



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
December 7, 2017

Present

Shannon Aleshire, Kathy Allen, Jennifer Barker-Frey, Leslie Barnes, Alison Bomba, Steve Buckley, Chris Bugher, Hannah Cobb, Cathy Cullen, Barbara Dillon, Leslie Frei, Malcolm Furgol, Martha Gurzick, Jim Lee, Darcy Lipscomb, Kathy Long, Barbara May, Patty Morison, Cathy Nusbaum, Pilar Olivo, Pat Rosensteel, Shelly Toms, Amy Tzortzinis, Janet Vogel, Stacy Wantz, Patricia Washington-Geddes

Welcome and Introductions

Review and Approval of Minutes

The November minutes were reviewed. Patty Morison and Shannon Aleshire made corrections, noting that they were both present for the November meeting. The November minutes were approved.

Announcements

Cathy Nusbaum announced that Dr. Theresa Alban (FCPS Superintendent) will attend the January IECC meeting.

Cathy Nusbaum noted that she will be attending The State Early Childhood Advisory meeting on 12/21/17 and invited IECC members who are interested in attending to contact her directly.

IECC Presentation to LMB Report

Cathy Nusbaum, Stacy Wantz, Pilar Olivo, and Ginny Simoneau recently gave a presentation to the LMB, providing an overview of the IECC. Their presentation included a description of the members and agencies involved and an overview of the ACEs and Ready Rosie initiatives.

Symposium Collaboration – Frederick Cares and Summit of Intersections

The collaboration between Frederick Cares and the Summit of Intersections was discussed. Details on a possible symposium have not yet been finalized; however, Shannon Aleshire will contact David Drees at DSS to discuss setting a date and co-advertising. After the meeting, Lynn Davis clarified the targeted audience as anyone who is a professional stakeholder in the well-being of children and the community – so

human service workers, educators, counselors/social workers, decision makers – just about everyone. But it is not advertised to the general public. The committee counts on contacts getting the word out to their distribution lists, and FCG puts out a press release to theirs.

Dr. James Lee suggested that the IECC elicit the support of Dr. Alban regarding this initiative. Martha Gurzick suggested that IECC consider creating a presentation that could be ‘taken on the road’ and shared with various groups as needed in order to more easily reach direct service/care providers, as they are often unable to attend daytime workshops. A discussion was had related to how to plan a symposium so that all who want to attend are able to attend (considering days, times, teachers having to choose between several workshops on professional development days, etc.). The symposium collaboration will remain an agenda item for future IECC meetings to allow for continued discussion.

Agency Presentation:

Malcolm Furgol provided a presentation on The United Way’s ALICE report. ALICE is an acronym that stands for: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. ALICE reflects individuals who do not make enough money to pay the cost of living in the county in which they live. ALICE provides a statewide report (conducted by The United Ways in Maryland) that reviews the cost of living in Maryland.

Malcolm reviewed the most recent Frederick County survival budget (for 2014), which reflected a disparity between the income levels of Frederick County residents and the federal poverty level in 2014. This disparity resulted in a small population that qualified for full federal benefits and led to the conclusion that it is quite expensive to be poor in Frederick County.

Per the ALICE report, Frederick County had the highest survival budget in the state of Maryland in 2014. One of the main concerns identified was the change over time (between 2007 and 2014, the number of ALICE households in Frederick County increased by 29%), which indicated that many people who had lived in Frederick for a long time (not just those who were new to Frederick) later struggled because the cost of living had increased. Malcolm shared that racial and ethnic minorities, seniors, and single mothers comprised a larger population of ALICE in 2014. He reviewed the outlying areas within Frederick County re: ALICE members. Regarding economic indicators in 2014, Frederick County’s jobs opportunities and community resources were rated “good,” while housing affordability was rated “poor.” The 2014 Frederick County Stability Budget was reviewed, which suggested strategies to assist ALICE families.

More information about ALICE is available on the United Way’s website (<http://www.unitedwayfrederick.org/alice>). Malcolm shared a brief overview of The Prosperity Center (<http://prosperitycenter.org>), which provides free assistance to families/households who do not fall below the federal poverty line but are struggling financially.

Networking

Patty Morison announced that the first Children's Festival meeting will be held soon and invited anyone interested in joining the planning committee to contact her for details.

Shannon Aleshire announced that MHA recently submitted a grant to The Rotary Club of Carroll Creek to expand MHA's license for the resiliency film to include unlimited showings and streaming rights.

Darcy Lipscomb announced that Noteable Progressions is partnering with The Arc of Frederick County to host an art gallery on 12/13/17.

Darcy Lipscomb announced that coupon codes are now available for Noteable Progressions' music therapy classes for young children that will be held at New Spire Arts.

An Announcement was made that COIPP (Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership), in collaboration with MHA, will soon be offering free coaching workshops for parents/caregivers/family members who have been impacted by incarceration.

Chris Bugher announced that The Marriage Resource Center will launch a new program entitled, 'Families Stepping Up to the Plate' which will teach healthy communication, work and play skills to couples.

Cathleen Cullen announced a new program entitled, 'Shelter Stories' that involves reading stories to children and parents in emergency shelters on Tuesday mornings from 9AM - 10AM.

Malcolm Furgol announced that The United Way is still accepting nominations for their 'Gift of Warmth' program. The deadline to submit nominations is 12/10/17.

Malcolm Furgol announced that The Prosperity Center is offering a Free Tax Preparation program for community members who qualify.

Malcolm Furgol announced that on 12/18/17, a new RFP will launch for a three year funding cycle.

Pilar Olivio announced that The Community Foundation of Frederick County currently has two rolling grant applications open. One grant is dedicated for funds designed to assist nonprofits help individuals who are facing medical catastrophes. The other grant is a general interest fund designed to help people completing FAFSA applications. Five events will be held in January and February providind hands-on workshops to assist with FAFSA completion).

Pilar Olivio announced that she is leaving her position at The Community Foundation of Frederick County but will continue to serve on the IECC as a private citizen.

Next IECC Meeting
January 4, 2018

Meeting adjourned at 2:08PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Dr. Alison Bomba.