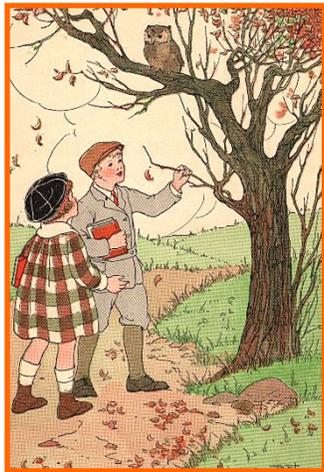


Fall 2018



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*Executive Director's Message*

Hello Members:

Thank you for a remarkable year! MSCCA has been able to expand our benefits, strengthen our advocacy efforts, enjoy record-breaking attendance at our annual conferences, initiate new chapters and provide more support to grant recipients and worthy causes.

MSCCA retained Compass Government Relations firm to work alongside our legislative task force to strengthen our position and presence at the state level in Annapolis. Many thanks to our generous donors that made this critical initiative possible.

MSCCA awarded 9 Jennifer Nizer-Passion for Excellence grants to members! We were able to provide outdoor play equipment, Kodas training, STEM related materials for classrooms, outdoor living classrooms, CDA support and more. Monies raised by our raffles, Exhibitors and some donations help us increase our benefits to members, such as our annual grant.



Each year MSCCA participates in the Children Helping Children campaign to fundraise for the Johns Hopkins Miracle Network with our Chapters leading the way. In 2018 we raised close to \$5000.00 for the Child Life department. Special thanks to Lavonne Taylor, Harford County Chapter-Forest Hill Nature Preschool and Jennifer Dorsey, Baltimore City Chapter- A World of Friends for their extraordinary efforts and creative themes to engage their children and families to help other children and families at difficult times in their lives. We are so grateful to everyone who donated and proud to be a part of this campaign annually.

MSCCA also provides outreach annually through a Coat and Blanket drive for the homeless in Baltimore City and a Toys for Tots drive each December.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## *Executive Director's Message*

*(Continued from page 1)*

Thanks again to our Chapter leaders for coordinating and dropping off donations. We make a great team!

I work hard on coalition building and partnerships throughout the year. MSCCA is excited to share that our coalition of Partners has been able to receive for the second year, a state Proclamation recognizing **Provider Appreciation Day**. This year it was May 11, 2018. In part the Proclamation reads, "It is important to recognize and commend the unselfish dedication, commitment and compassion that child care providers demonstrate everyday and our future depends on the quality of the early childhood experiences provided to young children..." Child Care has a special day thanks to our coalition of Partner Associations working together to honor all of you in the field of care and education.



The Conference by the Sea 2018 was a resounding success. We had almost 800 attendees! Our keynotes, especially Eric Litwin Original Pete the Cat author, were amazing. The MSCCA

Professional Development Committee is hard at work planning for May 2-5, 2019 in Ocean City, MD.. We offer more than 18 hours of quality COK training in the Spring and 6.5 hours at the Fall Symposium, as well as eligibility for 2 Professional Activity Units for attending a statewide conference. Members receive big discounts on registration. We will open registration for MSCCA Spring Conference on December 15, 2018.

MSCCA sits on a plethora of committees, commissions, workgroups and meets quarterly with MSDE Leadership to keep lines of communication open and build relationships to better understand all stakeholder's perspectives. I co-chair the Office of Child care Advisory Council and am appointed by Governor on the state Early Childhood Advisory Council. Many of our Board Members are active on the local early Child hood Advisory Councils as well.

Our communication to members through social media is expanding and most effective. Our Chapters are sharing information regularly and we want to hear from you. Look for more interactive surveys and public policy alerts in 2019! Thanks for following MSCCA on social media. Don't forget to like and share!

*(Continued on page 3)*

## *Executive Director's Message*

*(Continued from page 2)*

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the current Board of Directors for their incredible leadership, thoughtful perspectives and unwavering dedication to our Priorities Agenda and much more to strengthen the Association. My hats off to all of you for your service as a volunteer and your sincere passion for this field and for children. We will continue to work together in some capacity to make a difference!

Finally, to our members, thank you for being a part of Maryland State Child Care Association. I have so much respect for all you do to positively impact the lives of children and to support the parents in the workforce. You make a difference!

I look forward to more success in 2019!

*Christina Peusch,*  
Executive Director



## *MSCCA Public Policy and Advocacy Corner*

Your voice makes a difference! Advocacy is an important part of the MSCCA mission.

MSCCA is very active in Advocacy and Public Policy at state, local and agency levels. We attend monthly Public Policy meetings, we meet with partners, legislators, the Governor's office and MSDE throughout the year to share concerns and to celebrate success.

MSCCA is active on many state level committees and councils. We work to share the voice of the early childhood educator/child care provider community. We hope to continue to encourage leaders and members to be active, vital stakeholders ready to reach out to your legislators to build relationships and impact change.

We presented in front of the Women's Legislative Caucus twice in 2018 on child care issues focusing on affordability, obstacles to doing business in Maryland, regulations and Universal Pre-K. Our goal is to educate as many decision makers in Annapolis and DC about our very unique business, our parents needs and relate all to developmentally appropriate practices for children.

MSCCA along with our Government Relations Partner, Compass has been following the work of the Kirwan Commission and discussion of Universal Pre-K in Maryland. We submitted written comments, testimony, met with moderator and members of Commission to share information, gain clarification and voice concerns. Please visit <https://conduitstreet.mdcountries.org> for more on Kirwan Commission.

Please help us to continue with professional advocacy representation and expertise by making a donation to the MSCCA Advocacy initiative. MSCCA is a non-profit 501c3 Association. All donations are tax deductible.

Below is a list of some of the bills from the 2018 Legislative Session for which MSCCA submitted written and when appropriate, oral testimony.

### **Supported:**

SB 379 / HB 430: "Education-Child Care Subsidies-Mandatory Funding Levels" requiring the State to raise subsidy rates in 2019, 2020, and 2021, to increase Child Care Subsidy Program families' access to at least 60 percent of the market. This benchmark of 60% will be a foundation that mandates Maryland will not fall below this threshold again. We still have work to do to move to the 75% recommended by the Federal Government, but this is a substantial victory for advocates, families and especially children! MSCCA is proud of our efforts to advocate in full support of this legislation through written and oral testimony. We also met with Governor's office and the efforts made by advocates such as our Partners, Associations and especially key Legislators, committees and the Governor to raise the reimbursement rates which will benefit families, children and providers.

The Child Care Development Fund is requiring 70% of funds states receive be used specifically for Child Care Subsidy. MSDE has been able to double the eligibility income levels for families in need

*(Continued on page 5)*

## *MSCCA Public Policy and Advocacy Corner*

meeting the criteria. The increases to eligibility along with slow and steady increases to reimbursement rates are key components to access and equity for children to quality child care programs. Many providers and programs will be able to open their doors to more eligible families and receive a fair reimbursement.

