

PGCRC Executive Director's Report 6-11-19

Strategic Plan

See attached report.

In general, we have made great progress on our 2016 – 2021 plan. We have made significant strides in almost all areas, and when reviewing, it still feels like we picked the right goals.

Goal 7, related to investment in human capital, appears to be the area that needs the most attention and could be a strategic focus for the coming year.

General Program Updates:

All programs are running as anticipated. Some highlights:

Community Programs:

This was the first full year of our partnership with Prince George's County Public Schools, specifically to focus on training and coaching that promotes social/emotional development in children. Our partnership continues into FY2020, and this partnership is what allowed us to hire a new staff member last year, who has been a significant asset to Community Programs.

In Early Childhood Mental Health, we are moving around some staff and hiring one of our consultants as staff. This person brings leadership as well as clinical expertise to the program.

Both of the above are part of meeting our strategic plan goals.

Family Support Center:

Through our partnership with the Judy Center and Mary's Center at our Family Support Center site, we hosted a visit from Congressman Steny Hoyer, Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-California), and Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia (D-Texas). A group of about 16 toured our programs, and Congressman Hoyer was particularly engaging with the parents in our adult education program. In spite of his aides trying to rush him, he shook hands with each woman, asked where she was from, and gave heartwarming words of encouragement on the value of immigrants to our society.



Following the tour, we had a one-hour roundtable where I was able to share about our work and our partnership. Of note was that Monica Goldson, CEO of Prince George's County Public Schools, announced that our building would be renovated beginning in 2021 and implied that our partnership would stay intact.

Healthy Families:

Healthy Families is running smoothly. We are fully staffed and have implemented some new strategies to address the program disruption that occurs when staff resigns. Currently, Alyson is working to submit final documents for re-accreditation in response to findings from the recent site visit. We anticipate no barriers to becoming re-accredited.

We are in discussion with Councilmember Jolene Ivey and Dr. George's Askew, Deputy Chief Officer to the County Executive regarding funding to expand Healthy Families to include an arm that is less intense but reaches more people.

Facilities Report

Largo

THE LEASE HAS BEEN RENEWED FOR FIVE MORE YEARS!

Adelphi

There has been no significant change to the challenges at the Family Support Center, and we had no major issues in the last quarter. The general disrepair continues to frustrate staff. The playground needs replacing, but it is unclear if we should invest in this if there facility itself is its current state. Funds have been allocated in the FY20 budget to hire a consultant to help explore our options. However, there is also follow-up to do based on Dr. Goldson's comments (see FSC section) as well as conversations with Adelphi's Councilmember Deni Taveras.

Public Policy:

Key Victories (excerpted from our advocacy partner's report at Maryland Family Network)

SB 1030 "The Blueprint for Maryland's Future"

This legislation endorses the sweeping policy recommendations of the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education (better known as the Kirwan Commission) and requires a 3-year "down-payment" on the implementation of those recommendations, totaling approximately \$1 billion. State funding for pre-kindergarten will expand by \$31.7 in FY 2020 and an estimated \$53.6 million in FY 2021.

HB 810 / SB 870 "Income Tax - Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit - Alteration"

For the first time in nearly 20 years, the General Assembly has expanded Maryland's Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit—increasing the income threshold from \$50,000 to

\$143,000 for married couples (and to \$92,000 for individuals), indexing these limits annually for inflation, and making the credit refundable for low-income filers.

HB 248 / SB 181 “Education – Child Care Subsidies – Mandatory Funding Level”

Building on landmark legislation from 2018 to give parents access to quality care, this bill accelerates a mandated increase of child care subsidy rates. Beginning in July 2020, subsidy rates must equal or exceed 60 percent of market rates—and must remain at or above the 60th percentile in the future.

Unfinished Business

HB 341 / SB 500 “Labor and Employment – Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program – Establishment (Time to Care Act of 2019)” Incorporating recommendations from a blue-ribbon Task Force and following the enactment of paid parental leave for State employees in 2018, this bill sought to establish an insurance fund to provide partial wage replacement for Marylanders taking time away from work to care for new babies, loved ones with serious health conditions or disabilities, or themselves. The U.S. is the only industrialized country in the world that lacks a paid family and medical leave program, and Maryland would have become the eighth state to establish one. No final vote on the legislation was taken in the House or the Senate.

Staff Update:

We are full staffed! In fact, we made the decision to over-hire in Healthy Families because we know that one Family Support Specialist will be leaving for grad school soon.

As part of Community Programs staffing, we are strategically shifting some staff to better use their talents and hiring one of our consultants to become a full time staff member. This will add clinical expertise to the team as Ms. Shiver.

On June 18, we are having a staff day that will have a half-day of training followed by lunch at Watkins Park.

Shari Davis helped secure a trainer on communication. The directors decided this would be a good topic based on the employee survey done last fall that uncovered some gaps in communication.