

CHILD CARE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

October 8, 2024

7:00 p.m.

**Fairfax County Government Center
Conference Room 7**

Members Present	Wynne Busman, Mercedes Dash, Evelyn Evans, Valerie Inman, Monica Jackson, Anne Goldstein-Rugel, Sangeeta Sarkar
MEMBERS ABSENT	Scott Stroh
STAFF PRESENT	Flor Philips
COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT	None

Call to Order

Monica Jackson, Vice-Chair, called the October 8, 2024, Child Care Advisory Council meeting to order.

Review of Minutes

The June 11, 2024 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved. Motion to approve without any changes was made by Wynne Busman, seconded by Mercedes Dash, and passed unanimously.

The September 10, 2024 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved. Motion to approve without any changes was made by Valerie Inman, seconded by Sangeeta Sarkar, and passed unanimously.

Information Sharing & Updates

BAC Update

All Board, Authorities and Commissions (BAC) members will receive a link to complete a demographic survey. It is open until October 31 and the purpose is to gather baseline information and to ensure diverse representation in decision making authorities. The intent is not to change the composition of BAC's, rather, it's a way to explore how to make vacancies known and to increase opportunities for participation to county residents. A larger, separate review of BAC's will occur at a later date.

Completing the survey is voluntary and only the first and last questions are required. All questions have a "prefer not to answer" option. The data collected from the survey will be stored on the county's intranet, not the internet. The responses in aggregate will be shared first with the BOS and supervisor's districts and then with the public on the county's website. No identifiable information will be shared.

Strategic Plan

Early Childhood Programs and Services has contracted with a consulting firm to develop a strategic plan for 2024 and beyond. Some activities related to the planning will be launched soon. The focus of planning will be on families and early childhood educators. As the work evolves staff can share information with the council on a regular basis.

Ready Regions Quality Profile website

The [Ready Regions VQB5 Quality Profile](#) website is now live. Families can assess information about quality and safety for more than 3,000 publicly-funded early childhood sites. Each participating site received a score of exceeds expectations, meets expectations or needs additional support. It was noted that there are multiple websites and ways to find information about childcare providers. Staff are seeking to structure the Early Childhood Programs and Services (ECPS) website so they can efficiently connect families with various resources in a coherent way.

CCAC Officer Elections

Council member Valerie Inman reached out to the members of the nominating committee formed during the September 1, 2024 council meeting. Council member Inman presented the slate to everyone present at the meeting. The committee nominated council members Evelyn Evans as chair and Monica Jackson as vice-chair. A motion was made to vote on the slate by Wynne Busman, seconded by Anne Goldstein-Rugel. The council all voted in favor of the slate as presented.

Other items

- Council member Anne Goldstein-Rugel shared that she has been in contact with a representative from the [Young Adults Advisory Council](#) (YAA), which is coordinated through the Department of Economic Initiatives. The YAA serves to advise Fairfax County Government by contributing young adults' experiences, knowledge, and solutions to County issues. Council member Goldstein-Rugel stressed the importance of including the YAA in the CCAC's work as there are young adults who need childcare in the county. The CCAC will invite the YAA representative to the November, 2024 meeting. A suggestion was made to add a discussion about the Family council to the November meeting agenda. The council will have continued conversations about how it is engaging and hearing the voices of families.
- Council member Mercedes Dash shared that she has attended meetings of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. She would consider joining the chamber, but the price of membership is expensive. Staff member Flor Philips asked the group if they

should contact the chamber to ask if a lower membership rate for childcare providers would be possible.

Website and Social Media Discussion

Council members Evelyn Evans and Valerie Inman have been working together on improving the CCAC's webpage and have made an outline of key messages and links. The group spent some time reviewing the document and offering suggestions. Please send Evelyn comments, questions and changes. Evelyn can also send the digital version of the document to the group. There was discussion as to whether these changes should be made on the CCAC page or the county pages for childcare. Council member Jackson suggested the changes should be made on the CCAC page.

Action Items & Next Steps

- Staff will clarify recent term expirations with the Clerk to the Board's office. Council members Monica Jackson, Wynne Busman, Valerie Inman and Anne Goldstein-Rugel terms expired on September 30, 2024. Anne's position was renewed but Monica, Wynne and Valerie have not received their letters of reappointment yet. The positions of At-Large Chairman and Springfield representatives are still vacant.
- Invite the YAA representative to the next CCAC meeting.
- Include discussion about the Family Council on the November meeting agenda.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The motion was made by Evelyn Evans and seconded by Wynne Busman.

Next Meeting

November 12, 2024

Virtual Meeting via Teams

7:00 p.m.