



Frederick County Interagency Early Childhood Committee (IECC)

A Subcommittee of the Local Management Board

Meeting Minutes

October 3, 2024 | 1:00pm – 2:00pm

Attendees:

Steve Buckley (Co-Chair), Leslie Frei (Co-Chair), Rousana Soto, Jessica Lertora, Patty Morrison, Holly Sontz, Kathy Allen, Sarah Ford, Micheline Lucena, Amanda Eby, Keri-Ann Henson, Robyn Sheppard, Nancy Boyd, Pilar Olivo, Charlotte Strine, Sarah Martin, Erin Gambrill, Tara Plowman, and Virginia Shell

Commence: 1:01 PM

Welcome & Introductions: Leslie Frei opened the meeting with introductions.

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes: Jessica Lertora made the motion to approve the last meeting minutes and Patty Morison seconded. Unanimous.

FCPS McKinney-Vento Program Coordinator – Keri-Ann Henson. Provided a presentation of the McKinney-Vento Act about those young children that are experiencing homelessness for early care and education and getting the access to the Judy Center, PreK, and/or Head Start. They are looking for community partnerships. To donate or for more information please contact Keri-Ann at Ann.Henson@fcps.org.

- [Presentation](#)

Old Business:

- **LECAC Grant Funding Vote** - Leslie Frei. Total of \$15,000 of funding was provided to the IECC from the State. It was proposed to use the funding for \$10,000 to hire 7 to 10 consultants to help engage in state-funded Pre-K to support the Blueprint for Maryland's Future legislation, requiring increased private provider participation and to provide \$5,000 to the Children's Festival. Pilar Olivo made the motion and Erin Gambrill seconded. Unanimous.
- **Workgroup Next Steps** - Leslie Frei asked the workgroups to present an update with on the three committees.
 - *Awareness Committee* – Pat Rosensteel & Erin Gambrill. Action Items: Provide a QR for the Children's Festival and help with planning. Currently researching analytics for website traffic. Looking to create a toolkit to increase awareness and provide information to new members. Interested in guest speakers/stakeholders to join the group to bring in more outreach.
 - *Collaboration Committee* – Micheline Lucena & Holly Sontz. Completed updating the membership and corrected all contact information. Action Items: In the process of identifying 19 active voting members and updating the bylaws. [IECC Directory](#)
 - *Data & Advocacy* – Jessica Lertora & Tara Plowman. Only three people on this workgroup, asking for additional members to join. Action Items: Planning on meeting with Deputy Director for DFS for goals to align with data pieces are available and/or how it integrates with the workgroup.
- **Local Management Board Report Out** - Sarah Ford.
 - **Next LMB meeting:** Meetings are in-person and on the 4th Monday of every other month at the Department of Social Services (DSS). The LMB reviews and votes on

initiatives/programs/services funded by the State. We encourage all IECC members to attend. The schedule changed slightly due to the upcoming holidays. The next meeting is December 9, 2024 from 2pm to 4pm at DSS.

- **ENOUGH Grant:** The application was submitted on September 20, 2024 and the State has updated that there were a little more 30 applications for track 2 or 3. Estimated grant award will be provided at the beginning of winter.
- **Children's Festival** – Patty Morison. Confirmed date and time for the 35th Annual Children's Festival: Saturday April 26, 2025 from 10am – 3pm. This has been an event of the IECC in collaboration with Child Care Choices for many years. Patty is looking for a co-chair and any volunteer support. Other requests are for agencies or vendors to be co-sponsors or provide letters of support.

New Business:

- **Letter of Support for Family Connects** – Pilar Olivo. The County Executive is developing legislative priorities for the coming legislative session and part of those priorities include sustainable funding for Family Connects. Family Connects provides all Frederick County families with newborns a free 90-min visit with a nurse in their home. The nurse does a wellness check on mom and baby and provides personalized resources — including referrals to health and mental health care providers, WIC, Judy Centers, Healthy Families, Family Partnership, Child Care Choices, FCPL story times, and others. Kathy Allen put forth that the IECC provide a letter of support for Family Connects. Jessica Lertora made the motion and Erin Gambrill seconded. Unanimous.

Comments and Announcements: Will be emailed out as needed for the group.

Adjournment: Pilar Olivo made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Patty Morison seconded. Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 2:03pm.

Next Meeting Dates:

- November 7, 2024
- December 5, 2024
- January 2, 2025

Next Meeting – November 7, 2024 at 1:00 pm

Meeting Minutes Recorder – TBD

Maryland EXCELS Family Guides - Brytani Fraser and Jena Smith