

CHILD CARE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

January 9, 2024

7:00 p.m.

Virtual meeting via Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT	Wynne Busman (Diamond Point, NY), Elizabeth Cassidy (Reston), Mercedes Dash (Fairfax), Evelyn Evans (Woodbridge), Valerie Inman (Herndon), Monica Jackson (Springfield)
MEMBERS ABSENT	Kerry O'Brien, Gita D'Souza Kumar, Scott Stroh
STAFF PRESENT	Flor Philips, Suzanne Ritchie
COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT	None

Call to Order

Monica Jackson, Vice-Chair, called the January 9, 2024 Child Care Advisory Council meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Review of Minutes

The November 14, 2023 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved. Motion to approve without any changes was made by Wynne Busman, seconded by Mercedes Dash, and passed unanimously.

Thematic Needs Assessment/Action Plan discussion

The Council agreed to table this discussion for the February 13th meeting when Chair Scott Stroh is in attendance.

2024 Agenda Planning

Vice-Chair Jackson expressed that supporting providers in CLASS is an important topic to explore in 2024. Jackson would also like an update on the CLASS observation tool and data. Jackson noted guidelines and measurement throughout the state may not be as clear cut in findings. Parent engagement is also an important agenda item to focus on in 2024.

ECPS Director Flor Philips provided an update on Governor Younkin's 2024 proposed budget. There will be an investment in current family subsidies, the proposed amount for FY 2025 is \$212 million (coming from the General Fund) and approximately \$230 million for FY26. Philips explained that she is not sure how new subsidy families will be affected by this proposal, but ECPS staff will be closely following the budget process during the ongoing legislative session.

During the February 13th meeting, the Council will discuss what Ready Regions is and the data associated with the initiative.

Old and New Business

Vice-Chair Jackson expressed concerns about the 2023 Child Care Provider Grant Program and said she felt like providers were not made to be a priority during the application and disbursement process. Philips explained that the County partnered with the Latino Economic Development Center to administer the grant program. Philips noted that there is a lot of backend work throughout the funding process, but disbursement is expected to happen during the second and third weeks of January.

For the next meeting, the Council would like an update on the resolution for Janet Reimer that is currently in progress in the Chairman's office.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34pm. The motion was made by Wynne Busman and seconded by Mercedes Dash.

Next Meeting

February 13, 2024

7:00 p.m.

Government Center

Conference Room 4/5