



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 7, 2023

Present:

Alyssa Palermo, Barbara Pinnock, Danica Warden, Diana Fulchiron, Erin Gambrill, Holly Sontz, Julian Bleaggi, Kathy Allen, Nancy Boyd, Pat Rosensteel, Leslie Frei, Patty Morison, Pilar Olivo, Rousana Soto, Sarah Martin, Steve Buckley, Shelly Toms, Brittany Rosado, Chris Klein, Kelly Robbins, Jennifer Barker-Frey, Michelle Lucena

Meeting Minutes Recorder: Pat Rosensteel

Welcome & Introductions: Steve opened the meeting at 1:06 p.m. Attendees introduced themselves.

Review and Approval of Minutes:

There were several slight revisions to the November minutes. Motion was made by Erin to approve the minutes with revisions, seconded by Patty, and passed by all.

IECC Website: Pat and Pilar

Pat presented the newly revised and published IECC website and gave participants a “tour” of the contents. Members were encouraged to use the website, and post it on their websites and social media accounts. Any changes or additions should be sent to Pat Rosensteel, who will compile them and send on to Sarah Ford for revisions. An events calendar is still to be developed. Those who worked hard to develop the website were commended for their work on this project over the past several years: Pilar, Sarah, Shelly, Leslie, Erin, Kathy, Jessica, Jim, and Pat. (Sorry if we missed anyone!)

The Awareness Subcommittee will work on ideas for promoting the website, such as creating a QR code, determining how and when to review it for updates, adding family-friendly businesses when they are selected (Patty will research this).

Website link: <https://frederickcountymd.gov/8213/Interagency-Early-Childhood-Committee>

Subcommittee Report Outs and Next Steps:

- Awareness Subcommittee: (Erin/Pat) Members are reading and assessing Frameworks and other articles for possible inclusion on the website and promotion to IECC members.
- Collaboration Subcommittee: (Michelle) No meeting this month. Holly agreed to co-chair with Michelle.
- Data & Advocacy Subcommittee: (Diana) Will send in updates.

Kathy will be the gatekeeper for the IECC Google Docs and will send everyone the link.

Children's Festival Planning: Patty

The planning meetings will begin on January 4th. They will be held as virtual meetings on the first Thursday of each month through April, just before the IECC meeting (at 12:00) at MHA. Patty again urged the IECC members to get involved, since the festival is an IECC project. Pat suggested that a committee sign-up be placed in the IECC Google Docs so people can join in.

Agency/organization/business sponsorships are still needed. Contact Patty via this email address: childrensfestival@fcmha.org

Updates and Networking:

- Child Care Market Study: Pilar & Shelly
 - The 3rd community input session (Business and Employer Focus) was held on December 6th. Mostly child care business representatives attended. Chamber of Commerce President, Rick Weldon, noted that a recent Chamber survey revealed child care to be the #1 barrier for employers, followed by transportation and compensation/benefits.
 - Pilar presented some findings from the Market Study. There is new data on the net social return on investment in child care. \$1 = \$1.78 (78% return) for center-based child care, and \$1 = \$1.45 (45% return) for home-based child care. The final report is due to be completed in February,
 - The Immigrant Families Focus Group is to be held at Family Partnership on December 13 & 14.
 - The 4th community input session (for families) is to be held at Waverley Judy Center on December 13th from 6-8 p.m. with dinner and limited child care
- ACEs Workgroup: Pilar
 - VROOM Partnership – The data access agreement with the Bezon Family Foundation is due to be signed by FCPS. We will be able to access the number of families who download the app and who actively use it (by zip code). Funding will be needed for rack cards for the Children's Festival and other uses. Materials are available in multiple languages.
 - Diaper Gap – The Ausherman Family Foundation has earmarked \$20,000 for the effort, which will make available 2 million diapers to the hospital at a reduced cost. Public distribution will be through the Rescue Mission's Food Bank, the Diaper Bank, and CareNet. Kathy will share with Pilar the distribution method promoted by the National Diaper Bank.
- Partner Sharing
 - Steve urged everyone to join a subcommittee!
 - The Kris Kringle Parade will take place on Friday, December 8th.

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 pm.

Next IECC Meeting – *Thursday, January 4th at 1:00 p.m.*

Minutes Recorder – Pilar Olivo

Presentation –Family Connects, Maria Wardlow and Lori Sprecher

Children's Festival Planning Meeting – *Same day at 12:00 noon*