HB 883: "Tax Credits-Employer Child Care Center and Employer-Provided Child Care Services"

SB 517: "Career and Technology Education and Workforce Investment Act" – relates to apprenticeships in Child Care

SB 618: "Career Youth and Public Sector Apprenticeship Act"- Senator Rosapepe work with Child Care community to include in the critical workforce shortage for apprenticeships

SB 544- "Health Occupations-Advanced Practice Dental Hygiene"- MFN support

SB 422- "Income Tax Credits for Child Care and Dependent Care Expenses-Income Eligibility"

SB 185-Budget language proposed to increase child care subsidies-related to SB 379/ HB 430

### **MSCCA Opposed:**

HB 57: Large Family Child Care Homes and Child Care Centers-Green Product Cleaning Supplies Regulations

HB 228: Definition of Child Care Centers-Definition of Child Care

### **Monitored numerous bills including:**

HB 1415- Education- Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education

HB 315- Paid Leave Compromise

All full written testimony is available via email at [info@mscca.org](mailto:info@mscca.org) or on website at [mscca.org](http://mscca.org)  
Visit [mgaleg.maryland.gov](http://mgaleg.maryland.gov) to view bills and fiscal notes.

## Legislative Updates



### Testimony Concerning HB 430: "Education - Child Care Subsidies - Mandatory Funding Levels" Submitted to Appropriations Committee March 28, 2018

#### Position: Support

Maryland has the highest income per capita in the nation, yet we have one of the lowest subsidy rates in the nation proving that Maryland has failed to invest in child care for the most vulnerable children. Research shows learning begins at birth. The brain develops most significantly from birth to age 3 and the brain's capacity is 90% developed by age 5. Research also shows that the achievement gap between poor children and their wealthier peers starts long before they step foot in a "classroom". Children from low income families fall behind when they miss out on early experiences that are critical for language development and literacy. Even with this knowledge, Maryland has done very little to keep pace with economy and invest in child care subsidies, leaving working parents with children under age 5 with little or no resources to access quality care.

HB 430 speaks to important next steps in helping eligible families obtain and maintain safe, quality child care where important early learning experiences are crucial to positive child development outcomes along with better readiness skills entering

Kindergarten. This legislative effort will also lend to narrowing the achievement gap in Maryland and hopefully decrease the likelihood of parents turning to unlicensed child care.



The proposed progressive roll out in this legislation offers a steady financial increase to child care subsidies allowing for a strong focus on access, equity and affordability. The efforts of the sponsors are to be commended and the impact will be stability and sustainability, which is crucial to families, children and the providers. Additionally, raising the amount of subsidy will support other positive outcomes that will benefit children, including more socio-economic diversity in early learning child care environments, which tend to be homogenous in both race and income.

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Legislative Updates

*(Continued from page 6)*



Child Care providers and businesses serving low-income communities will benefit tremendously. Also, programs previously unable to accept child care subsidy children because the subsidy barely covered 10% of the fees and many parents cannot afford the differential on top of the co-payments, will be inclusive and open their programs to more needy families, based on the increases.

State agencies and state legislators for too long have avoided, ignored or negated the importance of the workforce's necessity for affordable, quality child care.

MSCCA hopes that Maryland decides to climb out from the bottom they find themselves in after many years of neglect and begin to invest more as the Federal government has recommended. It is embarrassing and shameful that we have only met the state match for dollars appropriated for Child Care Subsidy when numerous other states have found a way to do more for children. Maryland has underspent despite a waitlist of more than 4,300 children and subsidy rates that are among the very lowest in the country. Attention to the waiting list, opening the frozen levels of income and modest increases will help, but Maryland's subsidy rates will still fall well below the federal recommendations if you do not act on this important legislation.

Aren't all children equally deserving?

MSCCA urges favorable support for HB 430.



## Legislative Updates

### Changes to Subsidy Eligibility

## Governor Larry Hogan Announces Expanded Eligibility for Maryland's Child Care Subsidy Program

### Twice as Many Working Families Can Now Access Assistance for Child Care Costs

Governor Larry Hogan today announced that Maryland's Child Care Subsidy (CCS) Program will now allow more children across the state to access quality child care and educational programs due to historic changes to the program.

Effective today, August 1, 2018, annual income eligibility limits for the CCS Program will double from \$35,702 to \$71,525 for a family of four. This increase and additional programmatic changes to the CCS Program this year will result in more Maryland children arriving at elementary school with the educational foundation needed for success during their school years, and in life.



"This program is critically important to expanding educational opportunities for Maryland's low-income working families who depend on this assistance," said Governor Hogan. "Doubling this funding allows us to provide more families with much-needed relief and ensure that more of our kids have access to quality child care and educational programs, providing the foundation for success in the classroom."

The CCS Program is funded through a combination of state and federal sources, which provide financial assistance to help eligible families working or attending educational/training programs to afford child care costs by issuing vouchers.

"High-quality care and education programs at a young age translate to a better start in kindergarten," said Dr. Karen Salmon, State Superintendent of Schools. "We want families to take advantage of this important expansion in eligibility."

In February, Governor Hogan approved the funding needed to lift the CCS Program waitlist that was established in March 2011. In addition, the governor provided much needed funding to increase the CCS Program provider reimbursement rate by 8 percent. During this past legislative session, the governor signed into law legislation which increases provider reimbursement rates over the next three years

## *Legislative Updates*

*(Continued from page 8)*

to not less than the 60th percentile of the cost of child care market rate by 2022. These actions, combined with improved federal funding through the Child Care Development Block Grant, means that Maryland will reach more eligible families.

The revision of the CCS Program income eligibility guidelines to 65 percent of State Median Income, and the increase in provider reimbursement rates, means more children will be able to access high-quality early care and education programs while their parents work or participate in school/training programs across Maryland.

Effective August 1, 2018, families in the following income categories may be eligible for a Child Care Subsidy

<b>Family Size</b>	<b>Maximum Family Income</b>
Family of 2	\$48,637
Family of 3	\$60,081
Family of 4	\$71,525
Family of 5	\$82,969
Family of 6	\$94,413
Family of 7	\$96,558
Family of 8	\$98,704
Family of 9	\$100,850
Family of 10	\$102,996



Note: CCS Applications submitted prior to August 1, 2018 and were denied for being over-income will need to submit a new application to CCS Central, if the current income falls within the effective income scale.

## *Legislative Updates*

### **MSCCA Strongly Opposes the Community-Based Provider Phase-In**

DATE: August 30, 2018

TO: Rachel Hise, Department of Legislative Services  
For distribution to all members, Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education

FROM: Christina Peusch, Executive Director, MSCCA  
Isaac Meyer, Government Relations Consultant, Alexander and Cleaver

RE: Position and Comments on Final Working Group One Recommendations

The Maryland State Child Care Association has raised concerns regarding the unintentional, but significant impact of phasing in the minimum slots for community-based providers from 10-percent to 50-percent from Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 – FY 2024 in 10-point increments. This policy will drastically impact the commercial viability of our members.

