

M E M O R A N D U M

July 18, 2025

TO: Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee
Education and Culture (EC) Committee

FROM: Christine Wellons, Chief Legislative Attorney

SUBJECT: Bill 11-25, Child Care Coordination - Amendments

PURPOSE: Worksession – recommendation expected

Expected Attendees:

- Mark Hodge, Chief Operating Officer, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
- Lori Garibay-Aquino, Chief, Children, Youth and Families, DHHS
- Michelle Gallipoli, Planning Specialist III: Early Childhood Services Strategic Planning, DHHS
- Deborah Lambert, Senior Fiscal & Policy Analyst, Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
- Kimberly Rusnak, Executive Director, Montgomery County Children's Opportunity Alliance (COA)

Bill 11-25, Early Care and Education Coordinating Entity, was introduced on April 8, 2025. The Lead Sponsor is the Council President at the request of the County Executive. A public hearing occurred on April 29.

Bill 11-25 would:

- (1) eliminate the Child Care and Early Education Officer;
- (2) eliminate the Early Childhood Coordinating Council; and
- (3) generally amend the Code relating to early childhood care and education.

BACKGROUND

The County Executive has explained the reasons for the legislation as follows.

The bill “would eliminate the position of the Child Care and Early Education Officer (CCEEO) as the position is no longer filled and personnel are needed to fulfill other duties within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). This Bill would also remove Section 44-4A which eliminates reference to the position as it relates to Child Care in Public Space. Finally, the Bill would remove Section 10A-3 which would eliminate the Early Childhood Coordinating Council as the duties of the Council have been largely transferred to the Early Care and Education Coordinating Entity established by Bill 42-21.”

BILL SPECIFICS

Bill 11-25 would eliminate the requirement for a Child Care and Early Education Officer within the Department of Health and Human Services. The duties of the position are to:

- promote coordination and collaboration among county agencies and departments to expand child care opportunities throughout the County;
- monitor and support the coordination between the Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of Community Use of Public Facilities to administer the selection of providers in public spaces, including in Montgomery County Public School facilities, to the extent authorized by State law;
- monitor and support the implementation of the Child Care Expansion and Quality Enhancement Initiative;
- provide staff support for the Early Childhood Coordinating Council;
- monitor and support the implementation of the Early Childhood Initiative as developed by the Coordinating Council;
- serve as a liaison between County government and the public on child care-related issues; and
- prepare a Strategic Plan for Child Care.

In addition, the bill would eliminate the Early Child Care Coordinating Council (ECCC). The duties of the ECCC include:

- conduct a periodic county-wide needs assessment concerning the quality and availability of early childhood education and development programs and services for children from birth to school entry, including an assessment of the availability of child care, prekindergarten, and other supportive services for low- income children and their families in the County;
- identify opportunities for, and barriers to, collaboration and coordination among child development, child care and early childhood education programs, services, and advocacy groups including collaboration and coordination among State and local agencies and organizations responsible for administering or providing oversight for such efforts;
- develop recommendations for increasing the overall participation of children and their families in existing programs, including outreach to underrepresented and special populations;

- develop recommendations regarding the implementation and use of the State-established unified data collection system for public early childhood education and development programs and services throughout the County;
- develop recommendations regarding professional development, career advancement plans, compensation scales, and incentives for early childhood educators in the County;
- assess the capacity and effectiveness of 2- and 4-year public and private institutions of higher education toward supporting the development of early childhood educators, including the extent to which such institutions have in place articulation agreements, professional development and career advancement plans, and practice or internships for students to spend time in Early Head Start, Head Start, prekindergarten, or child care programs;
- recommend uniform regulations for the availability of quality child care in public spaces;
- develop ways to leverage public and private partnerships between private businesses, Montgomery County Public Schools, and the County;
- develop a hub consortium that connects family child care providers to accredited child care centers and schools to provide training, technical assistance, and mentoring to family child care providers; and
- update and implement an Early Childhood Initiative to integrate public and private early childhood services, including areas such as child care, early literacy, early childhood mental health consultation services, and parent support services.

