

- As we move forward, some thoughts/questions discussed that will help shape our strategies and actions over the next year. Things to think about:
 - How do we move to elevate the importance and utility of child care?
 - How do we build more opportunities and environments to support quality and affordable early learning experiences for our children in Suffolk?
 - How do we promote training opportunities for children with special needs? (This question was based on a specific experience that Legislator Martinez had with a licensed provider who did not provide the appropriate supervision for a child which special needs.)
 - How do we build greater public will and understanding related to the importance of the early years, child care and early childhood education?
 - Need to look at data, availability, capacity, usage and barriers related to child care.

Structure of the Commission:

As we move forward with our work, Legislator Martinez would like to appoint Dr. Dana Friedman as the Vice Chair and Angela Zimmerman as the Secretary to the Child Care Commission. A motion was made by Nick LaMorte and seconded by Richard Koubek to accept these appointments as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Posting of Commission Minutes:

As a Commission, a question was raised about whether meeting minutes need to be posted on the County website? Legislator Martinez will explore and provide this information at the next meeting.

Suggestions for the Open Seat Designated for “Business” on the Commission:

- Erika Chase, SUNY Farmingdale College, Small Business Administration was presented as a viable candidate to fill this position. Legislator Martinez will explore her interest and accessibility.

Moving Forward, Short-Term:

- The Commission will be convened for one year, and renewed at the discretion of the Legislature thereafter. Therefore, the group felt that it was important to begin with strategies that can show a tangible result within a one year period.

- In addition to launching some type of “grass roots” campaign to elevate the awareness/importance and understanding of child care and early learning, it was suggested that one tangible activity we may want to incorporate is the identification of the top ten barriers to affordable, quality care using a framework that explores:
 - Why can’t parents find care?
 - Who can afford it?
 - Where can they find it?
 - How do I know its quality?
 - What does quality look like?
 - Why is it NOT babysitting?

Longer-Term:

- It was suggested that a coordinated tracking system for children served by the child care system (and those not served) be developed in Suffolk County.

Next Meeting Date:

- Monday, July 25, 2016, 2:00 p.m., Suffolk County Legislative Clerk’s Conference Room

Preparation:

- As time is critical and limited, please come prepared to the next meeting with specific activities to move forward with the short-term activities discussed, and your specific thoughts and contributions. Please keep in mind the two “WHEREAS” clauses we have agreed to focus on.

Submitted:

Angela M. Zimmerman