

ECAC Meeting
Thursday, February 12, 2015
9:00 – 11:00
Notes

Members Present:

Barbara Andrews
Rosalba Bonilla-Acosta
Stephanie Brant
Jody Burghardt
Amy Cropp
Patsy Evans
Kim Grant
Michelle Green
April Kaplan
Carol Legaretta
Lauren Moskowitz
Meredith Myers
Linda Owen
Debra Poese
Tobi Printz-Platnick
Natasha Ramberg
Hilda Richards
Claudia Simmons

Staff Present:

Verna Washington
Sarah Wilch-Spamer

Guests:

Vickie DiSanto
Lisa Davis
Kim Pins

November Meeting Minutes:

- Motion from Lauren Moskowitz to accept the minutes from the November 13, 2014 meeting
- Second motion: Tobi Printz-Platnick
- Vote: 18 in favor
- Resolved: Motion Carried; Accept the minutes from 11/13/14

General Update:

- Documents including WPA have been posted to the MCPS website
- The DHHS site is in the process of being set up to include the information
- *Literacy/Pediatric Outreach Committee:*
 - Focus Groups:
 - Natasha and Barbara attended the professional learning institute at MSDE
 - Prince George's county has been working on Pediatric Outreach for 5 years
 - Pediatric Offices:
 - Resources needed
 - Marty Grant has been training Pediatricians on use of the screening tool
 - ECAC Letterhead has been developed
 - ECAC Committee's work is aligned to Marty Grant's
 - What do you need? How can we help you?
 - Working to take over the outreach in and around Gaithersburg
 - Accompanied Marty to gain recognition and build relationships with the pediatric community
- *Media and Outreach Campaign:*
 - Focused on reaching out for ChildLink (the call in referral number in DHHS for anyone who has questions or needs information about services for children birth to 5)
 - Provide information to child care providers or parents on child mental health issues
 - Building the library of referrals
 - Barbara will send out data on where we are so far this year with calls to ChildLink
 - Possible explanations for the reduction in calls:
 - Drop in birthrates?
 - Families calling 311 instead?
 - March is the goal for developing the design for the bus campaign:
 - The most expensive is the driver's side of the bus
 - The inside of the bus is free or of little cost
 - We can target busses on specific routes in the county or we can do a cross-county campaign on all busses
 - Messages will be bilingual (English and Spanish)
- *Family Engagement Committee:*
 - 11 Focus groups total:
 - Food and children's books were provided to participants
 - ECAC members received handouts focusing with initial focus group analysis
 - ECAC will resend the link to Head Start Parent Engagement Framework
 - Early Childhood Kennedy Cluster project:
 - Focused on reaching out to parents
 - More people trained on facilitating Parent Cafes

- Maryland Family Network (MFN) is the only organization that provides training for table hosting/facilitating of Parent Cafés
 - A late spring training for facilitators is planned
 - More parent cafes are planned for the Gaithersburg area
- *Early Childhood Symposium:*
 - First year that ECAC is planning the Symposium
 - There is a \$10.00 charge this year
 - Neal Horen from Georgetown is the keynote speaker
 - Montgomery County Collaboration Council is handling the registration for the Symposium
 - May need assistance with the registration table
 - Family Services will offer CEUs/ and PAUs from the R&R
- *Gaithersburg Project Update:*
 - Shifted some funds to provide materials for providers
 - More than half of the programs are faith-based have elected not to be part of Maryland EXCELS
- *Focus Groups:*
 - Focus Groups Completed with Parents, MCPS Early Childhood Teachers, Child Care Providers
 - Total of 11 Focus Groups
 - Focus Groups each included 3 questions, facilitated, charted and notes taken; A brief survey
 - Themes:
 - Children need self-help skills, social/emotional skills and independence
 - Much happens in children’s lives before age 4
 - Parents need information on DAP and they need support
 - Social/Emotional skills are crucial to readiness, including experience in groups, self-help skills, self-regulation
- *Next Steps:*
 - *Committee Analysis by April*
 - *Written Report on Focus Groups by July*
 - *Committee Review of Demographics Report*
 - *Committee Review of ECAC Work to Date*
 - *Committee Recommendations complete by June Meeting (discussion at April 2nd retreat)*
 - *Lauren Moskowitz: Literacy/Pediatric Outreach Committee*
 - *Michelle Green: Family Engagement*
 - *Linda Owen: Media and Outreach Campaign*
- **WPA Discussion: TABLED UNTIL NEXT ECAC MEETING**

Lisa Davis (Early Childhood Coordinator Howard County Public Schools, [HCPS]) and Kim Pins (Howard County Community College), Howard County ECAC:

- **Formation of Transition Group:**

- Found that there was nothing to support parents with the transition process other than the typical “Open House” or “Fliers”
- List of Partners:
 - Office of Children’s Services
 - Community College
 - Early Intervention Services
 - Public Libraries
 - Regional Office of Child Care
 - Public School Kindergarten Teachers
 - Public Pre-Kindergarten
 - Non-Profit Organizations
 - Judy Centers
 - Private Child Care Centers
 - Family Child Care Association
 - Community Businesses
 - Private Nursery Schools
 - MSDE
 - Head Start
 - Early Childhood Consultants
- Established relationships with elementary schools:
 - Four pilot child care centers send a list of where their children articulate to in the county
 - Held a “Winter Mixer” to connect with principals and elementary schools to talk (2007 – 2008)
- Facilitated a forum with wider stakeholder group including politicians and other community members
- What it isn’t:
 - Forced
 - Hierarchical
 - Static
 - Bureaucratic
 - Biased
 - Competitive
 - Ego-Based
 - Slanted
 - Destination
 - Sporadic
 - Finished
 - Exclusive
- What it is:
 - Collaborative

- Visionary
- Connected
- Non-judgmental
- Evolving
- Shared
- Ongoing
- Child-Centered
- Family Centered
- Focused
- Transition Workgroup: Focus
 - Goal – Enhance each Howard County child’s opportunity for school success.
 - Objective – Establish a smooth passage for kindergarten transition for young children coming from the home setting and/or from an early care and education setting.
- Maryland Model for School Readiness (MMSR):
 - Data analysis
 - Kept track of the data
 - Focus on Domains of Learning
 - Devoted a 3 year period to groups of stakeholders receiving an MMSR presentation and explaining their unique role in interfacing with families and/or developing programming
- Focus on:
 - Articulation/Communication
 - Advertisement/Awareness
 - Where are these children? Who are we not reaching
 - Grocery Stores
 - Offices
 - Dr.’s Offices
 - *Discovery Fair* during the Week of the Young Child focusing on the MMSR Domains
 - Community Forum/Focus Groups
 - Share Professional Development Day in HCPS including the child care partners
 - Transition Timelines
 - Common Language to develop consistent expectations:
 - School Readiness with developmentally appropriate targets
 - Learning Progress/Articulation Form from child care providers based on the MMSR indicators/domains (worded in more user-friendly language):
 - Gathered feedback from Kindergarten Team Leaders and Child Care Directors:
 - Time consuming
 - Self-Help skills rather than cognitive skills

- Examine and discuss focus groups initial analysis applying your own perspectives from the Work/Organizations you represent on the ECAC. Use the Demographics Report and the Geo Maps to inform your perspectives
- Develop recommendations based on the data and discussion above and from the perspective of your committee and bring to the April 2 retreat

Adjournment:

10:55 AM

NEXT MEETING: April 2 mini-retreat 8:30-12:30

Hopkins Rockville Campus

9605 Medical Center Drive, Building Room 121