SUMMARY OF IMPACT STATEMENTS

Racial Equity and Social Justice. “The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) finds Bill 11-25 will have a minimal impact on racial equity and social justice (RESJ) in the County. While Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (BIPOC) community members, especially young children and families who are Latinx, could be disproportionately impacted by the elimination of the Child Care and Early Education Officer position and the Early Childhood Coordinating Council, these resources do not impact the affordability of early care and education in the County and have been inactive for several years. Therefore, their elimination is not likely to meaningfully impact outcomes for BIPOC young children and their families.”

Economic Impact. “The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates that Bill 11-25 would have an insignificant impact on economic conditions in the County in terms of the Council’s priority indicators.”

Climate Assessment. “The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates Bill 11-25 will have no impact on the County’s contribution to addressing climate change as it proposes changes to reduce redundancies in the County’s early childhood care and education system.”

Fiscal Impact. According to the Office of Management and Budget, “The removal of the Early Childhood Coordinating Council and the position, Child Care and Early Education Officer

from the County Code will not impact expenditures or revenues as the CCEEO position was vacated several years ago and the ECCC has been eliminated.”

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY

The Council received testimony in support of Bill 11-25, including from the Children’s Opportunity Alliance (the County’s designated Early Care and Education Coordinating Entity).

ISSUES FOR THE COMMITTEE’S CONSIDERATION

The Committee might wish to consider the following issues in connection with Bill 11-25.

1. Child Care and Early Education Officer

The Executive explained that the Child Care and Early Education Officer position “is no longer filled and personnel are needed to fulfill other duties within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).”

The Committee might wish to ask DHHS to elaborate upon the functions of the CCEEO position and other staffing considerations of the department.

2. Early Care Coordinating Council - Duties

Under Council Bill 42-21, the Council established a framework to designate a non-profit organization as an Early Care and Education Coordinating Entity (ECECE). The Council assigned to the ECECE substantially the same responsibilities that previously had been assigned to the ECCC. Those responsibilities include conducting needs assessments, making recommendations, and coordinating public and private services.

The following duties of the ECCC have not been explicitly transferred to the ECECE or elsewhere under statute, and the Committee might wish to ask the panelists to discuss the implementation of these duties.

- develop recommendations regarding professional development, career advancement plans, compensation scales, and incentives for early childhood educators in the County;
- assess the capacity and effectiveness of 2- and 4-year public and private institutions of higher education toward supporting the development of early childhood educators, including the extent to which such institutions have in place articulation agreements, professional development and career advancement plans, and practice or internships for students to spend time in Early Head Start, Head Start, prekindergarten, or child care programs;
- recommend uniform regulations for the availability of quality child care in public spaces;
- develop a hub consortium that connects family child care providers to accredited child care centers and schools to provide training, technical assistance, and mentoring to family child care providers; and

- update and implement an Early Childhood Initiative to integrate public and private early childhood services, including areas such as child care, early literacy, early childhood mental health consultation services, and parent support services.

3. Governor’s Early Childhood Advisory Council

The Committee might wish to ask about the County’s coordination with and representation on the State Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) in light of the dissolution of the ECCC. According to the State Department of Education, the ECCC had been designated as the County’s Local Early Childhood Advisory Council, which reports to the ECAC. See [Local Early Childhood Advisory Councils \(LECACS\) | Division of Early Childhood](#).

The purposes of the ECAC are to:

- (1) Coordinate efforts among early childhood care and education programs;
- (2) Conduct needs assessments concerning early childhood education and development programs; and
- (3) Develop a statewide strategic report regarding early childhood education and care.

Md. Code Ann., Education § 9.5-202.

Current membership of the ECAC is available at [State ECAC Appointed and Required Members Contact List 2023.docx](#).

<u>This packet contains:</u>	<u>Circle #</u>
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Bill No. 11-25
Concerning: Child Care Coordination -
Amendments
Revised: 4/1/2025 Draft No. 1
Introduced: April 8, 2025
Expires: _____
Enacted: _____
Executive: _____
Effective: _____
Sunset Date: _____
Ch. _____, Laws of Mont. Co. _____

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Lead Sponsor: Council President at the Request of the County Executive

AN ACT to:

- (1) eliminate the Child Care and Early Education Officer;
- (2) eliminate the Early Childhood Coordinating Council; and
- (3) generally amend the Code relating to early childhood care and education.

