

**Maryland General Assembly
Joint Committee on Children, Youth, and Families
2016 Interim Membership Roster**

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THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

JOINT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

December 8, 2016

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., Co-Chairman
The Honorable Michael E. Busch, Co-Chairman
Members of the Legislative Policy Committee

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Joint Committee on Children, Youth, and Families respectfully submits the following summary of its 2016 interim activities.

The joint committee met four times during the interim to consider issues related to child care in the State. The meetings were held as follows:

- July 20, 2016 – Hearing: the history of licensed care in Maryland, the current process and costs to become licensed, and a discussion of regulations that concern advocates and providers;
- September 7, 2016 – Hearing: defining quality child care, measuring and promoting quality child care, and barriers to quality care and how to overcome them;
- October 5, 2016 – Hearing: an in-depth look at child care subsidies, including the history of policy and funding in Maryland, federal funding and regulations, the payment process, and advocate and provider concerns; and
- November 15, 2016 – Hearing: child care tax credits and child care affordability for the middle class.

The meeting on July 20, 2016, began with a discussion of the history of child care in Maryland by the Maryland Family Network (MFN). The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) followed with a presentation on the child care licensing and registration process, including the costs associated with licensing and registration. Finally, child care providers and advocates discussed concerns regarding child care regulations and the licensing process, including clarification of regulations by MSDE and the licensing process timelines.

The meeting on September 7, 2016, focused on child care quality. The meeting began with presentations by MFN and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on defining child care quality and why it is important. This was followed by a briefing on measuring and

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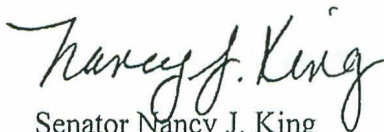
promoting quality child care by the Montgomery County Child Care Resource Center, MSDE, and HHS. The meeting finished with a briefing on barriers to quality care and how to overcome them by the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council and HHS.

On October 5, 2016, the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) presented an overview of the child care subsidy program, which included an analysis of the low provider rates and high family co-payments and actions that will be required due to the recent re-authorization of the child care development block grant. MSDE continued the discussion on the child care subsidy program, including the challenges facing the program such as the federal re-authorization and the enrollment freeze. Finally, provider advocates presented their concerns regarding the child care subsidy program, including the impact of the low provider reimbursement rates on providers.

Finally, the meeting on November 15, 2016, began with a DLS presentation on tax incentives for child and dependent care expenses at the federal and state levels, including options to expand Maryland's child and dependent care tax incentives. The Center for American Progress continued with a discussion of child care tax credit packages enacted in Louisiana and Nebraska. The Louisiana package included tax credits for providers, directors and staff, child care expenses, business child care expenses, and contributions to resource and referral agencies. The meeting concluded with a discussion by committee members on recommendations and potential legislation regarding child care, including tax credits and changes to the market rate survey process for the child care subsidy program.

The Joint Committee on Children, Youth, and Families wishes to thank those individuals who contributed their time and talent during the 2016 interim to inform and advise the joint committee.

Respectfully submitted,



Senator Nancy J. King
Senate Chair



Delegate Ariana B. Kelly
House Chair

NJK:ABK/CLBB/kmc

cc: Members of the Joint Committee on Children, Youth, and Families
Mr. Ryan Bishop
Mr. Warren G. Deschenaux
Ms. Carol L. Swan