#### **Maryland EXCELS**

MSCCA supports Working Group One's proposal to fund slots to programs that currently operate at EXCELS Level 3 – 5. Currently, there are 513 programs performing at Level 3, 70 programs performing at Level 4, and 325 programs performing at Level 5 for a total of 908 programs eligible to receive slots under universal pre-kindergarten. MSCCA conservatively estimates that each of these programs can serve 20 three and four-year-old slots for a total existing capacity of 18,160 slots.

Page 6 of Working Group One's Preliminary Recommendations provides a chart of the phase-in. Additionally, another chart shows there are 38,223 four-year-olds below 300-percent of the federal poverty level (FPL). The Working Group based its funding formula on an 80-percent adoption rate which means in FY 2020, there would be 30,578 four-year-olds requiring slots. The Working Group recommends the community-based providers receive a minimum of 10-percent of the slots. This means in the first year of universal pre-k for all four-year-olds below 300-percent FPL, the Working Group is recommending only 3,058 slots go to community-based settings versus 27,520 slots to public school pro-



## *Legislative Updates*

*(Continued from page 10)*

grams. As stated, community-based providers will have an immediate capacity to serve 18,160 slots yet the Working Group is recommending only filling a minimum of 3,058.

EXCELS	Participating Programs	Capacity
Level 3	513	10,260
Level 4	70	1,400
Level 5	325	6,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>18,160</b>

Fiscal Year (FY)	Community-Based	Total Eligible Slots (80% uptake)	Community-Based Slots	Public School-Based Slots	Unfilled Capacity in Community-Based Program (Based on 18,160 slots)
FY 2020	10%	30,578	3,058	27,520	<b>15,102</b>
FY 2021	20%	30,578	6,116	24,462	<b>12,044</b>
FY 2022	30%	30,578	9,174	21,404	<b>8,986</b>
FY 2023	40%	30,578	12,232	18,346	<b>5,928</b>
FY 2024	50%	30,578	15,290	15,290	<b>2,870</b>

If a family has the choice between paying a community-based provider for services or sending their child to a public school-based program at no charge, the parent will choose the school-based program. The community-based phase-in will catastrophically impact community-based providers.

### **Further Implications**

Consumer behavior will change and those families eligible for fully-funded pre-k will choose to send their child to the free program. The Kirwan Commission has stated multiple times that it

wants to see diverse delivery. More importantly, members have stated they want to see income and racial diversity in classrooms as that creates the greatest learning experience for all children. The community-based phase-in would undermine both objectives. The system recommended would provide 90-percent of slots to public school programs despite the private sector having existing capacity to serve more than 50-percent of



*(Continued on page 12)*

## *Legislative Updates*

*(Continued from page 11)*

existing eligible four-year-olds. Additionally, the phase-in proposed would only bring 3,058 children below 300-percent FPL into the community-based settings while more than 27,000 would be placed into public-school programs. The surest way to create diversity of delivery and population is to immediately phase-in a 50-percent community-based provider mandate.

Additionally, because of the increased childcare subsidy and increased benefit if a community-based provider is meets EXCELS Level 3, current providers operating at Level 1 and 2 will strive to reach Level 3. Incentivizing improved performance while reducing the number of slots available for community-based providers is a conflicting model.

The Maryland State Child Care Association strongly requests the Kirwan Commission accelerate the community-based phase-in to immediately require 50-percent of pre-k slots be allocated to community providers.

## *Legislative Updates*

### *Charge to the Kirwan Commission*

#### **The Commission is charged with:**

- reviewing the findings and recommendations of the Study on Adequacy of Funding for Education in the State of Maryland regarding:
  - the proxy used to identify economically disadvantaged students;
  - how to address issues of increasing and declining student enrollment;
  - the preferred approach to expanding publicly funded prekindergarten education, including expanding the services and supports needed in special education prekindergarten;
  - how to achieve greater equity in school finance and local wealth measures; and
- the appropriate regional cost of education index and how the index should be used to adjust education funding;
- reviewing and assessing current education financing formulas and accountability measures and ensuring the adequacy and equity of funding for prekindergarten and other early childhood education programs;
- determining how the State can better prepare students for postsecondary education and to be competitive in the workforce and with other high performing countries in the global economy;
- reviewing how local school systems are spending education funds and ensuring that education funds are being spent efficiently and effectively and that local school systems are allocating their resources to improve student achievement;



#### **making recommendations for:**

- updating the base funding level for students without special needs and updating the per pupil weights for students with special needs to be applied to the base funding level as established by

*(Continued on page 14)*

## *Legislative Updates*

*(Continued from page 13)*

the Bridge to Excellence Act in Public Schools to ensure that all students are adequately prepared for college and careers;

- addressing how to increase participation in innovative public school models that may require additional funding or alternative funding mechanisms, such as
- other schools that provide innovative education through curriculum, structure, and socioeconomic diversity;
- community schools, including how the State can leverage federal 21st Century Community Learning Center Grants to expand community schools in the State; and career and technology education programs;
- apprenticeships and internships;
- Pathways in Technology Early College High Schools;
- early and middle college programs;
- dual enrollment programs;
- addressing the impact of high concentrations of poverty on local school systems;
- ensuring the State laws promote collaboration between county governments and local school systems; and
- making any other recommendations on legislation and policy initiatives to enhance the availability of innovative educational opportunities and to enhance the adequacy and equity of State funding for prekindergarten through grade 12 public education in the State.



*Congratulations!!! The Jennifer Nizer  
"Passion for Excellence Grant 2018"*

*Congratulations To The Winners of this Year's  
Jennifer Nizer Award!*

Wee Care Best, Finksburg, MD.  
Children's Christian Center, Bel Air, MD.  
Play and Learn at Scribbles, Baltimore MD.  
Themba Creative Learning Center, Lanham, MD.  
Child Care Cottage, Large Family Child Care Program, Frederick MD.  
NASA Goddard Child Development Center, Greenbelt, MD.  
Mother Catherine Academy, Mechanicsville, MD.  
A World of Friends School, Inc., Baltimore, MD.  
The Goddard School in Owings Mills, MD.

The application for the 2019 awards can be found on our website: <https://mscca.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/final-MSCCA-Nizer-grant-application-2019-f.pdf> The completed application must be postmarked or emailed by March 15, 2019

*Thank You to the Professional Development Committee*

Co-Chairs: Marcia Tivoli & Lavonne Taylor

Committee Members:

Deb Kamplain, Cindy Nissley, Bonnie Hendershot, Lisa Ann Dickinson, Barry Benesch,  
Jennifer Dorsey, Catherine Neville, Audrey Paps-Garnon, Kristen Miller, Chuck Wainwright  
Marina Maier, and Christina Peusch

thank  
you 😊



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*Awards*



MARYLAND STATE CHILD CARE ASSOCIATION  
 CHAMPIONS CIRCLE  
**LIZ KELLEY STANDING OVATION AWARD**  
*Senator Nancy King & Delegate Adrienne Jones*

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MSCCA recognizes your dedication, leadership and passion for making this state a better place for children and families. The work you do and causes you've championed impact the lives of Marylanders for the better. We celebrate your outstanding accomplishments and thank you for *standing* up on behalf of children and families.