By repealing

Chapter 10A, Child Care
Sections 10A-1 and 10A-3

Chapter 44, Schools and Camps
Section 44-4A

Boldface	<i>Heading or defined term.</i>
<u>Underlining</u>	<i>Added to existing law by original bill.</i>
[Single boldface brackets]	<i>Deleted from existing law by original bill.</i>
<u>Double underlining</u>	<i>Added by amendment.</i>
[[Double boldface brackets]]	<i>Deleted from existing law or the bill by amendment.</i>
* * *	<i>Existing law unaffected by bill.</i>

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following Act:

Sec. 1. Section 10A-1, Article 2 of Chapter 10A, and Sections 10A-3 and 44-4A are repealed as follows:

10A-1. [Child Care and Early Education Officer] Reserved.

[(a) *Definition.* In this Section *Officer* means the Child Care and Early Education Officer.

[(b) The County Executive must designate an employee in the Department of Health and Human Services to serve as a Child Care and Early Education Officer. Among other duties, the Officer must:

- (1) promote coordination and collaboration among county agencies and departments to expand child care opportunities throughout the County;
- (2) monitor and support the coordination between the Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of Community Use of Public Facilities to administer the selection of providers in public spaces, including in Montgomery County Public School facilities, to the extent authorized by State law;
- (3) monitor and support the implementation of the Child Care Expansion and Quality Enhancement Initiative described in Section 10A-2;
- (4) provide staff support for the Early Childhood Coordinating Council established in Section 10A-3;
- (5) monitor and support the implementation of the Early Childhood Initiative as developed by the Coordinating Council;
- (6) serve as a liaison between County government and the public on child care-related issues; and
- (7) prepare a Strategic Plan for Child Care by 1 year from date of enactment that includes:

- (A) specific goals and implementation strategies for improving early childhood services and child care provider assistance and counseling;
- (B) planning for new child care services in public space, including in public school projects;
- (C) planning for expansion of child care space through public-private partnerships;
- (D) research on the supply, demand, and affordability of child care throughout the County;
- (E) a plan for a countywide universal child care and preschool program that provides every child an opportunity to participate in a high-quality preschool, early care, and education program; and
- (F) a plan to improve readiness for children entering kindergarten through enhanced early care and education services.

[(c) Annual report. By February 1 of each year, the Officer must submit to the County Council and County Executive an annual report on:

- (1) its activities, accomplishments, plans, and objectives;
- (2) the implementation of the Child Care Expansion and Quality Enhancement initiative, including the number of family child care providers services and types of services provided;
- (3) steps taken to implement the Strategic Plan for Child Care, Early Care, and Education in the preceding year; and
- (4) the activities, accomplishments, plans, and objectives of the Early Childhood Coordinating Council, including implementation of the Early Childhood Initiative.]

ARTICLE 2. [EARLY CHILDHOOD COORDINATING COUNCIL]

RESERVED.

10A-3. [Early Childhood Coordinating Council] Reserved.

[(a) Definitions. In this Section, the following words have the meanings indicated:

Coordinating Council means the Early Childhood Coordinating Council.

Department means the Department of Health and Human Services.

Director means the Director of the Department or the Director's designee.

[(b) Established. The Executive must appoint, subject to confirmation by the Council, an Early Childhood Coordinating Council.

[(c) Composition and terms of members.

(1) The Coordinating Council has up to 33 members.

(2) The Executive must appoint up to 15 public members. The public members should include:

(A) up to 4 representatives of local providers of early childhood education and development services;

(B) one representative of the Montgomery County Council Parent Teacher Associations;

(C) one representative of the Montgomery County Commission on Child Care;

(D) one representative of the Organization of Child Care Directors;

(E) one representative of the Family Child Care Association of Montgomery County;

(F) one representative of the Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children;

- (G) one representative of the business community with demonstrated leadership in early childhood care and education;
- (H) one representative of the local pediatrician community;
- (I) one representative of the local philanthropic community;
- (J) one representative of the local interfaith community; and
- (K) up to 2 parent representatives.

