



FINAL – May 8, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Frazier's Restaurant, 9 Lookerman Street, Dover, DE 19901

The mission of the DECC is to promote the development of a comprehensive and coordinated early childhood system, birth to eight, which provides the highest quality services and environment for Delaware's children and their families.

DECC Voting Member Attendance: Madeleine Bayard, Rodel Foundation of Delaware; Michelle Wall, Appoquinimink School District; Kelli Thompson, Nemours Children's Health System; Julie Johnson, Tender Loving Kare Child Care Centers; Leslie Newman, Children & Families First; Gabriela Kejner, Department of Health & Social Services; Dr. Kimberly Krzanowski, Office of Early Learning; Meredith Seitz, Department of Children, Youth and Their Families; Dr. Dusty Blakey, Colonial School District; Carrette Monsanto, Sunshine Family Child Care Center; Olivia Gatewood, JP Morgan Chase & Co.; Elizabeth Ritchie, Delaware Technical Community College

Ex-Officio Council Member Attendance:

Mary Moor, Division of Public Health and Behavioral Health Services; Betty Gail Timm, Office of Child Care Licensing; Ed Freel, University of Delaware; Clara Martinez, Telamon Corporation.

Additional Attendees: Sybil Baker, Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens; Audrey Carey, Indian River School District; Cindy Gibbs, Wilmington Head Start; Daphne Evans, Early Childhood C S; Lynn Kelley, Children & Families First; Dawn Alexander, Colonial School District; Diane Frentzel, Delaware Readiness Teams; Shonetesha Quail, Division of Public Health; Jeannette Short, Office of Early Learning; Kelly Sherretz, University of Delaware; Jane Bowen, Newark Day Nursery; Tina Shockley, Office of Early Learning; Christina Koutsourades, John Fisher-Klein, Office of Early Learning; Kathryn Powell, Wilmington Head Start; Leah Leader, NDEHS; Monica Morrell, St. Paul's Nature Preschool; Surinder Sharma, Smart Kidz Club; Zelma Arroyo-Loomis, Liam Learning; Tracey Quillen Carney, First Lady; Candice Brown, Children & Families First; Judith Wilson, Retired Educator; Melissa Walter, PACTT; Ellen Tyrawski, Covenant Preschool; Rebecca Raught, Mt. Pleasant Elementary; Dina Evans, Mt. Pleasant Elementary; Zjohdell Hudson, First State Community Action Agency; Ann Fisher, Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens; Casey Christophel, Primeros Pasos; Shebra Hall, DHSS; Susan Campbell, DHSS; Dr. Tanya Robinson, Lake Forest; Fiona Vivar, Office of Early Learning; Schlonn Hawkins, United Way of Delaware; Office of Early Learning; Jamie Walko, Office of Early Learning Contractor; Michelle Blankenship, Easter Seals; Haley Quissanee, University of Delaware; Lisa Coldiron; Sussex Co. Health Coalition; Barbara Johnson, Delaware Readiness Teams; Jill Nix, Delaware Readiness Teams; Melanie Thomas-Price, A Leap of Faith; Jillian Loughlin, YMCA; Jackie Anderson, YMCA; Beth Ann Ryan, Division

of Libraries; Annie Norman, Division of Libraries; Patricia Belle-Scruggs; Boys and Girls Club of Delaware; Jamie Bangson; University of Delaware; Laura Lessard, University of Delaware; Lisa Savino, Bayada; Mary Agnes Rutkowski, Bayada

Welcome/Call to Order/Approve Minutes

Madeleine Bayard, DECC Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 11:55 a.m. and welcomed everyone. The [minutes of the January 30, 2019](#) meeting were approved by Julie Johnson and Meredith Seitz and passed unanimously.

The Chair noted that several items were emailed to everyone ahead of the meeting, including the agenda/minutes for subcommittee meetings.

