



**Maryland Family Engagement Coalition Meeting**  
**Monday, April 15, 2019**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:** Wendy Dantzer, Evelyn English, Nancy Garcia, Mary Gunning, Tresa Hanna, Loretta Hoepfner, Keri Hyde, Karina Hudack, Cyndi Lessner, Melanie Martin, Kia McLeod, Marjorie Miles, Carrie Sanders, Karmen Rouland, Tonya Satchell, Patty Stine, Dorothy Stoltz, Chris Swanson, Kate Wasserman

- The Maryland SEFEL Pyramid Model Presentation: Kate Wasserman, The Institute for Innovation & Implementation at the University of Maryland School of Social Work, presented an overview of the new Maryland SEFEL Pyramid Model.
  - The Maryland SEFEL Pyramid Model is an evidence-based framework for promoting and supporting the healthy, social and emotional development of all children.
  - It supports adults interacting with children in a range of settings with a variety of disciplines to understand, address, predict, and respond to challenging behaviors.
  - The Pyramid Model takes a tiered public health approach to providing universal supports to all children to promote wellness and targeted supports to those at risk.
  - The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), Division of Early Childhood and the University of Maryland School of Social Work [Parent, Infant, & Early Childhood \(PIEC\) Program](#) provide leadership, coordination and direction to the Pyramid Model initiative.
  - In addition, the groups collaborate to provide direct training and implementation support to early childhood learning environments and school systems.
  - Re-branding efforts are underway, including the new [Maryland SEFEL Pyramid Model](#) website, social media presence and videos.
  - Upcoming training opportunities include the new [Maryland SEFEL Pyramid Model Online Trainings for Preschool Classrooms](#) to Support Early Care and Education Providers.
- Pure Play Every Day Presentation: Patty Stine, Pure Play Every Day, Inc. presented an overview of the U.S. Play Coalition Conference Poster Session.
  - [The Play Conference](#) is an annual educational conference presented by the U.S. Play Coalition.
  - The latest research and practices in the field of play are presented at this conference, which brings together play researchers, park and recreation professionals, camp professionals, educators, health scientists, architects, landscape architects, designers, planners, business and community leaders, psychologists, physicians, and parents from across the U.S. and beyond.
  - The three-day event includes keynote and featured speakers, round tables on critical issues and trends, research symposium for academics, educational sessions for practitioners, action and research grant opportunities, PLAYtalks and PLAYinstitutes, networking, EPIC play breaks, and more.
  - During the Conference, Delegates were asked to provide a definition of play by completing a short survey.

- The survey included writing their definition of play on a sticky note.
- The sticky notes were then added to a poster.

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**Note: Coalition members were invited to complete the survey and write their definition of play on sticky notes to be added to the poster.**

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- [The 2019 Regional Town Hall Meetings](#) (March 26-May 17, 2019): Keri Hyde, Ready At Five, provided an overview of the upcoming 2019 Regional Town Hall Meetings.
  - The third Regional Town Hall Meeting, in the series of nine, will be held tomorrow, Tuesday, April 16 for Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot counties at the Chesapeake College.
  - During the Town Hall Meetings, MAEC will be conducting the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) needs assessment survey.
  - The MSDE Division of Early Childhood hopes that Coalition members attend one or all of the Town Hall Meetings.
  - Just as a reminder, it's an opportunity to learn more about the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5), as well as other new state programs and initiatives.
- New Grant Opportunity: Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) for Local Early Childhood Advisory Councils: Wendy Dantzler, MSDE, presented an overview of the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) for Local Early Childhood Advisory Councils.
  - This particular grant is specifically for the local councils and not open to other groups.
  - Each award will be up to a maximum of \$25,000.
  - Depending upon the number of applications received, additional funds may be available.
  - Grant funds will be provided to meet the professional development needs that may be revealed in the PDG B-5 grant needs assessment.
  - This includes transitions, establishing communities of practice, and initiatives that are most needed in the various jurisdictions.
  - For more information about the PDG B-5 initiative, please visit: <https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/PDG>.
- The Annie E. Casey Foundation Results Count Institutes: Wendy Dantzler, MSDE, provided an update on the Annie E. Casey Foundation Results Count Institutes.
  - Under the Race To the Top grant opportunities, Annie E. Casey offered results based accountability and leadership training.
  - Some of the trainings were mandatory; others were not and included booster sessions.
  - The Annie E. Casey Foundation has agreed to offer trainings again in order to provide the Results Count Institutes to the local councils.
  - The MSDE Division of Early Childhood will have three cohorts.
  - Cohort One will be held in Western Maryland on October 8 and 9.
  - Cohort Two will be held in Central Maryland on October 10 and 11.
  - Cohort Three will be held on the Eastern Shore on October 15 and 16.
  - Participants will have an opportunity to engage in discussion, including:

