

MARYLAND FAMILY CHILD CARE TIMES

AUGUST 2021 | VOL. 1



TWO-YEAR JOURNEY

by Ruby Daniels

It has been nearly 2 years since I was recruited to step in as the President of MSFCCA by Linda Church and Theresa Rivers. At the time, I thought to myself, do I need the extra responsibility? As a family child care provider, I was worried about the continuing decline of family child care programs. Do I want this important profession to be available to my future grandchildren or our future generation? YES, this is my calling!

When I answered the call, so did a bunch of dedicated professionals led by Rebecca Hancock as VP of Public Policy, Wendy Dingus who stepped up as Secretary and is now the VP of Membership, Theresa Rivers as Treasurer, Angela Bowldes as VP of Education, Valerie Lavala as our financial chair/advisor, 3 Directors-at-large, Susan Lawson, Arlene Ennis, and Meena Gaafar, and Veronica Kelly who recently joined as MSFCCA Secretary. This group of talented and dedicated VOLUNTEERS, including all the local association's presidents and directors, has enabled MSFCCA to thrive.

MSFCCA's road to excellence has met some challenges along the way. In March 2020, with the pandemic on the rise, most businesses were forced to close. MSFCCA advocated to support all family child care professionals. Our first order of business is to Save our Businesses.

After multiple statewide and nationwide meetings with both state and national leaders, countless letters to legislators by our public policy team, Rebecca, Susan, Linda, and myself, MSFCCA was able to make legislators and leaders aware of our unique business operations, including lack of employees, business checking account, and the importance of the service we provide to the workforce.

MSFCCA's work affects all family child care businesses such as yours, yet there are very few dedicated volunteers. If you have the passion to support our profession for future generations, please join our team. If you know of providers who are non-MSFCCA members, please encourage them to become a member. Together we can ensure that family child care can get the visibility and resources that it deserves so that our businesses will continue and thrive.

CONTENTS

Two-year Journey

MSFCCA Advocacy

New Member Structure & Benefits

MSFCCA 28th Annual Conference

Announcements/Meetings



MSFCCA Advocacy

As a result of the collective effort of advocates and legislators, CARES Act was signed into law on March 27, 2020, giving Maryland \$45.8 Million. A sum of this was distributed to provide \$2000 grants, \$800/\$1600 grants for PPE, and pay for the cost of the tuition fee of Essential Personnel's children.

In December 2020, the Trump Administration signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 where Maryland received \$128.8 Million, \$60 Million of which was allocated to provide grants to licensed child care programs. Family Child Childcare providers who applied received \$4150.

In February 2021, the Biden Administration signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Maryland received nearly \$502 Million and an estimated \$309 Million was allocated for child care stabilization funds, mostly in the form of a direct grant to child care providers. On July 14, 2021, MSDE opened up the grant application to all qualified child care providers. The grant application is available at earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/arp. The deadline for the grant application is on August 6, 2021, 4:00 PM. APPLY BEFORE THE DEADLINE!

In addition to advocating for grant funding, MSFCCA has also been busy during this year's legislative sessions. Thankfully, most meetings were held on a virtual platform. The following are some of the bills where MSFCCA provided support and testimonies:

HB 944-Growing Family Child Care Pilot Program
 HB 608- Child Care Provider Support Act
 SB 890- Cross file- Child Care Provider Support Act
 SB 711- Cross file- Growing Family Child Care Pilot Program
 SB 211- Family and Medical Leave Insurance

This is just to name a few, there are numerous bills that Rebecca provided testimony to multiple bills during legislative sessions.

New Member Structure and Benefits

In 2020, In response to feedback from our providers, MSFCCA provided FREE/NO COST virtual training to our members. To date, more than 1,500 have availed of the free program, it is so popular that it gets filled within a day. First year Pilot Training in 2021 was made possible through the generosity of ECEFC (Early Childhood Education Funders Collaborative) and WAWF (Washington Areas Women's Foundation). MSFCCA will seek a second year of grant funding and our plan is to continue this valuable service to our members.

Along the way, we have streamlined and simplified the membership process and made our webpage clear and more user-friendly. This includes a new search utility for parents looking for providers. For more information, visit www.msfcca.org.

MSFCCA also added a provider search tool on our website as an added marketing tool for our members.



Photo: MSFCCA 27th Annual Conference (2019)

MSFCCA 28th Annual Conference

The MSFCCA Annual Conference is on October 15-16, 2021 at the Carousel Oceanfront Hotel in Ocean City Maryland. MSFCCA is offering the conference, both in-person and virtual platforms. This year's theme is "Resilience is the Key to Recovery". MSFCCA has a good lineup of business-related training/workshops, plenty of networking opportunities, mentoring and coaching. It will be a fun-filled weekend with a live entertainer for our Friday, sip and paint and a surprise competition on Saturday, stay tuned for more announcements.

Announcements/Meetings

Virtual Training: Class O (Registration Only)
 August 10, 2021 | 6:30 PM - 8:30: PM

Virtual Training: Class P (Registration Only)
 August 17, 2021 | 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Office of Child Care Advisory Council
 August 19, 2021 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
 November 18, 2021 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Virtual Training: Class Q (Registration Only)
 September 14, 2021 | 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Virtual Training: Class R (Registration Only)
 September 21, 2021 | 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM

MSFCCA 28th Annual Conference (Registration Only)
 October 15 & 16, 2021

State ECAC Meetings
 November 3, 2021 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
 February 2, 2022 | Time TBD
 March 2, 2022 | Time TBD

For the Virtual Training, please visit:
www.msfcca.org/training

For the 28th Annual Conference, please visit:
www.msfcca.org/conference