(3) The Executive must appoint the following to serve as an ex officio member:

- (A) the Director of the Department;
- (B) one representative of the Department's Division of Early Childhood Services;
- (C) one representative of the Department's Community Health Services;
- (D) one representative of the Department's School Health Services;
- (E) one representative of the Department's Infants and Toddlers Program;
- (F) one representative of the Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth and Families;
- (G) one representative of the Montgomery County Child Care Resource and Referral Center;
- (H) one representative of the Montgomery County Community Action Agency, the administrator of public Head Start programs in Montgomery County;
- (I) one representative of Montgomery County Department of Public Libraries; and

- 108 (J) one representative of the Montgomery County Council;
- 109 (4) The Executive must invite the following to serve as an ex officio
- 110 member:
- 111 (A) the Montgomery County Public Schools Superintendent or
- 112 the Superintendent's designee;
- 113 (B) one representative of the Montgomery County Public
- 114 School's Division of Early Childhood Programs and
- 115 Services;
- 116 (C) one representative of the School's Division of
- 117 Prekindergarten, Special Programs and Related Services;
- 118 (D) one representative of the Office of Child Care Region 5,
- 119 Maryland State Department of Education;
- 120 (E) up to 2 representatives of public institutions of higher
- 121 education in the County;
- 122 (F) one elementary school principal in Montgomery County
- 123 Public Schools; and
- 124 (G) one prekindergarten teacher in Montgomery County Public
- 125 Schools.
- 126 (5) The term of each member is 4 years. If a member is appointed to
- 127 fill a vacancy before a term expires, the successor serves the rest
- 128 of the unexpired term.
- 129 [(d) Voting, officers, chairs, meetings, and compensation.
- 130 (1) Each member of the Coordinating Council is a voting member.
- 131 (2) The Executive must designate the Chair and Vice-Chair.
- 132 (3) The Coordinating Council meets at the call of the Chair. The
- 133 Coordinating Council must meet as often as necessary to perform
- 134 its duties, but not less than 9 times each year.

- 135 (4) A member serves without compensation. However, a member may
136 request reimbursement for mileage and dependent care costs at
137 rates established by the County.

138 [(e) Duties. The Coordinating Council must:

- 139 (1) conduct a periodic county-wide needs assessment concerning the
140 quality and availability of early childhood education and
141 development programs and services for children from birth to
142 school entry, including an assessment of the availability of child
143 care, prekindergarten, and other supportive services for low-
144 income children and their families in the County;
- 145 (2) identify opportunities for, and barriers to, collaboration and
146 coordination among child development, child care and early
147 childhood education programs, services, and advocacy groups
148 including collaboration and coordination among State and local
149 agencies and organizations responsible for administering or
150 providing oversight for such efforts;
- 151 (3) develop recommendations for increasing the overall participation
152 of children and their families in existing programs, including
153 outreach to underrepresented and special populations;
- 154 (4) develop recommendations regarding the implementation and use
155 of the State- established unified data collection system for public
156 early childhood education and development programs and services
157 throughout the County;
- 158 (5) develop recommendations regarding professional development,
159 career advancement plans, compensation scales and incentives for
160 early childhood educators in the County; and

