

MARYLAND PROVIDER

Maryland State Family Child Care Association

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The next Quarterly Meeting of the Maryland State Family Child Care Association will be held October 29, 2005 at 9:30 a. m. at the Howard County Resource and Referral. All members are invited to attend, however space is limited as well as a lunch count is needed so an RSVP is required. Come and share the issues that concern you and your local providers, hopefully we can work together to find solutions.

Please call Karen at 301-776-5247 or email at karenskare@comcast.net to RSVP for the meeting, by the Friday prior to the meeting.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

First and foremost, I would like to thank the Board of Directors and local associations for a very successful year. We accomplished a very big goal and are excited to be part of the Maryland State Department of **Education**.

I know how busy you all are with family obligations, local association commitments, and MSFCCA commitments. It takes the Board of Directors to get excited about the job that we do as professionals to bring in others to help. We are the "worker bees" and it takes commitment from all of us to get the job done. During this year, the Directors helped immensely with the CCA move to MSDE. They took the information back to the local associations and got them involved in making calls and sending letters in an effort to make a difference. We did just that! We all are very committed to the profession and the children, or we would not be in this business, nor involved in MSFCCA.

Our organization runs with the work of volunteers, without which we would be an empty, ineffective shell. As a non-profit organization, we need everyone's help to make MSFCCA exist. If there are no volunteers, there are NO COMMITTEES. This is a simple way of putting things, but it is very true. When I first became involved, I was very excited about the Conference, and then decided to get more involved with other aspects of the organization. I made a commitment for a given time-frame (in my mind) and a specific goal. As I complete my first year as President of MSFCCA, I am very **proud** to be affiliated with such wonderful and committed individuals. I have made many very important friendships through this wonderful organization that will last a lifetime.

Again, I want to thank those who made time to create a difference in the lives of Maryland's children, and then made a difference in our organization. Be proud, as I am, to be part of a vital force. Where can you help during the upcoming year?

Karen Knabe

VICE PRESIDENT OF EDUCATION

Cathy Greer

The MSFCCA Conference will be held October 14-16, 2005 at the Clarion Fontainebleau Hotel. You can make your hotel reservations by calling 1-800-638-2100. The conference registration came out in the July Partner's Newsletter. The conference registration is also on the MSFCCA website (msfccca.org).

The next conference meeting will be Sept. 24, 2005 at the Ruth Arp's home at 10am. If you are interested in helping or need more information about this meeting, please contact me at 301-604-3558 or E-Mail me at littlemunchkins8@hotmail.com.

If you have any questions regarding this year's conference, please contact Josie Lohman at 301-776-8309 or E-Mail her at JJAL1@netzero.com. For questions regarding conference pre-sales, contact Janice Gray at 301-483-9181 or E-Mail her at karealot98.comcast.com



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

MSFCCA 2005 Conference - October 14- 16, 2005

MSFCCA Quarterly Meeting – 10/29/05

NAEYC Annual Conference – 12/7/05 – 12/10/05

Mark Your Calendars!

For more information on any of these events, check our web site at: www.msfcca.org

CACFP News...

2005-2006 Reimbursement Rates

The new Food Program reimbursement rates that will be in effect from July 1, 2005, to June 30, 2006, are as follows:

Tier I – Breakfast - \$1.06, Lunch/Supper - \$1.96, Snack - \$0.58

Tier II – Breakfast - #0.39, Lunch/Supper - \$1.18, Snack - \$0.16

NOTE: Remember to keep a daily record of all meals and snacks you serve in your business. You are entitled to claim up to one breakfast, one lunch, one supper, and three snacks per day, per child, if you serve them.

INTERNET RESOURCE

Scholastic Books are a wonderful resource for adding books to your child care library. You can offer your clients the opportunity to purchase books as part of your child care book club. You can then earn free books for the child care. There are books and software for children at every reading level, at prices that are great. For more information check out the Scholastic web site at: <http://www.scholastic.com/>



ATTENTION PROVIDERS!

Effective July 1, 2005, Child Care Administration will no longer be partial paying for fingerprint/record checks done by CJIS and the FBI. Providers will be responsible for the full amount which is currently \$42.00.