OCTOBER 11, 2018



**OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP**  
 AWARDED TO :  
*Shaun Rose*

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Given with sincere appreciation for your outstanding leadership and advocacy efforts contributing to the success of the Association, you've made a difference!

OCT 11, 2018



**OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP**  
 AWARDED TO :  
*Terry Kitchen*

---

Given with sincere appreciation for your outstanding leadership contributing to the success of the Association, you've made a difference!

OCT 11, 2018

## *Board Members and Chapters*

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## *Chapter and Chapter Presidents*

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### **Harford/Cecil Counties**

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### **Montgomery County**

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Co-Chair: Marcia Tivoli  
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### **Baltimore City**

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### **Howard County**

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## *News From The Baltimore City Chapter*



### **The City Society of Education and Child Care**

**4701 Hazelwood Ave.**

**Baltimore, MD 21206**

**443-835-0738**

**President: Jennifer Dorsey**

The City Society of Early Education and Child Care have blasted off with a bang this school year. We have several new members as well as providers that want to hold board positions. We are very excited to assist programs with Maryland EXCELS, MDSE Accreditation and increase the quality of care in Baltimore City. We will have meet in October for the ABC's of Child Care Subsidy. Social-Emotional trainings will be offered each month on topics such as sensory sensitivity, difficult behaviors and family education. We will be meeting on the following dates: October 17, November 14 and December 19 at 7pm. We will be having all three upcoming meetings at A World of Friends School at 4701 Hazelwood Ave. Baltimore, MD 21206. All participants are invited to use the resource room that has a commercial laminator, book binding machine and die-cut letter maker. We would like to hear from the providers of Baltimore City Providers!! Please contact Jennifer Dorsey, President of CSECC @ 443-835-0738, [jdorseycpncj@yahoo.com](mailto:jdorseycpncj@yahoo.com)

Jennifer Dorsey, M.ED  
Owner/Director  
A World of Friends School



## *News From The Baltimore County Chapter*

### Upcoming Events

**Monthly Meetings** will be the last Tuesday of each month. We plan to alternate afternoon and evening meetings and locations throughout Baltimore County to accommodate a variety of schedules. Next meeting is Tuesday, October 30<sup>th</sup> for 1-3 at The Goddard School in Owings Mills, 9720 Watts Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117

**TRAINING** – Excels 2.0 Monday, December 17, 2018 from 1-3 Owings Mills Branch of Baltimore County Public Library. (\$10.00/person for Balt. Co MSCCA members, \$15.00/person for non-members.)

**ADVOCACY** – Rally Day in Annapolis, Monday, January 28, 2019. More information to follow.

**WINTER / SPRING TRAININGS** –

New licensing regulations review, February 2019, TBD. More information to follow.

Abilities Network, April 2019, TBD. More information to follow.



Contact Information:

Lisa Ann Dickinson – President, 443-255-1809, [ladickinson11@gmail.com](mailto:ladickinson11@gmail.com)

Erin Sudano – Vice President, 410-913-5806, [esudano@theimmaculate.org](mailto:esudano@theimmaculate.org)

## *News From Prince George's County Chapter*

The newly formed Prince George's County Chapter of MSCCA (PGMSCCA) held a kick-off meeting in June. PGMSCCA is open to all licensed child care programs in Prince George's County (e.g., center-based, family child care, school-age, public school settings, etc.) Our meetings are designed to meet the unique needs of this cross-section of Maryland child care. To that end, monthly topics vary and include opportunities for members to earn free CKO approved training, learn about MSDE updates and engage in presentations from community partners. PGMSCCA varies its meeting times to expand its reach to all programs within our County. Currently, we have monthly, mid-day meetings (4th Tuesday) at Saint Matthew's EEC (14900 Annapolis Road Bowie, MD 20715) and quarterly evening meetings (as announced) at Antioch Child Care Center (5096 Brown Station Road Upper Marlboro, MD 20772). To learn more about PGMSCCA, visit [www.pgmscca.org](http://www.pgmscca.org) or email us at [pgmscca@gmail.com](mailto:pgmscca@gmail.com).



Syretha O. Storey, Ph.D.

NASA Goddard Child Development Center Director

[sstorey@gcdc-nasa.org](mailto:sstorey@gcdc-nasa.org)

[www.facebook.com/NASA.GCDC](https://www.facebook.com/NASA.GCDC)

Phone: 301-286-8588

## *News From The Montgomery County Chapter*

Join us for our next meeting on October 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 am. The meeting of OCCD will feature Jenn Nizer and Steven Hicks. Check our website as we'll soon be posting our new schedule .

### **Brief Minutes from the MCCMSCCA Meeting – 9-26-18** **(Montgomery County Chapter of the Maryland State Child Care Association)**

Chapter Elections by consensus:

Chair: Marcia Tivoli, Potomac Valley Academy  
Co-Chair: Astrid Crookshank, St. James Children's Center  
Co-Secretary: Bernadine Occhiuzzo, Cedar Lane Nursery School  
Co-Secretary: Suzanne Funk, Geneva Day School



The regulations regarding the Basic Health & Safety course are not yet been published for public comment; perhaps they will be in October or November. MSCCA is advocating that the final language gives providers a reasonable amount of time before the new regulation goes into effect.

Though there is a requirement to have an "annual update" for the course each year, it has not yet been designed and providers do not have to do annual updates at this time.

The Kirwan Commission – seems intent on enacting universal pre-k with many aspects that seem developmentally inappropriate and/or not practical for our workforce and for child care businesses to succeed. No child care providers on the Commission. Hoping that the recommendations do not get funded.

The Quality of Care Report was released by DHHS this past week. To support more families seeking quality child care programs in the county, it appears that the WPA will be funded to allow for higher subsidies, co-payment, and/or tax credits for families. This appears to be a move towards universal Pre-K programs in the county, which may impact existing child care programs.

Julie Dobies, from Kaplan Early Learning Company, spoke of the Quorum program to provide on-line staff training. For questions and more information, she may be contacted at 1-800-334-2014.

Discussed having some mid-day meetings this year so that other providers might be able to attend.



## *News From The Howard County Chapter*

Howard County Chapter of MSCCA, October 2018

We are a relatively new chapter of MSCCA and welcome everyone to join us at our monthly meetings. We also encourage feedback and input to shape the content of each of our meetings. News and notes from our meetings can be found on our website, [www.innovationsed.com/hoco\\_mscca](http://www.innovationsed.com/hoco_mscca)



Our chapter tries to balance updates, advocacy, and professional development. We invite representatives from the Howard County Public School System, various branches from MSDE, and county initiatives to join us and share news and updates about each of their organizations. This helps our members stay current with changes to licensing, quality improvement, school readiness, and local child and family supports. For advocacy, we are trying to reach out to our elected officials and candidates to hear their views on early childhood education and share our viewpoints on issues that impact the early childhood community in Howard County. We also plan together for the Evening in Annapolis to meet and greet our state elected officials. For professional development, we recognized that the people attending our chapter meetings tend to be in leadership and administrative positions, therefore, professional development needs are different than most of the training available to the childcare community. Each year we pick a different focus and approach to professional development to try and meet the needs of our membership.

