



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

April 3, 2024

Present:

Jullian Bleggi, Kathy Allen, Nancy Boyd, Pat Rosensteel, Leslie Frei, Sarah Martin, Steve Buckley, Jennifer Barker-Frey, Tara Plowman, Charlotte Strine, Virginia Shell, Kelli Goetz, Sarah Scherhaufer, Kerri Fair

Meeting Minutes Recorder: Pat Rosensteel

Welcome & Introductions: Steve opened the meeting at 1:05 p.m. Attendees (virtual and in-person) introduced themselves.

Review and Approval of Minutes:

February Minutes: Motion made by Leslie to approve the minutes, seconded by Virginia, and passed by all.

March Minutes: Motion made by Kathy to approve the minutes, seconded by Sarah M., and passed by all.

Review and Update Subcommittee Affiliation: Steve urged everyone to update this on the shared IECC Directory

Vote on July Meeting: A motion was made by Leslie, seconded by Virginia, and approved by all that there will be no July IECC meeting.

IECC Co-Chair Election: Steve presented Leslie Frei as the only nominee for the position. Motion made by Pat to approve her election, seconded by Kathy, and approved by all. Her term will begin in August.

Pillar 1 of the Blueprint for MD's Future: Leslie (slide deck link:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1LJ5Pr8gRzzFJijX0cRxa2tzZxidFN9dg_6WirZI0UZk/edit#slide=id.p

Leslie gave an overview of Pillar 1, as a follow-up from her September presentation. Pillar 1 includes Early Childhood Education and Family Supports. Some of the specific areas of work will include: KRA, full day pre-K, changing the enrollment criteria, addressing the impact of pre-K expansion on staffing and facilities, a mixed delivery system, establishment of an A.A. or CDA as a minimum for Pre-K assistants, and increasing family supports via Judy Centers.

Several highlights included the expected increase in full-day public and private seats, and the increase in rates of young children with special needs.

IECC Intersections:

- KRA – Continue to follow the data / Leslie's office can do presentations
- Space – More space is needed, so share any ideas you may have

- Private providers – We can support family child care providers and center-based providers – send them to Leslie
- Keep informing the community about the need (others include Head Start, the Asian American Center, and Family Partnership)
- Pre-K enrollment closes on April 30th, but they can help families plan for next year.

More funding is needed for CDAs. Professional Development Specialists are needed (via the CDA Council) – free training. Three more high school Pre-K classes are starting this year (equals 7 out of the 10 high schools).

Our Judy Centers are some of the best in the state and will be expanding into more rural areas. Be sure to share any data you have with Leslie that could help strengthen the need (for grant purposes).

Subcommittee Reports:

- Awareness Subcommittee: (Pat) No meeting this month. The Mind/Body Kid's Yoga Launch will happen on May 9th at the C. Bur Artz Library, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. All are welcome. The videos will then be added to the Strong Families website.
- Collaboration Subcommittee: No report this month.
- Data & Advocacy Subcommittee: Will send updates.

Child Care Choices – ECAC Grant: Sarah

Some of the uses of this grant money are provider business training, Vroom cards for the Children's Festival, giveaways for the Children's Festival. All grant money must be spent by June 30th. No word yet on continuation of this grant.

Children's Festival Planning: Sarah

Month of the Young Child Proclamation at City Hall tonight at 7:00 p.m.

37 booths so far, and could use a few more.

Have two more slots available for entertainment – 12:30 and 1:30

Received \$6,150 in sponsorships this year, thanks to PNC Bank and Family Connects/Frederick Health!

80+ volunteers so far. A reminder will be sent.

Need more help at the IECC Education table – Leslie will send a reminder email for sign ups.

A bingo card with the domains of learning will be used (with survey link and QR code)

Partner Sharing:

- Child Care Market Study (Kelli) – A Child Care Community Convening will be held from 9:30 to 11:30 on April 20th at Family Partnership to gain family and provider input on the priority areas. Facilitation is needed. Child care will be available, if needed, and giveaways and gift card drawing will be held.
- Promotion (Kelli) – Leshia Chandler has been promoted to the new role of Deputy Director of the Division of Family Services.
- Retirement (Pat) – Shari Ostrow Scher will be retiring as the volunteer ED of COIPP in June, after more than 20 years in the position. COIPP is actively searching for a new (paid) ED.

- Membership – Leslie urged us to push for more (and more consistent) representation on this committee. It was further suggested that the LMB invite regular reports from the IECC at their meetings.
- Parks & Rec (Virginia) – Spring Pre-K sessions are underway. There are wait lists for many of the summer camps. Info available in the Recreator magazine.
- FCPS Summer Program (Leslie) – “Ready for Pre-K” is a small summer program for 4-year-olds, similar to an orientation.
- IT/Dental Clinic (Steve) – They are slated to move to a new location within about 4-5 years. In the meantime, the pediatric dental clinic is open to children birth to 18 if they have no insurance or Medicaid. There was a question about adding “dental home” to the FCPS immunization record. Leslie will look into this.

Meeting adjourned at 2:25 pm.

Next IECC Meeting – *Thursday, May 2nd at 1:00 p.m.*

Minutes Recorder – Holly Sontz

Presentation –Rick Weldon, Chamber of Commerce – “Advocacy 101”