

CHILD CARE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

November 14, 2023

7:00 p.m.

Fairfax County Government Center Conference Room 4/5

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| MEMBERS PRESENT | Wynne Busman, Evelyn Evans, Valerie Inman, Monica Jackson, Gita D' Souza Kumar, Scott Stroh |
| MEMBERS ABSENT | Elizabeth Cassidy, Mercedes Dash, Kerry O'Brien |
| STAFF PRESENT | Flor Philips, Suzanne Ritchie |
| COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT | None |

Call to Order

Scott Stroh, Chair, called the November 14, 2023, Child Care Advisory Council meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Review of Minutes

The October 10, 2023, meeting minutes were reviewed, and approved. Motion to approve without any changes was made by Valerie Inman, seconded by Evelyn Evans, and passed unanimously.

Thematic Needs Assessment/Action Plan discussion

Chair Scott Stroh opened the floor for discussion of the Council's action plan based on the information he has collected in the Thematic Needs Assessment document. Valerie Inman said she was feeling overwhelmed about the action plan items and wasn't sure how the Council should move forward. A lot of the items feel too big for the council to tackle. As a starting point, she said that quality and affordable childcare listed under category four, Communal and Societal Needs, felt important right now. Chair Stroh explained the action plan is a living document and it will change as the Council works through the categories. It should be viewed as a guidepost to a strategic plan that is actionable and will allow the Council to move forward in their work.

Monica Jackson thought it would be a good idea if the CCAC takes on initiatives identified by the state (VDOE). There has been a lot of discussion on quality and providers. The results from the state surveys should inform the strategic plan of the CCAC. **CCAC member Jackson would like to discuss the findings of several recent surveys sent to childcare providers at the next CCAC meeting.**

Stroh asked the Council to think about more immediate ideas for implementation now. The group can identify priorities and have conversations with NCS staff about what is feasible to focus on.

Wynne Busman said thought that recruitment and retention of childcare providers (from the Economic and Financial Needs category) could be a good place to start. She proposed creating a survey of providers. Valerie Inman said that quality providers might go hand in hand with the retention of providers. Inman sees mentorship as a huge piece of recruiting and retaining providers and said it has been essential to her career.

On the topic of quality providers, Jackson said increasing the class report scores of existing providers before recruiting new providers should be a priority. The Council could think about creating a campaign to support underperforming providers. Jackson said this will have a better impact on the recruitment, retention, and enrollment. Childcare provider's ratings being published online will cause a lot of providers to close their businesses, leading to less providers available in the region.

Stroh pointed out that the most discussed topics over the past year have included promotion of the value and benefit of childcare and promoting benefits of working in the field. He asked Council to consider other related topics, like strategies for proactively promoting providers.

Fairfax County resolution for Janet Reimer

BOS Chairman McKay's office is working on a resolution to honor Janet's service to the CCAC. NCS staff would like to collect material to add to the biography portion of the resolution. Please share any ideas with [Suzanne](#). **NCS staff will share the date of the resolution presentation ceremony with the Council.**

Old and New Business

Council members did not have any old or new business topics to discuss.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm. The motion was made by Wynne Busman and seconded by Valerie Inman.

Next Meeting

January 9, 2024

7:00 p.m.

Virtual meeting via Zoom

(Zoom link will be sent in early January)