Our meeting schedule for this year is attached. We'd love to have you join us!

Randi Albertsen

Chapter President, HoCoMSCCA

[innovationsineducation@verizon.net](mailto:innovationsineducation@verizon.net) [www.innovationsed.com/hoco\\_mscca](http://www.innovationsed.com/hoco_mscca)

### **2018-2019**

All meetings will be held from 1-3 pm at the Office of Children and Families, unless otherwise noted\*\*. Please note the office has moved! New location: 9830 Patuxent Woods Drive, Columbia 21046

September 26, 2018	Introductions to new licensing and EXCELS staff, Talk to Me
October 17, 2018**	Round table discussion with County Council and County Executive Candidates **Meeting to be held at the Miller Branch library
December 12, 2018	MSDE – Steven Hicks, Assistant Superintendent Division of Early Childhood, Jennifer Nizer, Director, Office of Child Care, and Lou Valenti, Branch Chief, Licensing
January 28, 2019**	Evening in Annapolis **no daytime meeting, we will caravan to Annapolis to speak with our elected representatives!
February 27, 2019	OCC, MSDE, HCPS updates
March 27, 2019	Professional development/ book club
April 24, 2019	Professional development/ book club
May 22, 2019	Professional development/ book club
June 19, 2019	Snow date if needed

### **Other notable dates:**

October 11, 2018 MSCCA Leadership Symposium at Ten Oaks Ballroom

May 2 – 5, 2019 Conference by the Sea, Ocean City, MD

For meeting notes and updates, visit our website: [www.innovationsed.com/hoco\\_mscca](http://www.innovationsed.com/hoco_mscca)

## *News From The Harford/Cecil County Chapter*



The Harford County Director's Association is planning a great year for our directors. We started the year with some new directors and big turnout. We are planning several COK trainings for our directors this year. Our first is a leadership training coordinated with Harford Community College. HCC will be providing administrative training for our directors to support the leadership roles we take on in our programs. We will be scheduling a training on communication to enhance our effectiveness in communicating with staff, parents, and children, and a training on behavior management to help us support our teachers with the toughest students in our programs. We are working with the Harford County Public Schools to coordinate a more comprehensive transition for our students from preschool and childcare into kindergarten, and we are working with the special needs providers in Harford county to clarify the transition process for the students in our programs with IEPs and special needs to provide a smoother transition for them into kindergarten as well.



Our group of directors will be meeting several times this year to share best practices and great ideas in a roundtable forum, and we will be meeting with the licensing specialists from the Office of Child Care in the Harford and Cecil county region to make sure that our providers have the most updated information for licensing. We will be coordinating some of our work with the local ECAC to support their early literacy grant, and will continue to advocate for quality early childhood programs by sending representatives from our county to Annapolis for advocacy events and to testify on behalf of the children in our state. We are looking forward to a great year with MSCCA.

Lavonne Taylor  
President of the Harford County Directors Association

## *News From The Washington County Chapter*

Terry Kitchen is retiring and working on her replacement for leadership. I want to thank Terry for her years of service. She will continue as a member but we will miss her leadership in Washington County.

Terry Kitchen  
Hagerstown Community College Child Learning Center  
Phone: 240-500-2322  
Email: [tjkitchen@hagerstowncc.edu](mailto:tjkitchen@hagerstowncc.edu)



## *Abilities Network Project Act*

On behalf of the attendees at the Abilities Network Project Act conference on Saturday, October 6, we would like to thank Project Act for another job well done. The conference was sold out and the attendees enjoyed a great day of professional development. This year's theme was "It's Easy to be Green" and featured lots of great ideas for helping programs connect children to nature in a meaningful way. The keynote speaker was



Monica French, director of Wild Haven Forest Preschool in Baltimore City Recreation and Parks and Head of Programs on the Board for the Eastern Regional Association for Forest and Nature Schools. Monica shared the many benefits of incorporating nature and nature play into early childhood programs, and gave providers excellent advice on incorporating all learning domains into the nature experience.

Sessions focused on building cognitive skills, using recyclable materials in the classroom, creating nature learning spaces inside and outside, STEAM in nature, planning for engaging nature play, planning for nature-based learning with infants and toddlers, supporting children with special needs through nature play, and achieving the Eco-Healthy Child-care certification. There were great door prizes, social media polls, and lots of opportunities for participants to network, share ideas, and interact with vendors. Thanks to all of the staff at Abilities Network for making this event a success and for supporting Maryland providers in early childhood environmental education.

Lavonne Taylor and the Staff of Forest Hill Nature Preschool



**Abilities Network®**  
SEEING ABILITIES NOT DISABILITIES.

## *News From The Anne Arundel County Chapter*



The Anne Arundel county chapter of MSCCA is in the process of merging with the long-standing Anne Arundel County Child Care Association. We had our first combined meeting in September with visitors Thea Quible from MDExcels, Amira Westinburger with Anne Arundel Community College, and new executive director Germaine Adams with Arundel Child Care Connections.

The next meeting will be November 13, 2018, 1-3 PM at Woods Child Development Center and will include COK training about Employee Performance Reviews with Dr Syretha Storey. Please contact Jessica Kemper at [jkemper@woodscdc.org](mailto:jkemper@woodscdc.org) for pricing and more information.



## *Top 5 Reasons To Join the Maryland State Child Care Association (MSCCA)*

*Did You Know many of MSCCA Member benefits are directly related to MD EXCELS? – Reap the Benefits!*

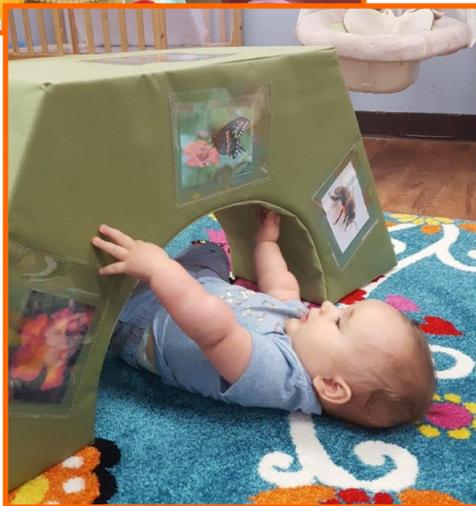
1. MSCCA membership is a comprehensive center membership, not an individual membership! All staff members employed at the center will be considered MSCCA members when your center joins.
2. Many of MSCCA Member Benefits are directly related to MD EXCELS! Pay one affordable center membership fee and gain Professional Activity Units (PAU) for your full staff! Members of a state association receive a PAU for becoming a member of a professional organization. (ALSO... accumulate additional PAU's for attending our statewide conferences, facilitating classes at our conference and contributing to our semi-annual newsletters.)
3. MSCCA members have a dedicated, registered state lobbyist along with an active MSCCA Board of Directors who monitor Senate and House bills each legislative session related to your professional interests and submit testimony on behalf of our members to advocate strongly for children, teachers and families.
4. Continuous, cutting edge communication emailed to members about relevant child care issues and topics.
5. Discounts for membership, quality training, business products from MSCCA Business Members

## Wee Care Best

Wee Care Best put their 2018 Jen Nizer grant money to good use for science fun.

