



**Anne Arundel County Child Care Association**  
Meeting Minutes  
November 12, 2019

Present: A Child's Garden, Greg McClure; Calvary Center School, Johnna Parker; Celebree Pasadena, Susan Finger and Emily Samuels; Community Christian Preschool, Donna Contarino and Deb Fluhr; Community United Methodist Child Development Center, Monica McGirt; Edinboro Early School, Suellen Gerbracht and Allison Jacob; Galilee Lutheran Preschool, Jenn Farrelly; Goddard School Hanover, Marissa Schmidt; Goddard School Millersville, Courtney Feather and Josh Hornberger; Grannie Annie's, Ruth Claytor; Ivy League Day Care LLC, Ayesha Hood; Kids Farm, Angela Garrison; Quala Care Child Center, Deb Kamplain; Right Start Academy, Kelly Frosolone; The Elevon and The Primeron, Abigail Henne; Wee Lad and Lassie, Laurie Cloud; Woods Child Development Center, Jessica Kemper

Guests: Maryland General Assembly: Heather Bagnall, Brian Chisholm, Gail Wegner representing Joseline Peña-Melnyk

Minutes from the September meeting were not approved due to time.

Jessica started off the meeting with a summary of what we hoped would come out of the discussion: primarily that the State needs to coordinate its vision of how services will be provided for children birth to five, and their families, and how the disconnect between Federal and State regulations, wage increases, quality care initiatives and Universal PreK adversely will affect families' ability to access and afford child care and to remain in the Maryland workforce.

Ruth presented tools created by an MSCCA committee to help determine how much to increase child care rates to manage your particular budget needs. Although the 2020 wage increase is a 9% hike, your entire budget – and therefore your prices – may not need to increase that much. She also presented sample letters that can be used to communicate these increases to your parents and your staff. Staff may not understand that there will be raises coming and could leave your center for a raise that has begun elsewhere. In addition, some staff members qualify for benefits and services due to low wages and eligibility could change with a pay increase. **See attached documents.**

We then had a discussion with our legislators around the child care business model, the unintended consequences of pulling four-year olds out of private child care, developmentally appropriate practice and the success of private preschool and child care in preparing children for kindergarten, legislating a 50-50 delivery system for public PreK, continuity of care and relationship building, and anticipated (negative) impact of portion of the Kirwan recommendations, including the high tax dollar cost of building new PreK space versus using the existing system of preschool and child care centers and family care that are Maryland EXCELS level 3 and above.

Delegate Bagnall stated that there needs to be a balance in the system, but at the same time, Maryland needs to address the equity gap. There are too many children who do not have access to any sort of program and moving them into public PreK may be a good choice. Delegate Chisholm stated that the Kirwan report will drive legislative efforts for some time, even if the roll-out takes 10 years. He understands that the impact may not only be a loss of child care options but also a loss to the Maryland workforce.

Chris Peusch pointed out that there are jurisdictions where public PreK has been successful and many where it has not. There were international PreK models studied by the Kirwan Commission that are simply not feasible in the US. If we take a look at what has happened in DC, we can see

that families are now suffering from unintended consequences – such as decreased access to infant care at three times the cost – because there was no well-thought out, comprehensive vision for birth to five education.

All directors are encouraged to email these legislators, and those representing your particular district, around these concerns. A specific “ask” is most helpful: state the problem and what you’d like the representative to do about it. As Kirwan recommendations are deliberated, we need to request a 50-50 delivery system (this means that the private sector provides as many PreK seats as the public school system – which are now currently available) and that there is equal public funding for these private and public systems.

Emails for the guest representatives:		<u>Representing</u>
Heather Bagnell	<a href="mailto:Heather.Bagnell@house.state.md.us">Heather.Bagnell@house.state.md.us</a>	District 33
Brian Chisholm	<a href="mailto:Brian.Chisholm@house.state.md.us">Brian.Chisholm@house.state.md.us</a>	District 31B
Joseline Peña-Melnyk	<a href="mailto:Joseline.Pena.Melnyk@house.state.md.us">Joseline.Pena.Melnyk@house.state.md.us</a>	District 21

Who is your representative? Go to <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmmain.aspx?pid=legisrpage&tab=subject6>

and click on the “Who represents me?” line in the upper right-hand corner of the chart. You’ll be able to fill in your address and access all the local and State representatives for your district. Our guests today told us that we need to write and call if we want our opinions to be taken into consideration.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jessica Kemper, Secretary-Treasurer