

CHILD CARE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

October 10, 2023

7:00 p.m.

Fairfax County Government Center Conference Room 4/5

MEMBERS PRESENT	Elizabeth Cassidy, Evelyn Evans, Valerie Inman, Monica Jackson, Scott Stroh
MEMBERS ABSENT	Wynne Busman, Kerry O' Brien, Mercedes Dash, Gita D'Souza Kumar
STAFF PRESENT	Keisha Dotson, Suzanne Ritchie
COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT	Christopher Falcon, Human Services Council Member

Call to Order

Scott Stroh, Chair, called the October 10, 2023, Child Care Advisory Council meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Review of Minutes

The June 13, 2023, meeting minutes were reviewed, and approved. Motion to approve without any changes was made by Monica Jackson, seconded by Val Inman, and passed unanimously.

Thematic Needs Assessment follow up

Chair Scott Stroh shared the recent updates he made to the Thematic Needs document. He identified some key categories and action items for the council to pursue as a group or in partnership with other community members and groups.

1. **Economic and Financial Needs:**
 - Recruitment and Retention of Providers
2. **Administrative and Bureaucratic Needs**
 - Reducing the bureaucratic burden of the licensing and certification process
3. **Health and Wellness Needs**
 - Mental Health and Burn-Out
4. **Communal and Societal Needs**
 - Equity and Trust
 - Quality AND Affordable Childcare
 - Public Perception of Childcare

5. Marketing and Promotion Opportunities

- Public Case
- Recruitment

Stroh opened the floor for discussion. Monica Jackson remarked that she and other CCAC members recently attended the Ready Regions Capital Area (RRCA) round-table discussion hosted by the Early Childhood Programs and Services Division (ECPS) and Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF). Jackson thought it would be a good idea if the CCAC takes on initiatives identified by the state. **Jackson would also like to know the impacts of the expiring ARPA childcare stabilization dollars. CCAC member Jackson would also like to discuss the findings of several recent surveys sent to childcare providers.**

NCS staff member Keisha Dotson will share the notes from the RRCA round-table. The ECPS division staff are monitoring the impact of the end of ARPA funding and do not anticipate a significant impact to providers.

The consensus of the group is that more time is needed to review the updates to the Thematic Needs Assessment before having a more detailed discussion. **This will be an agenda item for the November meeting.** Any feedback members have can also be sent via email to Stroh in the meantime.

Early Childhood Programs and Services updates

NCS staff member Dotson updated CCAC members on recent work and activities happening in the Early Childhood Programs and Services Division (ECPS). The previously mentioned RRCA Round-Table discussion focused on some key areas including mental health of providers and outreach to families. NCS communications will officially launch the rebranding of ECPS (formerly the Office for Children) soon. The main focus of the division's work has been registering providers and getting observations scheduled for RRCA work. Dotson also shared the Neighborhood School Readiness Project (NSRP) teams will be moving divisions, but the staff and program will remain the same. The Institute for Early Learning (IFEL) has gone through some programmatic realignment, but the staff and resources will also remain the same. **Dotson will report on the award amounts of the 2023 Child Care Provider Grant Program at the next meeting.**

CCAC Housekeeping items

CCAC members agreed to keep the current meeting schedule with recess taken in December, July, and August. The group also agreed to make the January 9th meeting virtual. The group also reviewed the Board, Authorities and Commission attendance and remote participation policies. **NCS staff will send an updated 2023-2024 meeting calendar, denoting how to access virtual meetings.** NCS staff is currently working with the clerk to the Board of Supervisors office on council members reappointments and replacements. Members whose terms of office have recently ended can continue to serve on the council until they are officially reappointed.

Old and New Business

NCS staff shared the recent news that council member Janet Reimer resigned her position in August. There was discussion amongst the group of ways to honor her over 30 years of service to the council. **Chair Stroh will be in contact with Janet's daughter and will report back to the group so they can decide.**

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm. The motion was made by Scott Stroh and seconded by Monica Jackson.

Next Meeting

November 14, 2023

7:00 p.m.

Fairfax County Government Center

Conference Room 4/5