



Pulling Together for the Children of Frederick County

Frederick County Interagency Early Childhood Committee
A Subcommittee of the Local Management Board

Meeting Minutes

January 4, 2024

Attendees

Jim Miller, Tara Plowman, Claudia Hernandez, Gillian Bleggi, Diana Fulchiron, Chante Frazier,, Lori Sprecher, Maria Wardlow, Kittybelle Hosford, Sarah Martin, Pat Rosensteel, Pilar Olivo, Delaine Welch, Jessica Lertora, Alyssa Palmermo, Leslie Frei, Kerry Fair, Jen Shell, Kathy Allen, Patty Morison, Erin Gambrill, Karin Toth, Holly Sontz, Jawan Hopwood, Kelly Robbins, Nancy Boyd, Christy Donnelly, Barb May, Jennifer Thompson

Review and Approval of December Meeting Minutes

Jim thanked Pat Rosensteel for the December meeting minutes. One change was requested: Children's Festival meets virtually not hybrid. Diana Fulchiron motioned to adopt as revised. Second is Tara Plowman. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Pilar announced that volunteer note takers are needed for February and March. Tara Plowman and Gillian Bleggi volunteered. Sign up [here](#) for presentations and to take notes.

Family Connects Frederick County with Maria Wardlow and Lori Sprecher

Maria and Lori gave an overview of the nurse home visiting service that Frederick Health provides to Frederick County families with newborns. This service is for all, at three weeks, no cost to recipients, done by a registered nurse.

Maria and Lori shared stories from the nurse case conference:

- Created a safe sleep environment for babies who didn't have one and a sleep plan for the mom who wasn't sleeping at all.
- Support for family in an unsafe living space with understanding tenant rights and getting legal assistance
- Previously undiagnosed elevated blood pressure – elevated at visit.
- Infant breathing distress at visit
- Mother contact nurse 4 months after visit for postpartum depression/anxiety within 48 hours
- Maria and Lori shared stories from feedback after the post-visit connection call.

Insights to Action

- Health education to families
- Community education with nurses
- Better family planning services
- Streamline referral processes for home visiting and mental health services
- Diaper partnership to provide 2 million diapers here in Frederick County

Performance

- 88% Scheduling Rate of Eligible Families – 1/1-11/30/2023
- 64% Population Reach of Eligible Families – 1081 Completed Home Visits 1/1-10/31/2023
- Family Connects is visiting a population that is comparable to Frederick Health and Frederick County 2022 birth data.
- The primary gap is with families with Medicaid – started at 18% and now it is 22% compared to 30% at the hospital overall.
- Referral Connection Rate – 58% – track referrals needed to meet a family's need related to a risk they face. This rate has been increasing.

NEW Referrals

- 131 Enfamil Home Shipman Program
- 98 Child Care Choices
- 79 Postpartum Support International
- 68 WIC
- 65 Baby Best Breastfeeding/Lactation at FH

Where else are families having babies? 8 top hospitals, include

- Shady Grove
- Holy Cross Germantown
- Meritus
- Very small number have babies at home

Request materials for program rack cards, flyers or posters by emailing
mwardlow@frederick.health

Child Care Choices Children's Festival Planning-Patty Morison

Subcommittee had its first meeting today. Patty needs a co-chair for the subcommittee – primary tasks are organization to support the event and seek use of Baker Park without a fee. Leslie Frei and Ginny Simoneau are working on food with 3 food trucks. Claudia Hernandez will help with volunteer recruitment and day-of management. Nancy and Pat and Erin are working on publicity. Need a leader for entertainment – primarily a day-of – emcee – Jim Miller volunteered. Need someone for the Education Table – Leslie Frei volunteered. Sarah M is still awaiting the outcome of the MSDE grant to MHA/Child Care Choices which includes resources for the education table. Patty is seeking a volunteer who will lead outreach to donors. MHA has led the outreach to PNC. Judy Center has done outreach as well. Seeking pictures of young children at last year's Children's Festival for the flyers – need a photo release.

- Please send sponsor/donor information to Frederick Health.
- Pilar suggested seeking a partnership with the Frederick News Post for event sponsorship outreach through a publication. Contact Geordie Wilson gwilson@newspost.com and Connie Hastings chastings@newspost.com.

Subcommittee Report Outs & Next Steps – Please send your updates to Steve and Jim.

- Awareness Committee – Pat Rosensteel & Erin Gambrill
- Collaboration Committee – Micheline Lucena & Holly Sontz
- Data & Advocacy Committee – Diana Fulchiron & Jessica Lertora

Child Care Market Study - Pilar Olivo

The study is nearing the end. The final report should be submitted in mid-February. Interactive maps will be available for policy, program, and philanthropic planning . All the qualitative research is completed. Four components were added to learn the needs of immigrant families: interview with Dr. Oladeinde, chair of Immigrant Affairs Commission; two focus groups at Family Partnership and AACF; and one community information and input season.

Partner Sharing

- Women's Giving Circle Grant Cycle will be open – 1/25 to 2/22/24. Criteria may change as well. Direct questions to d.fulchiron@frederickcountygives.org
- Waverly Judy Center 2/17 training with Brene Brown facilitator on Resilience and Countering Shame. Contact Claudia Hernandez at claudia.hernandez@fcps.org

The meeting adjourned at 2:07 pm.

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