See page 15 for recipients and the 2019 deadline.

Submitted by: Angela Behegan



## Girl Scout Troop 1580



Girl Scout Troop 1580 was formed in 2015 with Leader Ruthi Claytor and Assistant Leader Shelly Morris. Our 11 girls have had many adventures and learned new skills together, at the same time creating lasting friendships. The girls love helping other people, and each year they put some of their cookie earnings towards a special project. They have made comfort kits for parents with children in the NICU, created blankets for children in the hospital, tie-dyed bandanas for rescued dogs looking to be adopted, and many more.

This year, the MSCCA purchased many cookies for the 2018 Conference by the Sea. It seemed a natural partnership, since Girl Scouts are all about CAMPing. As a thank you, the girls have created the centerpieces on the tables this evening. While making the "campfires," the girls learned skills in their outdoor education: how to effectively build a campfire; the difference between tinder, kindling, and fuel; safety rules when you are near a fire; and they sang traditional campfire songs while working.

Thank you to the MSCCA for supporting our troop. The cookie earnings have helped the girls take a cooking class in a commercial kitchen to earn their Snacks badge. Also, they will be taking a pottery class soon to earn their Potter badge.



# Conference by the Sea 2018



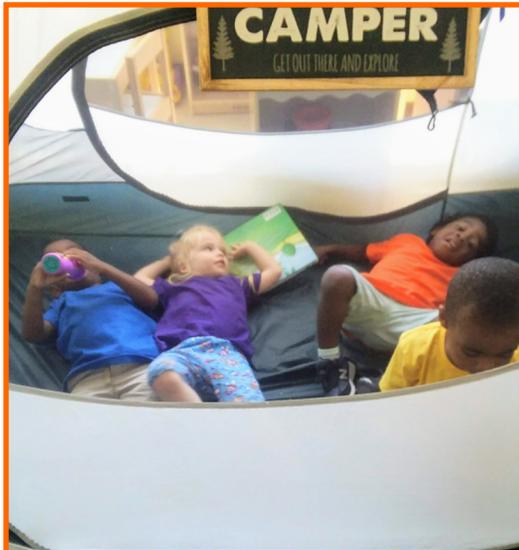
Save the Date For the Next Conference by the Sea On page 38



## *Conference by the Sea 2018 in the Classroom*

Thank you to all the organizers and participants that made the 2018 Conference by the Sea such a success. I took many fun and educational ideas back from the conference to my classroom at St. Ann's Center in Hyattsville. We had a blast and learned a lot from our camping week!

Submitted by: Catherine Neville



## *Early Childhood Care & Learning Priorities Agenda*

*Adopted by the MD State Child Care Association, Organization of Child Care Directors of Montgomery Co, the MD State*

*Family Child Care Association, Family Child Care Association of Montgomery Co, & the Montgomery Co Chapter of MSCCA*

**Significantly greater public support/investment is needed to expand access to quality, affordable child care.** It's not a handout or additional social services burden. Child care affords parents the opportunity to work and contribute to the current economy and ensures children can be in the quality learning environments they need for proper brain development. Access to quality, affordable child care leads to better outcomes for children, reduced need for remedial and other services, and higher contributions to the future economy. Nobel Prize winning economist James Heckman's latest research released in 2017 showed a return on investment of \$6.40 for each dollar that is spent supporting child care *starting at birth*. It's a return of 13% each year that the investment is made.



**Public support/investment needs to go to parents through a system of refundable tax credits and child care subsidies.** This is the most equitable and efficient way to expand access to child care as such a system provides more help to those families who most need it and assists parents to afford child care no matter how old their children are (rather than only helping 4 year old children through universal pre-k). Tax credits and subsidies can support infant/toddler care, preschool, centers, family providers, before and after school pro-

viders. Implementation will not create more bureaucracy or come with strings attached where costs outweigh the increases in funding (as has happened with some of the universal pre-k pilots). It allows parent choice to ensure a family's actual child care needs are met.

**As funding increases, providers can raise teacher pay, improve the workforce, and reach higher and higher levels of quality, but this will require tuition rates at the true cost of care.** The biggest subsidy in child care is low pay to child care professionals. Providers cannot make child care cheaper as we cannot operate with less staff. We need to increase pay to develop our workforce and attract and retain quality teachers. We must recognize that higher education and other requirements on teachers translate to significantly higher costs and are not realistic any time soon when we already have teacher



*(Continued on page 31)*

## Early Childhood Care & Learning Priorities Agenda

(Continued from page 30)

shortages.

**Unfunded mandates need to stop** as they increase provider costs, reduce the supply of qualified child care professionals, and drive up tuition prices. Each year, more parents cannot afford child care which causes more demand for unlicensed care. MSDE and other regulatory and legislative entities need to stop implementing onerous requirements (pre-service training, etc.) without providing more funding and resources.

**Universal Pre-K and Pre-K Expansion needs to use a diverse delivery system that is a true partnership with private providers and considers the impact on our entire system of birth to five child care and early education.** Private child care and early education programs for birth to five children consistently perform as well or better on measures of kindergarten readiness and long-term school success. Private programs will not be economically sustainable without four year old children and this will hurt families as costs for infant through three year old children would significantly increase. To be successful, a pre-k system must support and recognize the value of programs in a diversity of formats such as family child care, center based care, nursery schools, Montessori schools, religious schools, co-ops, as well as part time and half day programs. Such programs need the independence to ensure economic sustainability and to innovate and serve families in their unique ways.



## *MSCCA Business Members*

### **Alphabest Education, Inc.**

5980 Kinney Road  
Lewisville, NC 27023  
(866) 300-7705

AlphaBEST Education has developed a unique afterschool program model that combines a safe, supervised environment necessary for working parents with an expanded learning curriculum to assist schools to meet their goals. The careful balance between relaxed, fun activities and engaging learning experiences is achieved through our curriculum developed by national subject experts and our careful training, selection and supervision of staff.

<https://www.alphabest.org/>



### **Becker's School Supplies**

Brigitte Shellenberger  
Maryland Sales Representative  
1500 Melrose Highway  
Pennsauken, NJ 08110  
Phone: 800-523- 1490  
ShopBecker.com



Becker's School Supplies is a full-service supplier of infant, toddler, early childhood, and elementary school educational materials, furnishings, equipment, outdoor play equipment, teacher resources, arts-n-crafts and much more. For 88 years, Becker's has provided public and private institutions, schools, and other educational facilities with high quality, developmentally-appropriate products as well as personalized services. Becker's is known for our experience and knowledgeable sales staff and excellent customer service. Our full product lines are available through a multi-channel distribution – printed catalogs, e-commerce, and our retail store in Watchung, NJ. We offer full-service turn-key setups for new schools, centers, and classrooms. In addition, Becker's offers professional development at workshops and conferences regionally and nationally. In the Maryland area, our customers benefit from local Sales Representative Brigitte Shellenberger, who is always happy to lend her expertise and show them how Becker's can make teachers' lives easier and their students' educational experience more vibrant and rewarding.