- 161 (6) assess the capacity and effectiveness of 2- and 4-year public and
 162 private institutions of higher education toward supporting the
 163 development of early childhood educators, including the extent to
 164 which such institutions have in place articulation agreements,
 165 professional development and career advancement plans, and
 166 practice or internships for students to spend time in Early Head
 167 Start, Head Start, prekindergarten, or child care programs;
- 168 (7) recommend uniform regulations for the availability of quality child
 169 care in public spaces;
- 170 (8) develop ways to leverage public and private partnerships between
 171 private businesses, Montgomery County Public Schools, and the
 172 County;
- 173 (9) develop a hub consortium that connects family child care providers
 174 to accredited child care centers and schools to provide training,
 175 technical assistance, and mentoring to family child care providers;
 176 and
- 177 (10) update and implement an Early Childhood Initiative to integrate
 178 public and private early childhood services, including areas such
 179 as child care, early literacy, early childhood mental health
 180 consultation services, and parent support services.
- 181 [(f) Advocacy. The Coordinating Council must not engage in any legislative
 182 advocacy at the State or federal levels unless that activity is approved by
 183 the Office of Intergovernmental Relations.
- 184 [(g) Staff. The Department of Health and Human Services must provide
 185 appropriate staff to the Coordinating Council.]
- 186 **[Sec. 44-4A. Child Care in Public Spaces] Reserved.**
- 187 [The Child Care and Early Education Officer designated in Section 10A-1 must

188 monitor and support the coordination between the Department of Health and Human
189 Services and the Office of Community Use of Public Facilities to administer the
190 selection of providers in public space, including in Montgomery County Public School
191 facilities to the extent authorized by State law.]



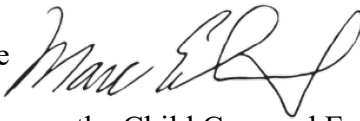
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

MEMORANDUM

March 12, 2025

TO: Kate Stewart, Council President
Montgomery County Council

FROM: Marc Elrich, County Executive 

SUBJECT: Changes to County Code to remove the Child Care and Early Education Officer
and the Early Childhood Coordinating Council

I am transmitting proposed Bill XX-25, to remove Section 10A-1 of the County Code which would eliminate the position of the Child Care and Early Education Officer (CCEEO) as the position is no longer filled and personnel are needed to fulfill other duties within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). This Bill would also remove Section 44-4A which eliminates reference to the position as it relates to Child Care in Public Space. Finally, the Bill would remove Section 10A-3 which would eliminate the Early Childhood Coordinating Council as the duties of the Council have been largely transferred to the Early Care and Education Coordinating Entity established by Bill 42-21.

In 2015, Bill 13-15 was passed by County Council and signed by the County Executive after the Executive's veto of Bill 11-15 shortly before. Both bills had established the CCEEO in DHHS, although Bill 11-15 had designated different duties of the CCEEO than what was ultimately enacted by Bill 13-15. The CCEEO position was part of a larger initiative codified by Bill 13-15 to expand and enhance child care services in the County. On February 15, 2022, County Council enacted Bill 42-21 which again modified the County's comprehensive approach to early care and education, although Bill 42-21 does not address the role of the CCEEO. With the establishment of the County's Early Care and Education Coordinating Entity, this is a timely opportunity to amend County Code to eliminate the CCEEO position from statute, since it has not been filled since 2021 and the resources for the position are needed elsewhere within DHHS. In addition, with the changes proposed for the CCEEO and the ECCC, redundancies are reduced within the County's Early Care and Education system creating a more efficient, coordinated system.

ME:lb

Changes to County Code to remove the Child Care and Early Education Officer and the Early
Childhood Coordinating Council
March 12, 2025
Page 2 of 2

Enclosures: Proposed Bill XX-25
Legislative Request Report – Bill XX-25
FIS – Bill XX-25

cc: BB Otero, Special Assistant to the County Executive, Office of the County Executive
Sonia E. Mora, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, Office of the County Executive
James Bridgers, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Lori Garibay-Aquino, Acting Chief, Children, Youth and Family Services, Department of
Health and Human Services
Jennifer Arnaiz, Senior Administrator, Early Childhood Services, Department of Health
and Human Services

Bill No. _____ [Click - type number]
Concerning: [short title]
Revised: [date] Draft No. [#]
Introduced: [date]
Expires: _____
Enacted: [date]
Executive: [date signed]
Effective: [date takes effect]
Sunset Date: [date expires]
Ch. [#], Laws of Mont. Co. [year]

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: Council President at the Request of the County Executive

AN ACT to:

- (1) Eliminate the Child Care and Early Education Officer;
- (2) Eliminate the Early Childhood Coordinating Council; and
- (3) Generally amend the Code relating to the Child Care and Early Education Officer.

