

Howard County Chapter MSCCA Meeting Nov. 24, 2020

Attendees – Randi Albertson, Joan Johnson, Jennifer Harding, Amy Schroeder, Maria Kirby, Kim Wissman, Kirsten Mahoney, Sharon Buttari, Michelle Hefflin, Philandra Blackwell, Lynn Moratis, Helen Moody, Angel Bowden, Sarah Ogunde, Heather Andrews, Saundra Hicks, Mara Rose, Michelle Watson, Ellicott City (?)

Randi –

- Members of the State Association should have received their invoice for 2021 Membership Dues. If you are participating in Maryland EXCELS there is a discount. Dues go towards lobbying, advocacy work and conferences. If you are not a member, please reach out to Randi who will connect you with the Membership Chairman.
- Board Meeting last week. Isaac who is our lobbyist in Annapolis updated them on what to expect in the legislative session which starts in January. Kirwan was approved but there is no funding at this time. Any of the times that are nonmonetary or low budget items will move forward. Legislature will have to decide on how to move forward and what items to allocate funding. The association is looking into several things: in relation to Kirwan items that do not require monetary funds such as Staff Qualifications from OCC (faster turnaround and more accountability); Child care being recognized as an essential business/industry not an educational entity; Building new relationships with the new members of the legislature.
- HCPSS has extended virtual learning through the end of the third quarter (end of April). Will have to wait to see how vaccines will affect this.
- Roundtable last week with Peter Franchot, Comptroller of Maryland, who processed the EPCC payments for MSDE. He was very personable and supportive of child care. He is interested in what issues we face as an industry, funding, COVID effects, etc. Talked about the current environment in child care and the lack of funding for child care. He offered the use of his staff to draft a request to the Governor for emergency funds/grants for child care to help support our businesses during the upcoming months. He left door open for future conversations with the association.
- Transition to Kindergarten Workgroup – Conversation with Amy Raymond on supporting school readiness activities in county programs. HCPSS has gone back to the Common Language Standards during virtual instruction. During the meeting we looked at 4 domains (Personal Social, Math, Language/Literacy and Physical Development/Health) in small groups and brainstormed hands-on, developmentally activities that support development of these domains. We will be developing resources with these activities to distribute to the child care programs. Amy Raymond will be coming to our December meeting. Please take a few minutes and fill out the survey with your questions and concerns. We will pass this on to Amy so that she can address them during the meeting.
- ECAC (Joan) – Updates (1) Lisa Rhodes on the Basics which has replaced Ready Rosie. Text messaging service for parents of children birth to 3 years of age; (2) Kari Staddon, United Way, spoke about the Family Center that they are opening in 2021 to provide services for parent and

children from low-income households with job training and child care; (3) Library has purchased a van to take their classes into different neighborhoods in the county; (4) Sharon Afework, OCC reported that 95% programs are open including 168 centers and 5 LOC's. MSDE has update COVID-19 Guidelines and a new Decision Aid Chart on closing a classroom and/or entire program. You should use this as a guide and consult with the Health Department. (5) Jen Harwood, Early Intervention reported that small groups in the school buildings have been suspended. They are providing chrome books for all children to use in virtual learning. (5) HCC Continued Education has scholarship money available for people seeking their 90 hours.

- MSCCAA Conference by the Sea will be held April 29 – May 3 2021. This will be a hybrid platform with both limited in-person sessions and virtual options. Request for trainers just went out. Registration will start in January with multiple options for attending.