



**Maryland Family Engagement Coalition Meeting**  
**Monday, Feb. 25, 2019**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:** Paola Andujar, Amy Beal, Wendy Dantzer, Julie Dobies, Evelyn English, Ashley Fehringer, Liza Frye, Karina Hudack, Cyndi Lessner, Melanie Martin, Kia McLeod, Marjorie Miles, Chris Peusch, Lisa Rhodes, Carrie Sanders, Karmen Rouland, Patty Stine, Barbara Scherr, Dorothy Stoltz, Chris Swanson, Anne Weaver

- [The 2019 Children's Mental Health Matters! Campaign](#) (May 5-11) Presentation: Kari Gorkos, MHAMD, provided an overview of the statewide campaign.
  - The 2019 Children's Mental Health Matters! Campaign is a collaboration of the Mental Health Association of Maryland (MHAMD) and the Maryland Coalition of Families (MCF) with support from the Maryland Department of Health – Behavioral Health Administration.
  - The weeklong observance is May 5 – 11, 2019.
  - Nationally, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration or SAMHSA also does a month-long campaign that shines a national spotlight on the importance of caring for every child's mental health; and reinforces that positive mental health is essential to a child's healthy development.
  - Last year, the Campaign celebrated its 10th year.
  - During the 2018 Campaign, 485 Maryland public schools joined the MHAMD's efforts.
  - From the schools, 221,236+ students from all over the state participated.
  - In addition, 190 community organizations helped to raise awareness of children's mental health in 2018.
  - These organizations brought the Campaign's message to a diverse audience of families, caregivers, educators, providers, and community members.
  - MHAMD reached 61,113+ parents and families through Facebook and Twitter.
  - MHAMD distributed 230,991 awareness items (pencils, bracelets, posters, bookmarks) and 63,243 Campaign resources (educator and family resource kits, brochures).
  - The 2019 sign-up forms are now available.
  - There are two ways to sign up for the 2019 Children's Mental Health Matters! Campaign:
    - School Champions: [Click Here](#)
    - Community Champions: [Click Here](#)
  - Schools and/or organizations interested in joining the Campaign will receive a variety of electronic resources, including social media messaging, posters, bookmarks, press releases, etc.

**C: Dorothy Stoltz-** Carroll County's Health Department contacted the library. We are in the process of arranging local elected officials and VIPs to read a book at least one day during the week.

**A:** Please share photos. We encourage all of our champions to get pictures of their Campaign events. We use the photos to highlight ideas and share with other groups involved in the Campaign.

**C: Anne Weaver-** I am the family engagement specialist for Anne Arundel County. I collaborate with early childhood mental health programs. This will be the fourth year that we participated. We used some of the materials from the Campaign as well as developed a variety of original content and resources. We created five days of early childhood, social and emotional resources, and activities for early childhood providers and Head Start. We also have a three-minute social and emotional video that tells our audiences why this Campaign is so important. We also connected parents and families to these resources.

**Q: Dorothy Stoltz-** Are you planning to visit the local ECACS to share this information?

**A:** Not all of them; but if you have specific ones that you would like us to attend, absolutely.

**C: Patty Stine-** I noticed that Charles County is one of the gray areas that did not participate last year, so we would be happy to extend an invitation to you for March 29.

**A:** I would be happy to attend. We would love to get more early childhood organizations involved.

- February is National Library Lovers Month Presentation: Amanda Courie, Caroline County Public Library, Pam Hamlin, Prince George's County Memorial Library System, Carrie Sanders, Maryland State Library, Dorothy Stoltz, Carroll County Public Library, and Janet Vogel, Frederick County Public Libraries presented an overview of Maryland's public libraries.
  - Today at the libraries across the state, we do more than just books.
  - Libraries come in all shapes, sizes, budgets, and levels of staff.
  - In some of the smaller libraries, sometimes it is just a small pop-up, play and learn center to accommodate families.
  - There are also innovative outreach programs that include story times at a variety of locations.
  - Last year in Montgomery County, they focused on 1,000 books to encourage families to come to the library and read a lot books before entering kindergarten.
  - Last year at the Enoch Pratt Library, they hosted the PAWS to Read program, which is now available at other branches across the state.
  - The libraries use the "[Every Child Ready to Read](#)" (ECRR) at Your Local Library Toolkit from the National Library Association that incorporates simple practices, based on research, to help parents and other caregivers develop early literacy skills in children from birth to age five.
  - The ECRR is based on two core concepts: reading begins at birth, and parents are a child's first and best teacher.
  - Currently, more than 6,000 libraries have invested in the ECRR Toolkit, which is used to implement ECRR in the library.
  - Using the ECRR Toolkit, Maryland's public libraries offer those critical school readiness skills, including singing, writing, reading, and playing.
  - Play is very important at Maryland's public libraries.