By amending

Chapter 10A, Child Care
Art. 1, Section 10A-1
Art. 2, Section 10A-3

Chapter 44, Schools and Camps
Section 44-4A

Boldface	<i>Heading or defined term.</i>
<u>Underlining</u>	<i>Added to existing law by original bill.</i>
[Single boldface brackets]	<i>Deleted from existing law by original bill.</i>
<u>Double underlining</u>	<i>Added by amendment.</i>
[[Double boldface brackets]]	<i>Deleted from existing law or the bill by amendment.</i>
* * *	<i>Existing law unaffected by bill.</i>

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following Act:

Sec. 1. Sections 10A-1, 10A-3, and 44-4A are amended as follows:

ARTICLE 1. CHILD CARE.

[Sec. 10A-1. Child Care and Early Education Officer.

- (a) *Definition.* In this Section *Officer* means the Child Care and Early Education Officer.
- (b) The County Executive must designate an employee in the Department of Health and Human Services to serve as a Child Care and Early Education Officer. Among other duties, the Officer must:
 - (1) promote coordination and collaboration among county agencies and departments to expand child care opportunities throughout the County;
 - (2) monitor and support the coordination between the Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of Community Use of Public Facilities to administer the selection of providers in public spaces, including in Montgomery County Public School facilities, to the extent authorized by State law;
 - (3) monitor and support the implementation of the Child Care Expansion and Quality Enhancement Initiative described in Section 10A-2;
 - (4) provide staff support for the Early Childhood Coordinating Council established in Section 10A-3;
 - (5) monitor and support the implementation of the Early Childhood Initiative as developed by the Coordinating Council;
 - (6) serve as a liaison between County government and the public on child care-related issues; and
 - (7) prepare a Strategic Plan for Child Care by 1 year from date of enactment that includes:

- (A) specific goals and implementation strategies for improving early childhood services and child care provider assistance and counseling;
 - (B) planning for new child care services in public space, including in public school projects;
 - (C) planning for expansion of child care space through public-private partnerships;
 - (D) research on the supply, demand, and affordability of child care throughout the County;
 - (E) a plan for a countywide universal child care and preschool program that provides every child an opportunity to participate in a high-quality preschool, early care, and education program; and
 - (F) a plan to improve readiness for children entering kindergarten through enhanced early care and education services.
- (c) *Annual report.* By February 1 of each year, the Officer must submit to the County Council and County Executive an annual report on:
- (1) its activities, accomplishments, plans, and objectives;
 - (2) the implementation of the Child Care Expansion and Quality Enhancement initiative, including the number of family child care providers services and types of services provided;
 - (3) steps taken to implement the Strategic Plan for Child Care, Early Care, and Education in the preceding year; and
 - (4) the activities, accomplishments, plans, and objectives of the Early Childhood Coordinating Council, including implementation of the Early Childhood Initiative.] ***Reserved.***

ARTICLE 2. EARLY CHILDHOOD COORDINATING COUNCIL

[Sec. 10A-3. Early Childhood Coordinating Council.

(a) Definitions. In this Section, the following words have the meanings indicated:

Coordinating Council means the Early Childhood Coordinating Council.

Department means the Department of Health and Human Services.

Director means the Director of the Department or the Director's designee.

(b) Established. The Executive must appoint, subject to confirmation by the Council, an Early Childhood Coordinating Council.

(c) Composition and terms of members.

(1) The Coordinating Council has up to 33 members.

(2) The Executive must appoint up to 15 public members. The public members should include:

(A) up to 4 representatives of local providers of early childhood education and development services;

(B) one representative of the Montgomery County Council Parent Teacher Associations;

(C) one representative of the Montgomery County Commission on Child Care;

(D) one representative of the Organization of Child Care Directors;

(E) one representative of the Family Child Care Association of Montgomery County;

(F) one representative of the Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children;

(G) one representative of the business community with demonstrated leadership in early childhood care and education;

(H) one representative of the local pediatrician community;

(I) one representative of the local philanthropic community;

(J) one representative of the local interfaith community; and

(K) up to 2 parent representatives.