- Developing and implementing strategies to improve school readiness.
  - Exploring opportunities to connect with the other Local Councils.
  - Applying and practicing Results Count skills to support the progress of the Councils.
  - Using critical incidents to strengthen the ability to address adaptive challenges.
  - Gaining a deeper understanding of how to address and resolve conflict.
  - Strengthening capacity to support the Councils' ability to execute strategies.
  - Preparing for Council meetings.
  - Making commitments to further leadership development and support the progress of the Councils, and much more!
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- Maryland Family Engagement Coalition Updates: Kia McLeod, MSDE, provided updates to the Coalition agenda.
    - The Coalition Co-chairs have decided to eliminate both the Partnership and Become A Friend programs/ideas. Instead, the focus will be on the work of the Maryland Family Engagement Coalition, including updating the web page, adding group photos and possible bios.
    - The Co-chairs have decided to debut the new Suspension and Expulsion fact sheets during the Maryland Family Engagement Summit, which is a good fit because the panel discussion covers this topic.
    - Mrs. Rachel Tate, a special educator from Montgomery County Public Schools, has submitted a membership request in writing to join the Maryland Family Engagement Coalition.

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**Note: Coalition members were asked to read Mrs. Tate's membership request.**

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**C:** Since most of the members are on Spring Break, we will postpone the vote until the next meeting in June. However, I would like to start the initial discussion today. Think about where we are in terms of membership and whether or not we need more members.

**Q: Dorothy Stoltz-** It seems like a slam-dunk to me. It is a great letter. I think we need more members. How many members do the Bylaws state? Who is our core group?

**A: Kia McLeod-** In the Bylaws, it states that we have 32 members and we currently have 38.

**C: Cyndi Lessner:** We have many members who attend the meetings consistently. We have other members who are not very active because of scheduling, conferences, etc. Kia will reach out to those inactive members to see if they are still interested. I would like to point out that Mrs. Tate does have elementary school experience—a group that is not currently represented on the Coalition. I think we need more of the schools prospective.

**C: Kerri Hyde:** I think we need to clarify what role Mrs. Tate intends to fill as a Coalition member. The letter describes her role as a parent and educator.

**C: Cyndi Lessner:** Yes, I think we need to clarify her expectations because we need the perspective of both parents and elementary school educators.

**Q: Chris Swanson:** We do need parents and families. We also need more special educators. I am concerned about the time commitment and if she wants to fill the role as a parent. In addition to the Bylaws, can you distribute an updated roster so that we can see where the gaps are in the Coalition?

**C: Kia McLeod:** Yes. In addition, I will contact our inactive members over the next couple of weeks to see if they are still interested. I will also contact Mrs. Tate and ask how what role she wants to represent.

**C: Chris Swanson:** At some point, we should also develop letters that members can share with their employers that states I am an official member of the MSDE Division of Early Childhood Maryland Family Engagement Coalition. The letter should include the time commitment. That will always be a barrier for any parent/family members who joins the Coalition.

- PDG B-5 Survey/Focus Groups: Karmen Rouland, MAEC, presented an overview of the PDG B-5 Survey/Focus Groups.
  - MAEC hopes that the Coalition members can participate in the survey and become ambassadors for the focus groups.
  - Together-*Juntos* at MAEC, Inc. is supporting the MSDE Division of Early Childhood in conducting a stakeholder survey for the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) needs assessment.
  - The goal is to gather input from stakeholders, community members, early care and education providers, parents, and teachers to collect information about particular views and experiences.
  - Through [the Early Care and Education Stakeholders Survey](#) for the PDG B-5 grant, MAEC hopes to collect information about what participants think about the services provided, what the current needs are, and what the current gaps are in services so that the organization can report this information to the MSDE Division of Early Childhood.
  - The focus groups will be held in the four regions of the state where MAEC will gather information from early care and education providers, parents, teachers, child care centers, and schools in English and Spanish.

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**Note: Coalition members were asked to participate in the survey and share with their networks.**

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- Future Meetings - 3rd Monday - every other month from 1- 3 p.m.
  - June 17, August 19, October 21, December 16
- Summit Planning Meeting: 3-4 p.m.