



## Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2021

### Attendees:

Allison Van Horn	Imani Angela Rose	Melissa Rock
Angelique Jessup	Jenee Tucker	Nancy Pelton
Ashley Bush	Kate Wasserman	Nikira Epps
Cherice Marrow	Kathy Carroll	Ruth Farfel
Crystal Francis	Kelly Rietschel	Shannon Burroughs Campbell
Cynthia Skinner	Keontae Kells	Sharon Bostwick
Daphne Washington	Khalilah Slater-Harrington	Stacey Tuck
Denine Rafus	Laura Weeldreyer	Tisha Edwards
Drena Valentine	Lieny Jeon	Trina Powell
Faith Miller	Linda Callahan	Wendy Wolff
Gena O'Keefe	Liza Frye	Yolanda Jenkins
Gloria Valentine	Margo Candelaria	
Heather Yost	Mari Beth Moulton	

### Welcome and Opening Remarks from Co-Chairs, *Crystal Francis & Imani Angela Rose*

#### Vote on 1/20/2021 meeting minutes

- Motion to approve minutes; seconded; minutes approved unanimously.

#### Workgroup Reporting

- All Hands In; *Crystal Francis & Imani Angela Rose*
  - Working w/the consultants to put structure into ECAC
  - Updating by-laws; membership; so it will be sustainable over time
  - Presented to MSDE again to the State ECAC, what we've done, how we got here, the work we're planning, hoe we're moving forward
  - Getting ready for next MSDE grant
- Strong Backbone; *Khalilah Slater Harrington & Tisha Edwards*
  - Strengthen system of early childhood supports to it is accessible and meets families' needs
  - Review 2021 Legislation relevant to ECAC
  - Develop Early Childhood Systems document—looked at all agencies parents might interface w/; drafted preliminary questions when approaching EC system partners and institutions

- Finalizing how, as ECAC, we will develop policy agenda; given that we're a diverse coalition: what process will we use so we can recommend that back to the group
- Also looking at onboarding consultants
- **Smart Thinking; *Lieny Jeon & Margo Candelaria***
  - Reviewed & Finalized Goals & Objectives
  - Review data inventory; know not every data source is included in ECDC; look at which partners are needed—what kind of dosage—how long at what level children were engaged
  - Review MOCFS EC objectives for 2021
    - Have a better understanding of all the EC services across Baltimore City and how children can access them
  - Other KRA trend analysis and look at other groups
- **Open Heart; *Angelique Jessup & Denine Rafus***
  - Working on directory (yet to be created) of early childhood resources
  - Ensuring families w/young children have access to all the resources they need, and we know what families need
  - Currently, no 1 stop shop
  - Talking w/MOCFS to ensure families have access to all the services they need
  - If we COULD build something in the future, what would we want families to have access to

#### **MSDE grant update; *Yolanda Jenkins***

- Extraordinary Changes & Policy Study Associates- are 2 finalists as consultants
- Contacting both to see if they will each do a piece of the work
- This is to complete the next big project—a systems report—where we are re. the early childhood system—complete report that will be done every 3 years

#### **Open Heart action workplan group discussion: *Angelique Jessup & Denine Rafus***

- Group 1 (Jenee): In your experience, how do families want to be informed of resources? Face to face? Text/social media? Personal recommendation? From trusted institutions (for example, school or pediatrician office)?
  - **Parent Feedback** - Focus group with parents (possibly through ECAC members) to best unpack **what kind** of resources parents want and **how** they want to receive resources
  - **Strong communication** strategy – utilizing multiple modes/key stakeholders (including us) to get the word out about the website/app; Key is social media; Get the word out through existing groups (parents, churches, other parent groups).
  - **Up to date** - To build buy-in, it is important to keep website up to date and current
  - **Easy-User friendly** – Simple, user friendly, clear and concise
- Group 2 (Stacey T.): Are there particularly helpful resources for specific populations? Grandparents? ELL families? Fathers?



- Warm hand offs for families are important
- Fathers
  - Center for Urban families
  - Judy Centers have fatherhood initiative
  - Mayor's Office for African American Make Engagement
  - Baltimore City Health Department Office of Aging and Care
  - Creative Nomads' Drumming with Dads  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mjphnHOXTE>
- ELL
  - City Schools has a multi-lingual department
- Grandparents
  - (410) 396-CARE
  - Baltimore City Office on Elder Engagement
  - Grandparents United
  - SWACOS at the Schools of Social Work - Peer navigation of grandparent led families (Social Work Community Outreach Service: <https://www.ssw.umaryland.edu/swcos/about-swcos/>)
- Another Special population should be children w/special needs
- Other Considerations
  - need to evaluate effectiveness of referrals...need to make sure there is a good feedback loop. 211 has direct connects in several areas, but it can be confusing. The messaging is getting mixed and complicated.
  - Places that are in close proximity to families may feel more welcoming. What's missing is "the touch."
  - A very Early Childhood Centered focus would be better. There need to be strong points of contact at each referring organization. Locality, warm hand-offs, connections are key.
  - It may be better to give a survey like this to more direct service providers. Teachers also have connections with lots of resources
- Group 3 (Ruth): In your experience, do families want a one stop shop directory--is this in demand?
  - It is in demand, but need to think through a lot:
    - Don't want it to be overwhelming
    - Direct links
    - Don't want too many resources on there
    - Readability; simplistic pictures
    - Parallel site for providers—don't have to worry as much about this site being overwhelming
    - Keeping site current is important
  - Here's one: <https://www.healthybabiesbaltimore.com/connect-clients-to-help>