IMMUNIZATIONS

As you know it is very important for children's immunizations to be kept up-to-date. You can print the most recently updated copy of the *Child Immunization Form* at the address below:

<http://edcp.org/pdf/DHMH896new.pdf>

Also the following link is for the 2005-2006 *List of Immunizations*:

http://www.edcp.org/pdf/Vacc_Req-05_06.pdf

PROVIDER TIP

When you have a new child starting in your program the transition can sometimes be difficult. To help them along, allow the child to bring a few pictures of their family to put up in the child care. You can make a point to talk about their family as everyone looks at the pictures or just allow the child to go visit the pictures on their own. It will go a long way toward helping the child to feel more secure and possibly adjust more quickly.

"You need to be aware of what others are doing, applaud their efforts, acknowledge their successes, and encourage them in their pursuits. When we all help one another, everybody wins."

Author Unknown

CHILD CARE ADMINISTRATION TO TRANSFER

The Governor signed the House Bill 932 on May 26, 2005. This bill transfers Child Care Administration out of the Department of Human Resources (DHR) and into the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). The transfer will take place on July 1, 2005. Currently MSDE and DHR are working on the logistics (nuts/bolts) of the transfer (Personnel issues, paychecks, logo's, letterhead, regulations, facilitates). As of July 1, all CCA employees will become MSDE employees and all future regulatory decisions will go through the State Board of Education. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT YOUR LOCAL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION HAS GOVERNING POWER OVER YOU. Your current licensing office will retain its same duties and responsibilities. Judith Rozie-Battle will remain the Executive Director of CCA.

MSDE has developed a new department (Division of Early Childhood Development) the Office of Child Care (us) and the Office of Early Learning will be housed in this new department. This sends a HUGE message that the Governor believes that education is a continuum from the time of birth and that we are early educators. The job we do as caregivers is important and we have a LASTING EFFECT on the children in our care.

FAMILY CHILD CARE WILL CONTINUE TO EXIST JUST AS IT DOES TODAY. Will there ever be some regulation changes? Sure, we will experience changes just as we did in the past. Dr. Grasmick is very supportive of family child care and believes that the system that is currently in place works well. NO, you will not have to have any type of college degree to continue care. MSDE will continue to support and promote the voluntary Maryland Credential Program. They will also continue to fund the Judith P. Hoyer Grants which provide money for caregivers to become Nationally Accredited through the National Association of Family Child Care (NAFCC). Dr. Grasmick looks forward to working with us to not only ensure the health and safety of the children in our care but to also provide us with the means to ensure that ALL of Maryland's children enter school ready to learn.

We will keep you abreast of information as we become aware of it. The new title and internet address is as below:

Division of Early Childhood Development
Office of Child Care within the Maryland State Dept of Education
<http://www.dhr.state.md.us/cca/>

Training Conferences...Provider Tips for Success

Attending training conferences whether they are local, state or nationwide is a great way to expand your knowledge and increase your training.

PURCHASE OF CARE NEWS...

Ann Webster and Pat Jennings made a presentation to the MCC, Public Policy Committee on the re-opening of Subsidies to families who qualify at levels A (\$13,332 for family of 2) through level D (\$22,744 for family of 5).

Clinton MacSherry suggested that the remaining \$90M in the POC allocated budget be spent before June 30, 2005 so that it does not revert to the general fund. In the FY '06 budget, \$103M has been allocated, in which 100% must be used for POC or they will lose the money. (See attached meeting notes from POC workgroup meeting – May)

From the 10K families on waitlist levels A-D, they have only received approximately 300 responses. They are looking for ways to reach out to families who may be in these income levels. Clinton suggested the call in show WOLD. The POC office is currently working on a public service announcement. The POC office will also be at a job fair being held in Baltimore. Other suggestions from committee members were:

1. Contact other state agencies.
2. Contact local Mayor's/County Executives
3. Contact other states to see how they have done it.

At the CCA Advisory Council the following day other suggestions for outreach were to send flyers home through the school system, especially those families/children identified for free or reduced lunch. I also emailed Ann Webster's office suggesting flyers/posters be displayed at local health departments where children receive their immunizations.

conferences when there are lots of vendors offering door prizes and limited time for vendor visits. Make sure you also have some business cards so that when you are networking with other providers you are able to stay in touch after the conference.

When attending a session, always arrive early to get a good seat and make sure to get a contact telephone number or email address from the presenter, so you can contact them with any future questions.

The last suggestion is to set aside time during the conference to reflect on what you have learned. Make some notes of how you might implement some of the new ideas or how to share them with others. These are all just suggestions, but perhaps the most important thing in going to a conference is to have fun and network! Networking is a vital part of this profession, and will enhance everyone's program.