Early Childhood Advisory Council Notes  
Meeting 5: Thursday, October 24, 2013  
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
Johns Hopkins University  
A & R Building Room 112

Members Present:  
Barbara Andrews  
Rosalba Bonilla-Acosta  
Jennifer Arnaiz  
Janine Bacquie  
Kathi Carey-Fletcher  
Robin Chernoff  
Nancy Hillbrand for Amy Cropp  
Patsy Evans  
Kate Garvey  
Mary Gies  
Kim Grant  
Michelle Green  
Carol Legarreta  
Meredith Myers  
Bernadine Occhiuzzo  
Linda Owen  
Tobi Printz-Platnick  
Lois Stovall  
John Surr  
Verna Washington  
Sarah Wilch-Spamer  
Vivian Yao

Open Activity:
- Members shared a barrier and a resource related to attending today’s meeting

Support Letter and Signatures for Grant Application:
- Participants had an opportunity to hear the letter read and ask questions  
- Participants will sign the letter before leaving the meeting

Revisit Group Guidelines/Protocol for Guests:
- Available at each table for review

Meeting Schedule and Plan for Facilitator:
- The majority of participants voted on extending the April 10, 2014 meeting from a two-hour meeting to a mini-retreat. Author, Stacy Goffin is invited to as the guest speaker as part of the grant application.

Bylaws Discussion and Vote:
- All changes are in Article IV. Membership  
- Bylaws are part of the grant submission  
- Michelle, John, and Patsy provided feedback  
- Discussion:
  - Include an ECAC member from budget and planning  
    - Invite this representative to attend the ECAC as a guest  
  - Michelle, John, and Patsy provided feedback
• Bylaws were accepted by unanimous vote from the Council

Grant Presentation:

• **Value Voting Results:**
  - Public Media Campaign
  - Examining & Increasing Access to data
  - Full Approach to Professional Development
  - Reaching specific communities

• **Enhancement of Existing Early Care and Education System:**
  - ECAC Meetings
    - Seven meetings through June 2015
    - Facility
    - Supplies
    - Food (if permitted)
    - Meeting Facilitator
  - Meeting or Luncheon
    - Executive Directors and Leaders of ECAC membership organizations

• **Public Outreach/Media Campaign:**
  - Community Focus Groups
  - Parents, Providers, and Teachers
  - Facilities
  - Facilitator
  - Translators
  - Stipends or Gift Cards (if permitted)
  - Food (if permitted)
  - Coordinated public outreach materials
  - Increased awareness of Child Link
  - Outreach to pediatric community
    - Linked to Reach Out & Read (required)
    - Linked to state B-HIPP project (optional)
  - Focus in targeted areas connected to Engagement Project
  - Development of County-wide materials

• **Increasing Access to Data**
  - Examine existing access to data
  - Development of GIS maps
    - Information on services throughout the County
    - Management of GIS updating
  - Updated demographic study of the County
    - Computer, color printer, software for GIS mapping, Microsoft Publisher, & data analysis
    - Data Analyst
    - Creation of data access dashboard
  - Examine existing access to data
  - Development of GIS maps
    - Information on services throughout the County
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• **Professional Development and Family Engagement Project**
  o Target one County community, based on data mapping and analysis as related to:
    ▪ High English Language Learner population
    ▪ High FARMS rates
    ▪ Low readiness scores
    ▪ Resources accessed less frequently by families
  o Professional Development Plan for child care providers in targeted community, including breakthrough center
  o Temporary Part-Time Project Manager
  o Parent/Family Engagement Activities
  o Translation Services
  o Training & Engagement Activity Materials
  o Printing

• **Targeted County Communities**
  o Gaithersburg or Wheaton Woods ES
  o Determinations based on the following:
    ▪ High FARMS—50% or higher
    ▪ High English Language Learner—50% or higher
    ▪ Low overall readiness score—under 70%
  o Gaithersburg ES    Wheaton Woods ES
  o 9 Family Providers  5 Family Providers
  o 4 Centers (1 School Age)  5 Centers (1 School Age/1 PreK)

• **Questions/Comments from the Council:**
  o Are transportation and childcare allowable in the grant?
  o Are pro bono donations permitted from members of the Council (in kind donations)?
  o Is the no-cost training for pediatrician’s part of the grant?
  o Is there funding for parent packets in the grant? Yes
  o Are police officers and emergency room doctors included?
  o Should there be a specific call-out to Excels?
    o Professionalizing Child Care providers
  o Ensure that we are using the internet as much as possible
  o Child Link should have a Twitter handle and utilize social media
  o Should a Media Specialist or a PR Company be engaged to help? There is not enough money in this grant to fund that
  o The Chief Innovation Officer can be a good resource (possibly as an in kind donation)
  o The MCPS Communications Office may also be a resource
  o PNC may be a good resource as an in kind donation
  o This isn’t just about Community Engagement: What about the families who do not have their children in licensed childcare? The Judy Centers include Learning Parties and Parent Café’s
  o We need to define what a “Breakthrough Center” means
  o It is important to implement leadership development for child care center directors to motivate leaders
  o The Judy Centers are a good resource to bringing in community partners
  o Immigrant communities have their own insular groups so we need to engage their leaders to engage them
  o The grant should explicitly include ways that we are going to link and align available resources in the county
• Gaithersburg ES (GES) or Wheaton Woods ES (WWES)?
  o What are the goals of the pilot?
  o There is a Parent Resource Center at GES
  o The principal at GES has partnered with stakeholders to support the needs of the school and the Parent Resource Center
  o The principal at WWES is also engaged with the community
• Voting: 11 out of 7 voted for GES
• The Gaithersburg ES community will be the focus of the grant

Examining Data Maps/Discussion re: Target for Grant

• GIS Maps will be sent to the Council

Group Reports/Questions/Planning:

• Public Outreach
  o Two Focus groups involve parents in how to help prepare their child for school
  o Focus Group Questions:
    ▪ Do you (parents) know what readiness is?
    ▪ Is it (readiness) important?
    ▪ Do you know where to go to get information about school readiness?
    ▪ What are the barriers?
  o Natasha Fields is the facilitator
  o Germantown and Gaithersburg from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with childcare and other incentives perhaps in November
• Questions/Comments from the Council
  o Teaching for Change is also a support to parents
• Exemplary Practices
  o Weller Road high FARMs and high MMSR
  o HS PEP
  o The principal is passionate and engages parents
  o High expectations for children
  o Most children register for kindergarten
  o Full time Parent Liaison
  o Title I funding is geared toward parent engagement
  o Diversity in her staff
  o High alignment and understands the importance of early childhood
  o Facility
  o PD for staff
• Questions/Comments from the Council
  o Focus groups involving this principal?
  o Scott Steffan from Highland ES is also a good principal to speak with as well as Michael Bayewitz (former principal of Broad Acres) for a conversation about community engagement
• Announcements:
  o County Council and BOE presentation about ECAC on Nov. 7th from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. details will be sent to the ECAC
  o January 2014:
    ▪ Are there other subcommittees that will need to be formed?
    ▪ We will need to develop a literacy committee
  o ECAC Membership has access to many resources. Develop a bank of resources that all members of the council can access
- Increase information sharing ideas for the ECAC
  - Google groups
- Thanks to Barbara for working on the grant!

- **Adjournment:**
  - We need to challenge each other to get the best outcome
  - Thankful to the members of the council
  - We are the leaders and we have to set the policies and share what is needed