

**Suffolk Child Care Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, July 25, 2016**

**In Attendance:**

Lisa Pinkard	Chief of Staff to Legislator Monica R. Martinez
Dana Friedman	Vice Chair, Suffolk Child Care Commission Suffolk County Department of Social Services

**Commission Members:**

Vickie Calderon	Suffolk Community College
Diane Eppolito	Long Island Head Start
Richard Koubek	Suffolk Welfare to Work Commission
Nick LaMorte	CSEA
Angela Zimmerman	(Secretary, Suffolk Child Car Commission) Family Support LI @ Molloy College

**Introductions:**

- In the absence of Legislator Martinez, Lisa Pinkard welcomed all to the July meeting of the Suffolk Child Care Commission.

**Follow-ups from the June 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting:**

- *Minutes from the Suffolk Child Care Commission* will be posted on the Suffolk County Legislature's website by Legislator Martinez's office.
- *Open Seats on the Commission:* Legislator Martinez's office followed up with Erika Chase, SBA @ SUNY Farmingdale. She is willing to accept the "business" seat on the Commission and will be invited to subsequent meetings. Also, as Susan Kessler is not available to participate in the Commission on a regular basis, members suggested that Lucinda Hurley, Nassau BOCES be approached. Nassau BOCES also coordinates the regional Long Island Pre K initiative. Ms. Martinez's office will follow-up and report back at the next meeting.
- *Commission attendance:* there is a law that was adopted by the Legislature requiring that representatives on sponsored commissions not miss more than three consecutive meetings. If they do, and do not send a delegate in their place, this may be grounds for dismissal. Lisa Pinkard will research the application of this law to membership in the Child Care Commission.

## Review of the Minutes:

- Minutes from the June 6, 2016 Suffolk County Child Care Commission were distributed and reviewed. A motion was made by Richard Koubek and seconded by Dana Friedman to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

## Suffolk County Child Care Commission – Year I Strategies:

- The Commission is convened by the Legislature for one year and renewed annually. Therefore, members agreed to focus on two main areas within this timeframe:

***Public Education Campaign to support the importance of the early years.*** To begin this process, the Commission will focus on the following:

- *Development of a “Ten Things to Know about Child Care in Suffolk County”* document. A document developed by Dana Friedman was reviewed and will be used as a template to focus on the availability, supply/demand and accessibility of child care in Suffolk. Key messages and local resources related to the following will be highlighted in a short, clear document to be developed for public distribution:
  - ❑ **Child Care is not babysitting**
  - ❑ **There isn’t enough child care**
  - ❑ **Head Start can only a portion of eligible children** – i.e., LI Head Start serves 1,628 of the estimated 8,000 eligible children, ages 0-4.
  - ❑ **Pre K funds serve only 27% of four year-olds on LI**
  - ❑ **The number of child care programs in Suffolk is decreasing**
  - ❑ **The majority of parents cannot afford the cost of child care**
  - ❑ **Child care programs cannot offer quality services by relying on parent fees**
  - ❑ **Many teachers in child care programs earn poverty wages**
  - ❑ **Transportation issues affect parents’ ability to use child care programs**
  - ❑ **There is no consistent way that school districts assess school readiness**
- *Local adaptation of the National Invest in Us Campaign.* Invest in Us is a “challenge to business leaders, philanthropists, advocates, public officials and the public to build a better nation through high-quality early childhood programs for children birth to age five. When we invest in them, they invest in us.” As part of this campaign, a variety of educational materials have been developed (and can be adapted locally) to build greater will and

understanding related to the importance of the early years. National materials will be reviewed for possible local adaptation.

**2.) Development of a Suffolk Child Care Summit** to convene advocates, providers and consumers from different disciplines to:

- ❑ Share local success stories and introduce new ones
- ❑ Elevate the importance and utility of child care in terms of community development
- ❑ Build public will to support quality early learning experiences
- ❑ The Commission will explore partnering with a number of entities to ensure that broadest impact including: Superintendents Association, faith-based institutions, local coalitions/networks and others representing different disciplines and perspectives.

**Proposed Timeline of Activities/Follow-ups:**

- Dana Friedman to edit the “Ten Things” document and send out to Commission members prior to the next meeting.
- Follow-up with the National Invest In Us Campaign to explore the local adaptation of campaign materials.
- Legislator Martinez will follow-up with the Child Care Council of Suffolk to confirm their involvement.
- Summit topics to be identified by October 2016.
- Planning to immediately follow regarding location, presenters, targeted outreach, etc.

**Upcoming Child Care Commission Meetings to be confirmed with Legislator Martinez:**

- Monday, September 26, 2016 @ 2:00 p.m.
- Monday, October 24, 2016 @ 2:00 p.m.
- Monday, November 21, 201 @ 2:00 p.m.

