



Frederick County Interagency Early Childhood Committee (IECC)

A Subcommittee of the Local Management Board

Meeting Minutes

November 7, 2024 | 1:00pm – 2:00pm

Attendees:

Leshia Chandler, Andrea Diaz-Gomez, Adrian Adlam, Stephen Buckley, Leslie Frei, Jessica Lertora, Virginia Shell, Robbinette Dorsey, Sarah Martin, Alyssa Paleno, Erin Gambrell, Amanda Eby, Shannon Berger, Jen Thompson, Holly Sontz, Nancy, Boyd, Charne Ashby, Charlotte Strow, Claudia Albert

Meeting Commenced at 1:03 pm

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

Review and Approval of May Meeting Minutes: Erin G. made the motion to approve the previous meeting minutes and Nancy B. seconded. Unanimous.

Presentation: Maryland EXCELS Family Guides

- Providing support services for early childhood; Responsible for providing resources of support programs for parents to access high quality childcare
- *EXCELS Find A program Directory
 - Families can search for resources/support programs through the website AND by zip code directory – which filters out by county and city.
 - All programs listed in the directory are licensed childcare programs.
 - Caseworkers can specialize in finding the specific services that the family may need when using the “Location” search engine in EXCELS – which can help benefit the families in finding the best-suited program in their areas
 - Resources and programs have quality ratings (1-5) in the specific areas of support services the program can provide for the childcare
 - Money for childcare can be obtained through EXCELS childcare scholarship programs
 - There are no waiting lists for families to apply or be accepted for these scholarships
 - EXCELS provides a parent checklist that the families can utilize and follow when interviewing/visiting programs to understand what the program offers and how the program can fit the needs of the family and children.
 - The EXCELS Family Guide is currently being marketed through physical printouts being passed around the community, as well planning on using EXCELS community partners to outreach to the public/community about their services
 - The Family Guides are only available in English
 - Plans on to get a translated version of the guides in Spanish by the end of this year/early 2025

Workgroups Next Steps:

- Awareness Committee
 - How to increase engagement within the community
 - Boosting awareness for Family Connects
- Collaboration Committee
 - Keeping up with memberships; ensuring they are up to date

- Review of bylaws
 - Recongnizing voting members
- Data and Advocacy
 - Gathering data and creating reports to present to decision makers
 - Determining priorities to inform decision makers which priorities are most important.

Local Management Board Report Out

- No new reports currently

New Business

- Open Meetings Act Trainings

Comments and Announcements:

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 2pm.

Next Meeting Dates:

- December 5, 2024
- January 2, 2025 (May need to reschedule)
- February 6, 2025