### **Brookes Publishing Co.**

P.O. Box 10624  
Baltimore, MD 21285-0624  
Kimberly Allen, Southeastern Regional Sales Consultant  
[kallen@brookespublishing.com](mailto:kallen@brookespublishing.com),  
800-638-3775 ext. 135



The new statewide developmental screening initiative is great news for Maryland's kids. Screening with a valid, reliable tool like ASQ-3™ helps you check that children's development is on track, identify strengths and needs, and plan activities that help kids reach key milestones. The information on this page will give you a great introduction to ASQ-3—and help you make your important decision about which screener to choose!

*(Continued on page 33)*

## MSCCA Business Members

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### Discount School Supply

Francine Towbridge  
ftowbridge@discountschoolsupply.com  
2 Lower Ragsdale,  
Monterey, CA 93940  
(240) 252-983



Educational Value. Quality School Supplies. Everyday Savings.

### Divaris Real Estate, Inc

8000 Westpark Dr, Ste 630  
Mc Lean, VA 22102  
(301) 257-8380



### DrugNet Enterprises

P.O. Box 1541  
Baltimore, MD 21203  
(410) 947-6771  
<http://www.drugfreecharlie.com/about-us.html>



### Early Learning Assessment

### Famous & Spang Associates

200 W. Bel Air Ave.  
Aberdeen, MD 21001  
<http://famousspanginsurance.com>



Established in 1909, Famous & Spang Associates is dedicated to providing outstanding coverage for our clients in Harford, Baltimore, Cecil and surrounding counties in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Virginia. We are a full service agency offering high quality, personal and business lines of coverage including home, auto, commercial, farm, health and life insurance as well as bonding. Our agents are dedicated to working one-on-one with clients to ensure that they receive the appropriate coverage for their needs.

As a family-owned and operated business, we live and work within the community, allowing us to better understand the evolving needs of our clients. Our agents are extremely knowledgeable and always willing to answer any questions, providing that personal "touch" when you need it most.

If you are looking for a well established, professional, and supportive insurance agency, we are here to help you. Call us today to make an appointment!

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## MSCCA Business Members

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### Howard County Office of Children's Services

Contact: Debbie Yare  
3300 North Ridge Road,  
Ellicott City, MD. 21043  
Phone: (410) 313-1940  
Email: dyare@howardcountymd.gov



### Innovations in Education, LLC

Randi Albertsen

410-370-2837

Find us on the web: [www.innovationsed.com](http://www.innovationsed.com)

Find us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/innovations.in.education/](http://www.facebook.com/innovations.in.education/)

[innovations.in.education/](http://innovations.in.education/)



**Innovations In Education, LLC**  
We set the standard for quality.

At Innovations in Education, LLC, we cater to the needs of individuals. Whether you are a family child care provider, child care center staff, teacher, administrator or parent, our goal is to help you provide the most current information about child development as well as the highest quality services to help you be the best in your field.

### Kaplan

1310 Lewisville Clemmons Rd  
Lewisville, NC 27023  
1-800-334-2014

**KAPLAN**<sup>®</sup>

Kaplan Early Learning Company is a leading international provider of products and services that enhance children's learning. A leader in the field of early care and education, we bring to market innovative curriculums, cutting edge assessments, teacher resource materials and valuable professional development opportunities to early childhood and elementary school educators, caregivers and parents around the world.

### K Neal International Trucks

5000 Tuxedo Road  
Landover, MD 20785  
Phone: 443-878-3988  
<http://www.knealinternational.com>



K. Neal Truck and Bus Center is a full-service multi-location commercial truck and bus dealership. With four locations throughout the DMV metropolitan area, the dealership serves as a one-stop shop for our clients, providing new and previously owned sales, all-makes parts, as well as best in class service and maintenance.

We are honored to be a Collins Bus distributor for Maryland and the Washington, DC metropolitan area. K. Neal offers complete coverage of all your Child Care bus needs. We have special offers on in-stock MFSAB and school units ready for immediate delivery. Additionally, K. Neal offers a complete line of bus accessories for all your bus safety needs and to stay in compliance with the DOT laws.

(Continued on page 35)

## MSCCA Business Members

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### Legal Shield

John Chasko jchasko@lshield.net  
401 E. Las Olas Blvd., Suite 130,  
Ft Lauderdale, FL 33301  
(954) 644-8852



For more than 45 years, LegalShield has provided affordable access to a proprietary network of qualified lawyers for the issues faced by families, individuals, and businesses. Each of our provider firms is held to the highest standards and constantly monitored and rewarded for delivering the best customer service. Just one call immediately connects individual, family and business members to a dedicated, state-licensed law firm.

### Life Cubby

Since 2011, LifeCubby has led the early childhood industry in digital documentation, family communications, and program management. Used by early childhood classroom teachers in over 2,000 classrooms worldwide, LifeCubby has provided cloud-based software with apps for iOS, Android, and Kindle. LifeCubby is used and approved in all 50 states, and includes the highly acclaimed Vine Assessment™ System. In 2017, LifeCubby partnered with Transax Priority Payments to bring full-service tuition tracking capabilities with credit card/ACH processing functionalities for child care clients everywhere.



### Life Saving Solutions

Doug Walker  
11720 Clearview Court  
Hagerstown, MD 21742  
doug@life-savingsolutions.com  
877.745.6277



The need for emergency medical training is growing every year and across all industries. Obtaining this training for yourself or your employees can be both expensive and time-consuming. Our goal is to remove both of these concerns and help you obtain your needed certifications in a timely, entertaining, and economical fashion.

### Litebrite, LLC

Crystal Ey—Educational Director  
cey@litebritellc.com  
1317 Allenby Ct.  
Bel Air, MD 21014  
410-459-9685 www.litebritellc.com



Passion, drive and commitment. This is the foundation in which LiteBrite LLC was created. We believe that our educators are amazing men and woman who deserve the best in career development. We bring a love of learning, a high level of professionalism and a vision to change the face of "training" for the adult learner. Excitement through collaboration, networking and relationship building create the environment where the adult learner can flourish and in turn, make significant impact in the lives of children and families. In connection with the Maryland State Department of Education, our company strives to always be one step ahead in offering professional development designed to catapult our educators from a "job" to a career.

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## MSCCA Business Members

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### MarylandBiz

401 E. Pratt Street, Baltimore MD 21202  
1.888.Choose.MD  
<http://business.maryland.gov>



Maryland's one-stop economic development shop strives to attract new businesses, stimulate private investment, encourage the expansion and retention of existing companies and provide Maryland business with workforce training and financial assistance. The Department markets local products and services at home and abroad.

