can still apply.
 - What is the process for maturity waivers? Parent signs and submits the form before school starts.
 - Patty Morison, Child Care Choices, Children’s Festival—See attached power point. Call to Action—consider joining the committee which meets the hour before IECC December through April. Help with sponsorships—email suggestions to pmorison@fcmha.org.
- ACEs Committee Update: Pilar Olivo – see attached.
- Preschool Development Grant Update
 - We Design Summit Follow Up: Janet and Kathy presented information about the evaluations from We Design. Additional awareness activities: Implementing ACEs Screening Program to 40 attendees, 40 FCPS

principals and APs played the brain architecture game, FCAA School Based Health Center staff will be trained on ACEs screening, and many others.

Malcolm provided an update on a meeting with Mary Ford Naill from the City's Office of Economic Development.

- Child Care Provider Conference Follow Up: Patty Morison—Frank Kros was great and really tailored his presentation to the work that is happening in Frederick. The yoga instructor was ill so that part has been postponed until February.
- Strategic Planning Review and Next Steps—Pat Rosensteel passed around the goals and strategies developed at the strategic planning session as well as a format for developing a work plan to achieve those goals. She passed around sign-up sheet for members to sign up to work on one of the four goals. There was a short discussion about whether the committee should lengthen our regular meeting or have an additional meeting to work on the plan. It was agreed that Pat would send a Doodle poll for people to vote.
- State ECAC Meeting Update—Learned about the new Maryland Early Childhood Leadership Program (MECLIP) initiative designed to provide leadership training for early childhood professionals based out of UMBC. The first cohort will launch this January.

[Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health gap analysis and strategic plan](#) review. An overview of the report was provided and feedback for strategies to achieve the plan as well as existing activities were requested as part of a group exercise. A gap area identified is that the ECE workforce feels unprepared to handle mental health challenges with children and they lack foundational knowledge and skills. The group plans to focus on improving professional development and expanding existing successful tools. The project's home page is available [here](#).

Family Engagement Initiative update wanted to remind ECACs about the Maryland Families Engage website (<https://marylandfamiliesengage.org/>). Additionally, they are using technology including Ready Rosie (!) and a service called Bright by Text in partnership with MPT.

- State PDG 0-5 grant updates—Our grant has received an extension through February, at which point we will wrap up all of our activities. As we anticipated, the state has applied for a 3 year renewal grant. They will know if they received the funding by the end of December. After that, we anticipate that the IECC will be invited to apply for another round of funding along with the other county ECACs. MSDE has changed the grant focus for the renewal from 0-5 to prenatal to grade 3.
- Pritzker Grant Team Update: Pat Rosensteel—State group looking to secure \$1M for pre-natal to age 8 from the Pritzker Foundation. The application needs information on what is currently happening and how we are using funds.

- Networking
 - Jim shared that DSS is seeing a marked increase in parents requesting voluntary placements.
DSS is having a lot of moving around with staff positions. If anyone serves on a committee and they feel DSS should be represented, please contact Jim.
 - Kathy shared that the Maternal Health Collaborative is working on a grant application to the Community Health Resources Commission to address maternal health disparities among African American mothers.
 - Judy Center Bookfair at Barnes and Noble
 - Malcolm shared VITA flyers. Call 211 or 1-866-411-6803 to schedule an appointment. They will have community resource navigators available during tax hours to help people getting their taxes prepared connect with other community resources.
Live United grant cycle is open. Dates and information on the UW website.
 - Pat shared that COIPP will have an office at Federated Charities beginning in January.
 - Janet shared that FCPL will be hosting a Winter Reading Challenge for all ages (birth-adult) January 1-31. For more information, visit fcpl.org/winter.

Next Meeting –
January 2, 2020 1 p.m. MHA Community Services Wing
Minutes Recorder – Cathy Nusbaum