



*Pulling Together for the Children of Frederick County*

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## Frederick County Interagency Early Childhood Committee

*A Subcommittee of the Local Management Board*

### **Mission Statement:**

To promote the healthy development and well-being of young children and their families through community collaboration

### **Meeting Minutes**

December 3, 2020

### **Attendees:**

Kathy Allen  
Jennifer Barker-Frey  
Nancy Boyd  
Malcolm Furgol  
Barbara May  
Jim Miller  
Pat Rosensteel  
Shelly Toms  
Diana Fulchiron

Leshia Chandler  
Steve Buckley  
Claudia Hernandez  
Ula Slider  
Patty Morison  
Jen Russo  
Rorie Cox-Steib  
Pilar Olivo  
Sarah Ford

Darcy O'Daniel  
Delaine Welch  
Jeanie Watts  
Katie Weishaar  
Kim Seoni  
Leslie Frei  
Lisa Martinis  
Shira Soloman  
Teri Bickel

### **Meeting Commenced at 1:01pm**

**Introductions** – Kathy Allen led the group through introductions of new participants and the organizations that are represented to the meeting.

**Minutes** – were approved with the corrected spelling of Patty Morison's name and the dates for Trauma Informed Yoga Sessions for Dec 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>. Delaine Welch motioned for the vote and seconded by Pat Rosensteel. Unanimous.

**Presentation** – *Jim Miller, Frederick County DSS START program*

START stands for the Sobriety Treatment and Recovery Team. Target population is at least one child age 0 to 5 and the ultimate goal is to work exclusively with Substance Exposed Newborn Referrals from the hospital. The focus is to treat substance disorder as a primary risk in children 0 to 5. It's a volunteer program, that starts with a meeting with the family and having them commit to the program. First 40 days are trying to provide therapy treatment and the start the journey for recovery. Because it's not a short term program, the first minimum goal for the caregiver is 6 months of sobriety. There are two

major parts to the START program, first having a child welfare social worker and second is providing a family mentor that has experience with child welfare, so that they can talk to the caregiver(s) in order to create an empathic bond and hopefully lead them to a sustained road to recovery. Currently there are no referrals for the public, because they are trying to stay within the fidelity of the program. For more information, please contact Jim: [jim.miller@maryland.gov](mailto:jim.miller@maryland.gov)

**Local Grant Updates** – Kathy Allen & Patty Morison. Submitted interim report to MSDE and the goals that we have are right on target. Will need to submit the end of the year report in January. The We Design workshop was completed and Pilar will talk about that more it later. The yoga sessions had been very successful. They had 12 of 16 participants for the first session. Yoga chips most popular items with children. They are little discs that have yoga poses on them so that they can be randomly selected for the next pose to do. They were also able to gathered a lot of the martials and provide porch drops for those that could not pick up materials. Because of this the instructor was able to incorporate the materials in the last class. Also, thank you for everyone that helped with the MSDE report. The Article was another great success for the IECC. The first article did cost more than expected so we will only be able to do two of those articles this year. But for year two, we are looking into 6 articles and contest.

**ACEs Workgroup & We Design Updates** – Pilar Olivo. We Design over 100 participants over the two sessions. And our participant evaluation has 77 people responded so far. On a scale of 1 to 5 for meeting workshop objectives we have a 4.2. The scientific presentations from Harvard, breakout groups, and local data presentations were the most highly received. Harvard will be developing a report for the IECC & ACEs from the data collected. Overall, the presenters, Susie and Amanda from Harvard, were very impressed with Frederick County. And discussions have happened to see what FC can continue to do on our own. Next will be a review committee that will convene to take a look at the information that was submitted. So far there are two applicants. More information to come.

