

Early Childhood Advisory Council Notes
Meeting 5: Thursday, October 24, 2013
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Johns Hopkins University
A & R Building Room 112

Members Present: Barbara Andrews
Rosalba Bonilla-Acosta
Jennifer Arnaiz
Janine Bacquie
Kathi Carey-Fletcher
Robin Chernoff
Nancy Hiltbrand for Amy Cropp
Patsy Evans
Kate Garvey
Mary Gies
Kim Grant
Michelle Green
Carol Legarreta
Meredith Myers
Bernadine Occhiuzzo
Linda Owen
Tobi Printz-Platnick
Lois Stovall
John Surr
Verna Washington
Sarah Wilch-Spamer
Vivian Yao

Open Activity:

- Members shared a barrier and a resource related to attending today's meeting

Support Letter and Signatures for Grant Application:

- Participants had an opportunity to hear the letter read and ask questions
- Participants will sign the letter before leaving the meeting

Revisit Group Guidelines/Protocol for Guests:

- Available at each table for review

Meeting Schedule and Plan for Facilitator:

- The majority of participants voted on extending the April 10, 2014 meeting from a two-hour meeting to a mini-retreat. Author, Stacy Goffin is invited to as the guest speaker as part of the grant application.

Bylaws Discussion and Vote:

- All changes are in Article IV. Membership
- Bylaws are part of the grant submission
- Michelle, John, and Patsy provided feedback
- Discussion:
 - Include an ECAC member from budget and planning
 - Invite this representative to attend the ECAC as a guest
 - Michelle, John, and Patsy provided feedback

- Bylaws were accepted by unanimous vote from the Council

Grant Presentation:

- **Value Voting Results:**
 - Public Media Campaign
 - Examining & Increasing Access to data
 - Full Approach to Professional Development
 - Reaching specific communities
- **Enhancement of Existing Early Care and Education System:**
 - ECAC Meetings
 - Seven meetings through June 2015
 - Facility
 - Supplies
 - Food (if permitted)
 - Meeting Facilitator
 - Meeting or Luncheon
 - Executive Directors and Leaders of ECAC membership organizations
- **Public Outreach/Media Campaign:**
 - Community Focus Groups
 - Parents, Providers, and Teachers
 - Facilities
 - Facilitator
 - Translators
 - Stipends or Gift Cards (if permitted)
 - Food (if permitted)
 - Coordinated public outreach materials
 - Increased awareness of Child Link
 - Outreach to pediatric community
 - Linked to Reach Out & Read (required)
 - Linked to state B-HIPP project (optional)
 - Focus in targeted areas connected to Engagement Project
 - Development of County-wide materials
- **Increasing Access to Data**
 - Examine existing access to data
 - Development of GIS maps
 - Information on services throughout the County
 - Management of GIS updating
 - Updated demographic study of the County
 - Computer, color printer, software for GIS mapping, Microsoft Publisher, & data analysis
 - Data Analyst
 - Creation of data access dashboard
 - Examine existing access to data
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- **Professional Development and Family Engagement Project**

- Target one County community, based on data mapping and analysis as related to:
 - High English Language Learner population
 - High FARMS rates
 - Low readiness scores
 - Resources accessed less frequently by families
- Professional Development Plan for child care providers in targeted community, including breakthrough center
- Temporary Part-Time Project Manager
- Parent/Family Engagement Activities
- Translation Services
- Training & Engagement Activity Materials
- Printing

- **Targeted County Communities**

- Gaithersburg or Wheaton Woods ES
- Determinations based on the following:
 - High FARMS—50% or higher
 - High English Language Learner—50% or higher
 - Low overall readiness score—under 70%
- Gaithersburg ES Wheaton Woods ES
- 9 Family Providers 5 Family Providers
- 4 Centers (1 School Age) 5 Centers (1 School Age/1 PreK)

- **Questions/Comments from the Council:**

- Are transportation and childcare allowable in the grant?
- Are pro bono donations permitted from members of the Council (in kind donations)?
- Is the no-cost training for pediatrician's part of the grant?
- Is there funding for parent packets in the grant? Yes
- Are police officers and emergency room doctors included?
- Should there be a specific call-out to Excels?
 - Professionalizing Child Care providers
- Ensure that we are using the internet as much as possible
- Child Link should have a Twitter handle and utilize social media
- Should a Media Specialist or a PR Company be engaged to help? There is not enough money in this grant to fund that
- The Chief Innovation Officer can be a good resource (possibly as an in kind donation)
- The MCPS Communications Office may also be a resource
- PNC may be a good resource as an in kind donation
- This isn't just about Community Engagement: What about the families who do not have their children in licensed childcare? The Judy Centers include Learning Parties and Parent Café's
- We need to define what a "Breakthrough Center" means
- It is important to implement leadership development for child care center directors to motivate leaders
- The Judy Centers are a good resource to bringing in community partners
- Immigrant communities have their own insular groups so we need to engage their leaders to engage them
- The grant should explicitly include ways that we are going to link and align available resources in the county

- **Gaithersburg ES (GES) or Wheaton Woods ES (WWES)?**
 - What are the goals of the pilot?
 - There is a Parent Resource Center at GES
 - The principal at GES has partnered with stakeholders to support the needs of the school and the Parent Resource Center
 - The principal at WWES is also engaged with the community
- Voting: 11 out of 7 voted for GES
- The Gaithersburg ES community will be the focus of the grant

Examining Data Maps/Discussion re: Target for Grant

- GIS Maps will be sent to the Council

Group Reports/Questions/Planning:

- **Public Outreach**
 - Two Focus groups involve parents in how to help prepare their child for school
 - Focus Group Questions:
 - Do you (parents) know what readiness is?
 - Is it (readiness) important?
 - Do you know where to go to get information about school readiness?
 - What are the barriers?
 - Natasha Fields is the facilitator
 - Germantown and Gaithersburg from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with childcare and other incentives perhaps in November
- **Questions/Comments from the Council**
 - *Teaching for Change* is also a support to parents
- **Exemplary Practices**
 - Weller Road high FARMS and high MMSR
 - HS PEP
 - The principal is passionate and engages parents
 - High expectations for children
 - Most children register for kindergarten
 - Full time Parent Liaison
 - Title I funding is geared toward parent engagement
 - Diversity in her staff
 - High alignment and understands the importance of early childhood
 - Facility
 - PD for staff
- **Questions/Comments from the Council**
 - Focus groups involving this principal?
 - Scott Steffan from Highland ES is also a good principal to speak with as well as Michael Bayewitz (former principal of Broad Acres) for a conversation about community engagement
- **Announcements:**
 - County Council and BOE presentation about ECAC on Nov. 7th from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. details will be sent to the ECAC
 - **January 2014:**
 - Are there other subcommittees that will need to be formed?
 - We will need to develop a literacy committee
 - ECAC Membership has access to many resources. Develop a bank of resources that all members of the council can access

- Increase information sharing ideas for the ECAC
 - Google groups
- Thanks to Barbara for working on the grant!
- **Adjournment:**
 - We need to challenge each other to get the best outcome
 - Thankful to the members of the council
 - We are the leaders and we have to set the policies and share what is needed