Next, the Chair asked new DECC members who were in attendance to introduce themselves and state where they worked. Michelle Wall, who works for Make-A-Wish Foundation, Beth Ritchie who works for Delaware Technical Community College, Olivia Gatewood, who works for J.P. Morgan Chase & Company, and Clara Martinez (Ex-Officio Member), who works for Telamon Corporation were all present. Tanisha Merced, who is the Deputy Insurance Commissioner and Debbie Taylor, Head Start Collaboration Office Director were not in attendance.

The Chair noted the final version of the IRMC Final Report had been approved and sent to the Governor and General Assembly. She highlighted that, among other things, it details work accomplished in 2018 and areas of focus for 2019.

Next, Kelly Sherretz and Haley Quissaunee of the University of Delaware highlighted the University of Delaware's Institute of Public Administration's flyer on Purchase of Care 101 and Economics of Child Care. Next, Betty Gail Timm noted that new Office of Child Care Licensing regulations went into effect on May 1, 2019 for family child care centers (see link [here](#)).

Next, Dr. Kim Krzanowski updated everyone that the remaining vacant position will be posted by end of the week and hopefully filled in the coming months. This person will be overseeing Delaware First, Parents as Teachers, and the T.E.A.C.H. and WAGE\$ Programs. Next, she gave an update on the Preschool Development Grant (Birth – 5) work. The PowerPoint can be found [here](#).

Next, Jacqueline Bensel gave an update on the Child Care Copays and Market Rate Changes. She summarized that all the changes she was about to discuss were mandated by the Child Care Development Block Grant. Specifically, she noted that DHSS can no longer do cost of care calculations, so they came up with a new model that resulted in the new copays. DHSS realized that this new computation created a hardship for families, so they created a waiver process. She noted they are also updating their listserv of providers and additional information will be going out to them regarding copays.

Jacqueline also spoke about the Market Rate increases being effective May 1, 2019. She noted that they are participating in and funding a proposal developed by the Office of Early Learning

for additional slots for inclusion specialists which will increase the quantity and quality of inclusive settings for children.

She further noted that DHSS is still working through changes and appreciates everyone's patience. Any additional comments or questions can be submitted to POCResources@Delaware.gov.

Next, the Chair indicated there were over 100 people in attendance at the Delaware Readiness Teams meeting this morning. These groups are working on a grass roots effort to implement early learning policy. Diane Frentzel reviewed topics covered in the morning session: (1) Universal pre-kindergarten survey which indicates that 94% of 543 families want free, state-funded public pre-kindergarten; (2) parent empowerment including family information sessions and the book mobile; (3) developmental ASQ screenings being done through districts and the launch of the ASQ portal. The ultimate goal of the ASQ screening initiative is to get families connected to screening for early identification of delays and services needed; (4) kindergarten readiness and registration, including kindergarten academies and promotion of kindergarten registration.

First Lady Tracey Quillen Carney highlighted that next week there will be some professional development for the developmental screening. She also noted that there is a strong focus on trauma-informed care in order to ensure children have "ready-to-thrive brains". She encouraged everyone to visit the traumainformedde.com website for more information, and noted this site will continue to be built out.

At this point in the meeting the Chair welcomed Secretary of Education Susan Bunting, noting she has been an advocate for young children since her time in the Indian River School District.

Next, Leslie Newman noted that a public-private partnership is underway with the goal of looking at the investment in pre-kindergarten, expanding pre-K through a universal, mixed delivery system. She noted that schools cannot accommodate 10,000 kids that would need pre-kindergarten services. She noted that this is an advocacy campaign to, over time, include provide pre-kindergarten to all four year olds in the state. She noted that Washington D.C. and New Jersey are doing this. Lastly, she noted that there are two meetings – one on May 13 and one on May 29, as well as one being planned for Kent County in the near future. She also indicated there was a website available (www.firststateprek.com) for those who wanted to learn more. Lastly, Leslie encouraged people to talk about it and get involved.

Lastly, Mollie Polland of the DEAEYC Board provided information on Advocacy Day, including being at legislative hall with young children, receiving a resolution and a host of other events for the day. This is a day when individuals are encouraged to talk to their legislators to advocate for the investment in early learning.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.