#### **Breakout Session Updates:**

- **Native Content:** Jennifer Barker-Frey, Rorie Cox-Steib, Steve Buckley, Jeanie Watts, Leslie Frei, Lisa Martinis
  - Planning to work with the Frederick News Post to showcase the We Design event for the next article. Allowing people in Frederick County to see that the IECC and Harvard partnered to held the event with over 100 participants and stakeholders throughout the county and the science and work within it. Meeting with the writer and hopefully wrapped by the end of December. More to come, and the article should come out before the next meeting.
- **Family Engagement: Marketing & Communication Plan:** Barbara May, Darcy O’Daniel, Leshia Chandler, Jen Russo, Pat Rosensteel, Nancy Boyd, Ula Slider
  - The IECC & ACEs parallel on marketing and social media. The small group met yesterday to discuss what the next steps are and what questions we needed answers too. Primarily how we can update the IECC and ACEs website to provide more information to the public. Then once the website is where we want it to move forward with the engagement side, and not so much marketing. Looking for ideas on how to engage families right now. Came up with a few ideas yoga, parent cafes, etc. Also, a survey will be collected for ACEs & IECC members to find out what social media your organizations

use, get those links, and then put them on the website. Gather the member information/website and also add it to the IECC google drive.

- **Child Care Market Analysis:** Kathy Allen, Delaine Welch, Katie Weishaar, Kim Seoni, Malcom Furgol, Pilar Olivo, Shelly Toms, Patty Morison, Diana Fulchiron, Claudia Hernandez, and Shira Soloman
  - The cost really needs to be looked at and to see where we can start. School age families and the huge cost of care that we should be looking at and to what extend are we thinking for the next few years. Not just about what is happening with COVID. Are we operating under the assumption that we go back to in-person meetings and that the schools open and that we will not have the current restrictions that are in place? To what extend is that on our mind and what is our capacity for our resilience? Child care has been hit hard, and what is will look like in the next 6 to 8 weeks? Child care may not be able to survive another hit. We are still seeing programs shutting down. How has it affected us and what the future look like? These are all questions that Shira Soloman will be helping out with and figuring out to move forward.

## Community Updates

- Leslie Frei – FCPS is working on a hybrid reopening and is moving forward with those plans. We are anticipating many referrals when we start seeing children back into school. Child abuse and neglect issues that may not have been noticed because children were home. Other agencies may gear up and prepare for children returning to Public Schools. There are over 44,000 children that we have not seen in eight or nine months. Need to be ready for what may come when we welcome all these children back in the buildings.
- Patty Morison – The second round of childcare funding launched there was almost 1 million dollars allocated this time for child care providers. We ended up not quite as many providers applying for it at this time because there was some confusion over how the email was worded from the county. We tried diligently to reach every person individually multiple times to let them know they were indeed eligible for this funding. Regardless, 272 programs received additional funding for childcare. About 94% of childcare providers have reopened in Frederick County. However, some providers are starting to feel the effects. They have to pay back a prorated amount which can cause difficulty if they are focused to close again. For the Children's Festival the city is still talking with us about it. We are thinking that it will not going to happen at this point. They are willing to continue to initiate the conversation. It was suggested that maybe the Children's Festival could be virtual and Patty said she would get back to us. Should be the date of April 27<sup>th</sup> and the park has been reserved.
- Malcolm Furgol – Advocacy platform launched information here: <https://www.unitedwayfrederick.org/Advocate>. Looking to coordinate with other agencies to participant for vaccination efforts. A Gift of Warmth program for a free heating system, more info here: <https://www.unitedwayfrederick.org/AGiftofWarmth> and still planning to do our tax preparation program. It is a big way that families can improve their financial stability through income tax credit and child care tax credit in partnership with the Asian American Center. Will be working with 211 again for making appointments in January.

- Kim Seoni – Thank you for the second round for childcare funding and in particular thank for Patty Morison.
- Darcy O’Daniel – We are still doing virtual and some limited in-person hiring. We need a music therapist, please send them to her if you know of anyone. Additionally, collaborating with YMCA for “kids unlimited”, will be doing a mini-camp from the 28<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>, For kids of all ages with special needs. More info and registration go here: <https://frederickymca.org/camps/day-camps/kids-unlimited>

**Meeting Adjourned at 2:37pm.**

**Next meeting is January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 1:00pm**