



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
 OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF  
**EDUCATION**

District of Columbia Interagency Coordinating Council (DC ICC)  
 Meeting Minutes

Thursday, Oct. 17, 2019, 12 - 2 p.m.  
 1371 Harvard St. NW, Pepco Room, Washington, DC 20009

**Attendance:**

Member	Attendance	Member	Attendance
Michele Gerstein (Parent /Chairperson)	Present	Judith Curry (Parent/Secretary)	Present
Cynthia McEwen (Parent /Co-Chairperson)	Absent	Lavdena Orr (Managed Care Organization (MCO) Representative)	Present via Phone
Amy Cullen (Provider)	Present	Nicole Lee-Mwandha (State Education Agency (SEA) - Homeless Education Program)	Present via Phone
Denise Ballard (Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA))	Present	Quiana Mitchem (Provider)	Present
Colleen Sonosky (Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF), Medicaid Program)	Present via Phone	Royace Hagler (United Planning Organization (UPO) – Early Head Start)	Present via Phone
Elizabeth Groginsky (Agency for Child Care, Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE))	Absent	Sharon Dietsche (Department of Behavioral Health (DBH))	Present
Howard Liebers (Private Insurance)	Absent	Toby Long (Higher Education)	Present
Christina Setlow (DC Council)	Absent	Dawn Hilton (SEA – Preschool Services)	Present via Phone

**OSSE Support Personnel:**

Melanie Newkirk (DC ICC Liaison), Allan Phillips (Special Assistant Part C), Rosalia Villalta (Supervisory Early Intervention Specialist), Andres Alvarado (Strong Start), Ashlee Smith (OSSE), Chelsia Latney (Strong Start), Victor Fields (HSC Health Care System), Sandra Smith (OSSE)

**Call to Order:**

- A. The Chairperson, Michele Gerstein, called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

**Open Issues:**

- A. The Chairperson asked for the ICC board to review the minutes for the April and August meetings. The meeting minutes for both meetings were approved by Michele Gerstein and seconded by Colleen Sonosky.

- B. The Chairperson, Michele Gerstein, reviewed the action items from the August 2019 ICC meeting.
1. Work to review and update the ICC website is in progress. Michele asked the council to send her any feedback and ideas.
  2. Amy Cullen to provide reasonable accommodations information for child care facilities to ICC members (follow-up from Kathryn Lynch-Morin's presentation on My Child Care DC website).
  3. Live Binders setup for ICC documents by Melanie Newkirk (included a demo at today's meeting) to upload and share ICC documents.
  4. Colleen Sonosky will forward slides to the ICC from the Aug. 7, 2019 meeting regarding the Katie Beckett process.
  5. The planning for the next parent café is underway.
  6. A conference call is officially setup as an ongoing option to allow member attendance by phone.
  7. Over 300 pieces of unique art work were received to use to decorate placemats for the upcoming National Association for Education of Homeless Children and Youth conference scheduled for Nov. 2-5 in DC; Nicole Lee-Mwandha will show of the artwork at the next ICC meeting.
  8. Flyer to advertise ICC meetings and events has been completed and approved by OSSE.
  9. Strong Start parent newsletter is in progress – it will be a communication vehicle for parents and incorporate some information from the ICC.
- C. Michele Gerstein and Allan Phillips presented an update on ICC membership vacancies.
1. Current openings include: Two provider openings, two parent vacancies.
  2. Individuals added: Christina Setlow (representative from Chairman Phil Mendelson's office) and Dawn Hilton (State Education Agency – Preschool Services).
  3. Allan will send MOTA ICC application link to Michele to send to ICC members for prospective parents.

**Meeting Business:**

- A. DC Early Intervention Program (DC EIP) Quarterly Updates
1. Andres Alvarado (Director of Strong Start) presented program updates.
    - a. Jasmyn Price is the new QA Operations Manager.
    - b. To support growth, there is currently hiring efforts underway for speech language pathologists, occupational therapists and service coordinators.
    - c. The program continues to see significant growth in referrals. Children in the program reached 1,774 in June 2019, an all-time record.
    - d. Mayor Bowser recently visited Strong Start office.
    - e. There is a new office space planned in Ward 7 at Shop at Penn Branch, 3200 Pennsylvania. SE. Next step include meeting with commissioner for final approval.
    - f. Strong Start/DC EIP data was presented. There has been a 20 percent growth on average for number children served with FY2019 at 1,213 children.
    - g. Working on program with Children's Hospital to meet with families and evaluate children onsite.
    - h. Data on the location and average number of registered families in playgroup was presented.



- i. The program got additional traction with the Mayor’s visit and increased communication on social media.
  - ii. Over 320 registered families versus 120 in previous years.
  - iii. Focus will be to increase playgroup expansion in libraries in all wards and increase communication and marketing.
- 2. Allan Phillips (Special Assistant, Part C)
  - a. OSSE is partnering with DC Health on a universal screening program across DC using the online Ages and Stages Questionnaire. The online ASQ pilot program is underway.
    - i. The Part C Child find team has been using ASQ online since April 2019.
    - ii. Training will be completed at the end of December.
    - iii. It will take one or two years to complete rollout, including development of workflow and training.
- 3. Royace Hagler (UPO)
  - a. United Planning Organization – Early Head Start has a new CEO, Andrea Thomas; previous CEO has retired.
- 4. Denise Ballard (CFSA)
  - a. There is a new model for Project Connect with aspects being brought in-house for better service delivery to court involved families.
  - b. Working with Allan Phillips to better track and monitor DC children placed in Maryland.
- 5. Sharon Dietsche (Department of Behavioral Health)
  - a. Starting to ramp up hiring for program expansion; looking to hire two managers; 11 consultants.
  - b. Sharon Dietsche asked if any organization has had experience with program expansions; Andres Alvarado said he can share some best practices.
- 6. Nicole Lee-Mwandha (SEA – Homeless Education Program)
  - a. Current focus is on increasing awareness and marketing of the conference on Nov. 2-5 in DC for National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth.
  - b. Nicole said the conference is accepting volunteers to help staff; she will provide link to ICC for volunteering opportunities.

B. Announcements

- 1. Retreat date is set for Saturday, Nov. 16, 2019. Proposed timing and location: 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. at OSSE; Michele Gerstein, Cynthia McEwen and Judith Curry to work on an agenda.

Michele Gerstein motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:51 p.m.; Amy Cullen seconded the motion.

*Michele Gerstein*

Chair Signature

*1/16/2020*

Date