- Group 4 (Denine): We would like to get feedback from families when we complete the directory. Suggestions on how we get authentic feedback? Are there recommended groups for feedback (for example, parent advisory boards, parent groups, etc.)?
  - Suggested groups: support groups under B'more for Healthy Babies; Head Start
  - Ways to get feedback: listening session/town hall—3 different phases so you don't have too many participants at once—could compare the information
  - Surveys e-mailed to families
  - Good to ask service providers whether the families they serve would find the information useful

#### **Update on Mayor's Children's Cabinet's Early Childhood Town Hall**

- April 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm
- Who's Watching the Kids—prioritizing Early Childhood in the time of COVID-19 and beyond
- Parents talking about navigating EC system during COVID-19; provider speak; MFN speak

#### **Legislative Update**

- **[HB 28/SB 5](#) Public Health- Implicit Bias Training and the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities** builds upon legislation from 2020 and requires not only medical providers that treat pregnant individuals, but all medical providers participate in implicit bias training.
  - Both bills have passed out of their committees and through third reader on their respective floors.
- **[HB 392](#) Child Care Centers - Early Childhood Screening for Developmental Disabilities** ensures that the Maryland State Department of Education establish guidelines for childcare providers to screen children under age 3 for potential disabilities. (A lot of childcare providers have serious concerns about this bill!)
  - HB 392 passed out of its committee and through third reader on the House floor.
- **[HB 776](#) State Department of Education - Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Project - Study and Report** requires that a study be done of Maryland's Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (IECMHC) Project.
  - Passed out of its committee and through third reader on the House floor
- **[SB 777](#) Public Health - Maryland Prenatal and Infant Care Grant Program Fund** expands the Maryland Prenatal and Infant Care Coordination Services Grant Program Fund to make hospitals and federally qualified health centers, and prenatal care providers working to expand access to prenatal care eligible for funding rather than the grants only being available for Maryland municipalities. Preference will be given to communities with high numbers of births to Maryland Medicaid recipients, high rates of infant mortality, and high rates of preterm



births. SB 777 also makes critical increases to the fund's appropriation, without which we would not be able to improve birth outcomes for thousands of Marylanders.

- SB 777 passed out of committee and through third reader on the Senate Floor.
- **[SB 299 Human Services - Trauma-Informed Care - Commission and Training](#)** creates a Trauma Informed Commission to ensure that our state agencies provide trauma informed services in a coordinated way.
  - SB 299 passed out of its committee and then through third reader unanimously.
- **[SB 425 Workgroup on Screening Related to Adverse Childhood Experiences](#)** creates a workgroup on screening related to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).
  - SB 425 passed out of its committee and through third reader on the Senate Floor

### Open Discussion

Stacey Tuck thanked ECAC for sharing the focus group and ambassador opportunities. As a result there was a lot of community engagement in the Baltimore City Health Department vs. COVID— focused on vaccine myth busting

- Friday's zoom listening session related to the COVID 19 vaccine, please feel free to tell moms or other caregivers to contact me if they would like to participate. They can reach out to me through tomorrow at [Stacey.tuck@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Stacey.tuck@baltimorecity.gov). Participants will be paid \$100. The session is from 1-2:30 on Friday, 3/19.

SSW got funding from American Academy of Pediatrics to expand the TREE model to telehealth: <https://theinstitute.umaryland.edu/institute-news/addressing-the-developmental-needs-of-very-young-children--their-families-is-fo.php>

Baltimore Children's Cabinet next town hall is on Youth Literacy. March 24, 6pm. You can register here: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_pifntEbAR46jKA2xXRkZ1A](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_pifntEbAR46jKA2xXRkZ1A)

Cynthia Skinner introduces herself—working w/Dream Big on Early Learning in Cherry Hill.

Liza Frye—Head Start and Early Head Start w/Catholic Charities

Laura Weeldreyer shared an updated survey of childcare providers:

<https://www.marylandfamilynetwork.org/news/caring-time-pandemic> → the situation for childcare providers is even worse than in May—enrollment is down and expenses are up.

- Maryland will be getting \$502M specifically for childcare (from the federal funding)
- State just pushed out a grants program for \$60M—very few providers applied.

Denine Rafus—new co-lead for Open Heart group

**Next Meeting Date: May 19, 2021 @ 1pm-3 pm**





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