### Montgomery College WD & CE

Nelida Andres  
[nelida.andres@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:nelida.andres@montgomerycollege.edu)  
51 Mannakee Street (GBTC 420),  
Rockville, MD 20850 (240) 567-3827



### myKidzDay

Kelly Mittal (860.593.2955)  
Abhas Jain (860.830.7121)



myKidzday is a child care and pre school daily report parent communication app which allows you to attract millennial moms and dads who are evaluating child care providers. Offering a cool iPhone/iPad/Android app will resonate with these young parents and allow you to convert prospects into paying customers. myKidzDay can significantly improve communication between Child Care Providers and Parents. myKidzDay allows your staff to electronically and securely deliver daily reports, notifications, newsletters, pictures, alerts, reminders, schedules, assessments, observations and other valuable information to parent's smart phones and email inbox. If you have not yet invested in mobile technology in your center, your staff can easily access all of myKidzDay services via our website. Directors can monitor all parent-teacher communications and access each child's portfolio from their mobile device.

### Novick Brothers

Phone: 215-467-1400  
Email: [csg@novickbrothers.com](mailto:csg@novickbrothers.com)  
<http://novickbrothers.com/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/novickbrotherscorp/>



Novick Brothers is a full food service distributor and partner that specializes in providing comprehensive product delivery and support to childcare centers, schools, senior care centers, hospitals, treatment facilities and food service management facilities.

Our ChildCare Plus Solutions program consists of products and services tailored to meet the specific needs of our ChildCare and School partners. We provide comprehensive product delivery and specialized

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## *MSCCA Business Members*

*(Continued from page 36)*

consulting to childcare centers and schools, with a specific expertise in CACFP compliance. Our goal is to take the guess work out of your food program by providing the right products and training, nutritious, compliant, tasty and kid friendly meals can be served effortlessly on a daily basis.

Since 2010, Novick Brothers has partnered with over 600 childcare centers, Headstart programs, and K-12 schools in the Mid-Atlantic region, building a solid reputation for understanding and meeting the unique needs of childcare facilities. Our goal is to do the heavy lifting for the you when it comes to child nutrition, food and associated items allowing educators to focus on education.

### **O'Donovan Insurance / Day Care Defender**

3881 Ten Oaks Road, Suite 2E,  
Glenelg, MD 21737  
Phone: 410-423-4480



When you own or operate a commercial or in-home childcare center, parents give you the responsibility of protecting their most precious assets. But how can you protect your business's financial assets without daycare insurance? After all, accidents happen. Sometimes, the smallest mistake can lead to a severe or even life-threatening situation – and, one harmful accusation could ruin your entire livelihood. You need to prepare yourself for the worst possible outcome.

### **Paramedical Personnel of Maryland (PPM)**

343 Granary Road, Ste D  
Forest Hill, MD 21050  
410-838-8821  
<http://www.ppmems.com>



Paramedical Personnel of Maryland (PPM) is the largest private safety-training center in the state of Maryland. The owner, Joe Becker, has been teaching CPR with the American Heart Association since 1975. When the American Heart Association introduced the training centers concept Mr. Becker started PPM. Paramedical Personnel of Maryland was incorporated in June 1990 and has continued to grow over the twenty plus years it has been in existence.

Today PPM trains over 23,000 students each year in CPR and First Aid throughout the United States as well as abroad with a fully trained compliment of certified instructors. Our instructors train for the American Heart Association, National Safety Council, Health Safety Institute, and Emergency Orthopedic Surgeons. PPM has partnerships with several community colleges as well as state and local government agencies. Our involvement with the community includes teaching members of The Y, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts and church groups.

In 2005 PPM started a full service storefront providing equipment for CPR/First Aid Instructors as well as uniforms and emergency equipment for fire departments. A recent addition to PPM is our Sewing Division. The Embellishment Department can personalize uniforms and accessories, T-shirts and outerwear. As a courtesy to our clients we can also sew on patches, hem pants and do basic alterations.

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## MSCCA Business Members

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### Playground Specialists Inc.

11700 Whates Lane  
Thurmont, MD. 21788  
1-800-385-0075  
<http://www.playspec.com>



Our name may be a little deceiving. Playground Specialists, Inc. is a full service recreation company that can assist you with all your park and playground needs from design to installation. We offer a variety of products to meet your needs.

At Playground Specialists, Inc., we work hard to maintain a strong foundation by building relationships with customers and recreation professionals. Every day we're working with customers to create the perfect playground. We believe that all kids deserve a safe, fun place to play. That's why we design our equipment and playgrounds to meet, but to exceed ADA laws. Just as every kid who plays on a playground is different, so are your playground needs. From budget constraints to limited space, Playground Specialists, Inc. and Playworld Systems, Inc. equipment gives you choices to make your playground the most fun it can be!

### Robert-Leslie Publishing

4147 N. Ravenswood, Suite 301  
Chicago, IL 60613  
1-773-935-8358  
[www.investigatorclub.com](http://www.investigatorclub.com)



The InvestiGator Club® Early Childhood with STEAM for Maryland is a comprehensive, fully-integrated learning system for a full year of instruction. It is the only state endorsed curriculum fully aligned in every category of the Maryland Framework for 3- to 5-year-old preschool students. While meeting all of the learning standards is essential, we want the preschool years to be inspiring. In The InvestiGator Club, you'll find fun around every corner! The curriculum provides the guidance and materials teachers need to encourage children to use their innate curiosity and enthusiasm for learning.

### Soccer Shots

[www.soccershots.org](http://www.soccershots.org)

It's more than soccer!

Soccer Shots is the national leader in youth soccer development for children ages 2 through 8. Our program has been created under the guidance of childhood education specialists, MLS® and USL® professional soccer players, and experienced and licensed soccer coaches. Our innovative lesson plans are developmentally appropriate and tailored specifically to the three distinct age groups we teach. Using these creative and age-appropriate curricula and infusing each lesson plan with enthusiasm and structured activity, Soccer Shots aims to leave a lasting, positive impact on every child we serve.



### Benefits

- ● By enrolling your child in Soccer Shots, you can expect the following:

(Continued on page 39)

## *MSCCA Business Members*

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- Increased psychomotor development through fun fitness activities
- Introduction to team dynamics
- Character formation through life lessons such as honesty, sharing, respect, and positive attitudes
- Development of active lifestyle habits
- Individual skill development
- Coordination, balance, and agility development

No gear needed! All soccer equipment is provided to program participants.

### **ZENenergetic Kids**

Tara Gellar 410.960.3291



We provide educational yoga lessons to groups of children in a safe, comforting environment.



# **Maryland State Child Care Association (MSCCA) Conference by the Sea**



**May 2—5, 2019**

**Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel**  
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SAVE THE DATE  
An Evening for Children's  
Advocacy  
Monday, January 28, 2019



The annual event for early childhood educators in Annapolis will be held this year from 4:00 to 9:00 p.m. on January 28, 2019. Please watch your email for registration information!

Sponsored by: Maryland Family Network, the Maryland State Child Care Association, the Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children,  
the Maryland Head Start Association, the Maryland State Family Child Care Association, and SEIU Local 500