



Pulling Together for the Children of Frederick County

Frederick County Interagency Early Childhood Committee

A Subcommittee of the Local Management Board

Mission Statement:

To promote the healthy development and well-being of young children and their families through community collaboration

Mental Health Association | 226 S. Jefferson St | Thursday, May 4, 2023, | 1-2 pm

Attendees:

Steve Buckley, Director, Frederick County Developmental Center

Tara Plowman, Program Administrator, FCPS Judy Center at Butterfly Ridge Elementary School

Kelly Robbins, Teacher Specialist ECE FCPS

Jessica Lertora, Safe Baby Court Team Coordinator, Zero to Three

Annie Committo, Frederick Be SMART, presenter

Kittybelle Hosford, community member

Linda Duckett, NAACP, guest

Willie Mahone, NAACP, guest

Erin Gambrill, Youth Services Supervisor, Frederick County Public Libraries

Rousana Soto, Regional Manager, MSDE Office of Child Care

Shelly Toms, Director, Frederick County Office for Children and Families

Patty Morison, Program Director, Mental Health Association, Child Care Choices

Pilar Olivo, ACEs Liaison, Frederick County Office for Children and Families

Kathy Allen, FCPS Early Childhood Education and Judy Centers

Claudia Hernandez, Program Administrator, FCPS Judy Center at Waverly Elementary School

Meeting convened at 1:03 pm

1. Introductions

Jessica reviewed the decision to shorten the meetings to one hour.

2. April Meeting Minutes

Leslie made the motion to adopt the minutes. Erin seconded the motion. 8 yeses. 4 abstentions 0 nos.

3. Nomination for Co-Chair

Steve Buckley was nominated to start July 1, 2023, for a two-year term. He graciously accepted. Shelly made the motion and Patty seconded. 8 yeses. 0 nos. 4 abstentions.

4. Children's Festival -- Patty Morison

1800 people attended. 5 food trucks. Families came back in after enjoying the playground. Gave 2000 books to help strengthen books thanks to FCPS Judy Centers and Pyramid Program. Really good books with nice variety. Huge success. We gave families so much great stuff. Early decision to move inside made it easier. Urbana High School volunteers did a great job; they took over for the Events people to get tables and chairs set-up on time and to clean up at the end.

Child Care Choices has led the Children's Festival for years. We have been asking for help. Chair and CCC staff have been separating out what each party needs to do. We want to propose to move the chair from Child Care Choices to IECC. Patty retires June 29 but she plans to stay on the IECC and plans to stay on the OCF CCAG for the Child Care Market Study. Patty plans to chair the Children's Festival for the next two years. More than willing to co-chair with someone if IECC wants to continue. Congratulations to Patty and thank you for still being willing to lead. She's inspired by Pat & Nancy Boyd.

Erin asked if Children's Festival should be a standing committee of the IECC. Patty explained that there's a focused time frame from January – May with just a little bit of time. Patty has delineated the division of labor between the IECC and Child Care Choices with an SOP and an Access database that she can share.

Shelly will review bylaws to see what the process we need to follow to create a structure within the IECC to take on the Children's Festival more formally for next meeting agenda.

5. Child Care Market Study—Pilar Olivo

See attached presentation.

23,000 Find Out First emails went out today.

Spanish

Child Care Choices – 4-5 events per week with Love for Lochlin

FCPL Storytimes this week and next – elevator speech

Child Care Providers – sharing it with families FCC's Children's Center

FCDC on FB page Infants & Toddlers – Julie DeRoner will email directly to families.

Faith Community – do we have access to broad faith community—through DSS has a Jessica will send to DSS for the faith community.

Willie Mahone – please share with NAACP so they can help distribute it.

6. Frederick Be SMART Annie Committo –

Guns are in homes with kids. Many are unsecured and in places in where kids can have easy access.

We support responsible gun ownership. Be SMART is focused on educating parents on how to safely store guns and to normalize conversations between parents about safe gun storage when kids visit each other's homes. We don't advocate for gun control.

We know that age groups that most commonly find guns and kill themselves or hurt others are teens and kids who are 2-4 years old. This is preventable through education of parents. We can do more to educate parents to protect their kids. We are interested in a partnership. We can do presentations, show and tell with biometric safe gun storage devices; we have digital images, we co-present with law enforcement.

It's a very uncomfortable conversation, so we appreciate your efforts to make it possible. We have a handout that shows different storage items.

People want to have a gun by their bed in the event that someone comes into the home. But kids know where the gun is and like to show it to their friends and new visitors.

Parents can make safe gun storage part of the allergy, pet, pool conversation.

Be SMART can discuss extreme risk protection orders with people.

Besmartforkids.org

7. Kindergarten Readiness Assessment with Kelly Robbins (see attached presentation)

Blueprint for Maryland's Future

5 pillars – first is early childhood education.

Early Learning Assessment and Kindergarten Readiness Assessment

In 2022 was the first year of census – all kindergarteners in Frederick County – one on one assessments with teachers. Strict timeline for conducting the assessment.

Teachers can design instruction as they gather the assessment information. No need to wait. They can respond immediately to help children learn new skills. Students are tested in English, so ELL show much lower readiness. Maryland legislature has decided against testing in other languages. Blueprint is putting some pressure to assess in other languages.

Prior care Formal care outperforms informal care.

Ready at Five website with current KRA has not been updated yet.

8. IECC Virtual vs. In-Person Meetings

Suggested that Dec-Feb will be virtual and March to November will be in-person. Can we survey the whole distribution list on their preference for in person, splitting the year in person and virtual or doing hybrid meetings? We need to assign someone to monitor the people participating virtually. Jessica will do a poll to get an idea on the options. Jessica or FCPL can provide the owl.

9. July Meeting

Kathy made the motion and Leslie seconded. Unanimous approval to cancel meeting in July.

Kathy made the motion and Patty seconded to adjourn the meeting at 2:18.

Respectfully submitted by,

Pilar Olivo, ACES Liaison, Frederick County Office for Children & Families