- At a variety of branches, the libraries offer play and learn centers for children birth through five.
- At the Woodlawn and Rosedale branch in Baltimore County, we have a large Storyville Village that is only for adults and children birth through five.
- Ten years ago, this Storyville Village helped shaped other national library programs.
- Unfortunately, all of the state's libraries cannot afford these innovative play and learn spaces.
- The larger ones cost up to \$750,000.
- If you live or work in Maryland, you have access to a free library card.
- April is [School Library Month](#).
- Every April, school librarians are encouraged to host activities to help their school and local community celebrate the essential role that strong school library programs play in transforming learning.
- The 2019 theme is **Everyone Belongs @ Your School Library** and the 2019 spokesperson is **Dav Pilkey**.
- April 7-13 is [National Library Week](#).
- National Library Week is an annual celebration highlighting the valuable role libraries play in transforming lives and strengthening our communities.
- This year's theme, Libraries = Strong Communities, illustrates how today's libraries are at the heart of the nation's cities, towns, schools, and campuses.
- They also provide a public space where all community members, regardless of age, culture or income level, can come together to connect and learn.

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**Note: Coalition members were invited to visit and participate in a variety of play stations. In addition, members were invited to participate in a staff development and public program that is offered to librarians and community partners.**

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**Q: Dorothy Stoltz-** Did anybody learn something new about Maryland's public libraries in 2019?

**A: Kia McLeod-** I learned about the availability of the 3D printers for public use.

**C: Dorothy Stoltz-** The great thing about the 3D printers is that they are new, and provide an opportunity to explore and learn through trial and error.

**A: Marjorie Miles-** I still like the books: holding, reading, and smelling real books. However, I like that the libraries also offer many technological resources for parents and families.

**C: Dorothy Stoltz-** As you go back to your individual programs and organizations, think about the resources and activities that the libraries have to offer to children, parents, and families; and how you can take advantage of these resources for your programs. We are one of those key family engagement connectors for the state.

**C: Kia McLeod-** Just a reminder that February is National Library Lovers Month. April is School Library Month and April 7-13 is National Library Week. On [the Maryland Families Engage](#) website, you will find a variety of resources, events, activities dedicated to these and other campaigns such the 2019 Children's

Mental Health Matters! Campaign. This month we are featuring the PAWS to Read Program, and an article written by Dorothy and her team about the national library observances.

- The Preschool Development Grants Birth through Five (PDG B-5): Cyndi Lessner, MSDE, provided the members with an update on the grant.
  - The Maryland State Department of Education has received a \$10.6 million federal grant to help improve programs for children, birth to five, throughout the state.
  - The Preschool Development Grant will allow Maryland to conduct a needs assessment on the availability and quality of early childhood programs, and develop a strategic plan to fuel continued improvement.
  - The full application is available on [the Division of Early Childhood Development website](#).
  - As a part of the grant, the Division of Early Childhood is conducting a needs assessment.
  - The Division will host nine Regional Town Hall Meetings across the state starting March 26.
  
- The Family Engagement Center: Karmen Rouland, Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium (MAEC), provided an overview of the new initiative.
  - MAEC is pleased to announce the launch of a new state family engagement center that will serve diverse families who reside in the states of Maryland and Pennsylvania.
  - With funding from the U.S. Department of Education, the new Collaborative Action for Family Engagement Center (CAFE) will provide great opportunities for collaboration and learning.
  - Through the CAFÉ, MAEC and its partners will promote high-impact, culturally responsive family engagement.
  - MAEC, in collaboration with local, state, and national education agencies, including the National Association of Family, School, and Community Engagement, National Center for Families Learning, WestEd, and Parents as Teachers (housed at the Center for Schools and Communities), will use a multi-tiered, comprehensive approach to foster effective collaboration among educators, parents, families, students, and community-based organizations.
  - This approach is crucial to building a statewide infrastructure for sustained capacity.
  - The new CAFE will provide high-impact, cradle-to-career family, school, and community engagement services.

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**Note: Due to time constraints, the remainder of the agenda items will be discussed via e-mail and/or during the next meeting on Monday, April 15.**

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- Suspension and Expulsion Fact Sheets: Kia McLeod, MSDE
  - Discussion/Feedback (second draft)
  
- Become a Friend (*Maryland Families Engage*): TBD
  - Discussion (criteria)
  
- Future Meetings - 3rd Monday - every other month from 1- 3:30 p.m.

- April 15, June 17, August 19, October 21, December 16