

CHILD CARE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

March 14, 2023

7:00 p.m.

Fairfax County Government Center Conference Room 4/5

MEMBERS PRESENT	Monica Jackson, Wynne Busman (Remote), Liz Cassidy, Mercedes Dash, Evelyn Evans, Valerie Inman, Gita D'Souza Kumar, Janet Reimer
MEMBERS ABSENT	Scott Stroh
STAFF PRESENT	Sallyann Bergh, Keisha Dotson, Kelly Naylor

Call to Order

Monica Jackson, Vice Chair, called the March 14, 2023, Child Care Advisory Council meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Members and staff introduced themselves.

Review of Minutes

The February 14, 2023, meeting minutes were reviewed, and approved. Motion to approve with changes was made by Janet Reimer, seconded by Gita D'Souza Kumar, and passed unanimously.

Fairfax Futures Update

Sallyann Bergh, Executive Director, Fairfax Futures gave an overview of the work of her organization. Fairfax Futures is a non-profit organization that is 19 years old that provides grants, tests new ideas, and expands the work of Fairfax County. They provide school readiness and provide professional learning opportunities. Ms. Bergh provided information on the many programs and initiatives they support: Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ), Infant Toddler Connection, CareVan, School Readiness Symposium, Wolf Trap artists, a resource fair, and volunteer opportunities.

Ms. Inman asked Ms. Bergh to clarify what ages they serve, and she answered birth through age 5. She referred to the ASQ screening tool and how they provide equitable school readiness assistance before kindergarten. Ms. Inman asked how long ASQ would be supported. Ms. Bergh responded that they are in year three of funding, so a year to a year and a half remaining. The council discussed how both the parents and the teachers score the child in the ASQ. Cultural differences, family structure, or disability may impact scoring.

Ms. Jackson brought up to the council that it is time to step up as providers. The pandemic laid the foundation and it is now time to discuss the outcomes. The use of child care providers outside of the family is down. The ASQ would benefit skill building and be a useful tool for providers. Ms. Reimer noted that parents are looking for good infant care and it is difficult to find. Ms. Jackson also added that they need to advocate for the needs of the parents and providers. School readiness statistics are also down, 40% or so are not ready for kindergarten. Ms. Reimer commented that kindergarten teachers have a hard enough time with all the different levels of readiness they encounter when the child enters school and deserve better pay. Ms. Bergh confirmed that children are behind, due to the pandemic. Ms.

Jackson responded that the 4-year-old of today is like the 2-year-old of years ago, and there is lots of work to be done.

Ms. Bergh stated that the county is exploring how to support youth that are not in school or work get programs and services. She will continue to grow the portfolio and opportunities, businesses playing a critical role. Ms. Jackson added that Supervisor Herrity still holds a Teen Job Fair and a class on resume writing for youth.

Ms. Bergh concluded by saying that they are looking at capital improvements, which include buildings for child care spaces, workforce support, and drop-in services.

To contact Ms. Bergh by email: sallyann@fairfax-futures.org

Strategic Planning

Due to concerns about the weather, the vice-chair deferred the agenda item until next meeting.

Old and New Business

There was no old or new business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm. Motion was made by Janet Reimer and seconded by Liz Cassidy.