

Frederick County Interagency Early Childhood Committee

Meeting notes February 2, 2023

Committee members in attendance: Colleen Guardia, Karin Toth, Holly Sontz, Kelly Robbins, Jennifer Barker-Frey, Pilar Olivo, Patty Morison, Nancy Boyd, Jessica Lertora, Leslie Frei, Sarah Martin

Notes recorded by: Leslie Frei

Review of minutes from 10/6/23 - Colleen Guardia made a motion to approve. Shelly Toms seconded the motion.

Jessica Lertora requested committee members sign up to take minutes for future minutes

Updates:

Draft Year 3 ECAC Evaluation Report Leslie Frei shared on Kathy Allen's behalf. Updates are still being made, all due by 2/10. This item will be on March agenda once all finalizations are made.

Jessica Lertora shared that we will dig into the strategic plan. Shelly Toms recommended we review the plan as a group and then prepare to present as a final product

Child Care Choices updates - Patty Morison – Patty needs IECC support on Children's Festival Committee. Same people have been serving for years and years. Next month is March – one month before festival. Patty is in desperate need of support, especially on the day of event to support with many of the physical requirements. Key City Rotary reached out to add Children's Festival as one of their service projects. Patty believes flyer will be prepared by next week.

Childcare Symposium – Patty Morison -219 registrants – 182 attendees. Had a DJ this year, very popular. All participants got copy of keynote speakers' book.

Growing Opportunities in Family Child Care (GOFCC) grant – Patty Morison – Supports informal care providers in getting licensed. In the current cohort, 26 potential family childcare providers and 7 Co-providers across 5 counties 15 providers are in Frederick county. Cohort started in January, will go through April and have their license. All training is free. Participants will earn a printer and laptop, first aid kits upon completion for participating in cohort. Child Care Choices spans 5 counties.

Child Care Market Study – Shelly Toms RFP went out on Nov. 18th. November meeting 18 participants from 14 partnerships. Review panel has Colleen, Patty, Shelly, Pilar. Found an expert to serve on review panel Jeanna Capito from P-5 Fiscal Strategies. Four proposals were submitted and the committee is very close to selecting finalist.

ACES workgroup – Pilar Olivo - providing 2600 flyers from VROOM (tips and tricks for building brains). Also working on Serve & Return video – 30 second video to be played at Warehouse Cinemas before movies! Infographic on building brain architecture will be available in English and Spanish.

Community Schools Update – will be tabled for next meeting, DeVeda not in attendance.

Final IECC Strategic Plan – The whole group reviewed the Goals and objectives of the plan. Not enough committee members in attendance to break into smaller groups. The group walked through each goal, objectives, and outcomes by timeline definitions.

Workgroups: Awareness Committee, Collaboration Committee, Data & Advocacy Committee

Networking:

Shelly Toms – shared that she’s working on a Proclamation for the Month of the Young Child. Office of Children and Families (OCF) is seeking community voice as the Local Management Board goes through the process to update our Community Plan . Convenings happening around the county. Reach out to Shelly with questions.

Leslie Frei – FCPS is expanding 4-year-old full day Pre-K next year. All 4-year-old Special Education programs will be full day. Enrollment is slated to open mid-March

Next meeting: March 2, 2023 in person at MHA