(3) The Executive must appoint the following to serve as an ex officio member:

(A) the Director of the Department;

(B) one representative of the Department's Division of Early Childhood Services;

(C) one representative of the Department's Community Health Services;

(D) one representative of the Department's School Health Services;

(E) one representative of the Department's Infants and Toddlers Program;

(F) one representative of the Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth and Families;

(G) one representative of the Montgomery County Child Care Resource and Referral Center;

(H) one representative of the Montgomery County Community Action Agency, the administrator of public Head Start programs in Montgomery County;

(I) one representative of Montgomery County Department of Public Libraries; and

(J) one representative of the Montgomery County Council;

(4) The Executive must invite the following to serve as an ex officio member:

(A) the Montgomery County Public Schools Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee;

(B) one representative of the Montgomery County Public School's Division of Early Childhood Programs and Services;

(C) one representative of the School's Division of Prekindergarten, Special Programs and Related Services;

(D) one representative of the Office of Child Care Region 5, Maryland State Department of Education;

(E) up to 2 representatives of public institutions of higher education in the County;

(F) one elementary school principal in Montgomery County Public Schools; and

(G) one prekindergarten teacher in Montgomery County Public Schools.

(5) The term of each member is 4 years. If a member is appointed to fill a vacancy before a term expires, the successor serves the rest of the unexpired term.

(d) Voting, officers, chairs, meetings, and compensation.

(1) Each member of the Coordinating Council is a voting member.

(2) The Executive must designate the Chair and Vice-Chair.

(3) The Coordinating Council meets at the call of the Chair. The Coordinating Council must meet as often as necessary to perform its duties, but not less than 9 times each year.

(4) A member serves without compensation. However, a member may request reimbursement for mileage and dependent care costs at rates established by the County.

(e) Duties. The Coordinating Council must:

(1) conduct a periodic county-wide needs assessment concerning the quality and availability of early childhood education and development programs and services for children from birth to school entry, including an assessment of the availability of child care, prekindergarten, and other supportive services for low-income children and their families in the County;

(2) identify opportunities for, and barriers to, collaboration and coordination among child development, child care and early childhood education programs, services, and advocacy groups including collaboration and coordination among State and local agencies and organizations responsible for administering or providing oversight for such efforts;

(3) develop recommendations for increasing the overall participation of children and their families in existing programs, including outreach to underrepresented and special populations;

(4) develop recommendations regarding the implementation and use of the State- established unified data collection system for public early childhood education and development programs and services throughout the County;

(5) develop recommendations regarding professional development, career advancement plans, compensation scales and incentives for early childhood educators in the County; and

(6) assess the capacity and effectiveness of 2- and 4-year public and private institutions of higher education toward supporting the development of early childhood educators, including the extent to which such institutions have in place articulation agreements, professional development and career advancement plans, and practice or internships for students to spend time in Early Head Start, Head Start, prekindergarten, or child care programs;

(7) recommend uniform regulations for the availability of quality child care in public spaces;

(8) develop ways to leverage public and private partnerships between private businesses, Montgomery County Public Schools, and the County;

(9) develop a hub consortium that connects family child care providers to accredited child care centers and schools to provide training, technical assistance, and mentoring to family child care providers; and

(10) update and implement an Early Childhood Initiative to integrate public and private early childhood services, including areas such as child care, early literacy, early childhood mental health consultation services, and parent support services.

(f) Advocacy. The Coordinating Council must not engage in any legislative advocacy at the State or federal levels unless that activity is approved by the Office of Intergovernmental Relations.

(g) Staff. The Department of Health and Human Services must provide appropriate staff to the Coordinating Council.] ***Reserved.***

* * *

ARTICLE 3. SCHOOL FACILITIES UTILIZATION ACT

[Sec. 44-4A. Child Care in Public Spaces.

The Child Care and Early Education Officer designated in Section 10A-1 must monitor and support the coordination between the Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of Community Use of Public Facilities to administer the selection of providers in public space, including in Montgomery County Public School facilities to the extent authorized by State law.] ***Reserved.***

Approved:

Kate Stewart, President, County Council

Date

Approved:

Marc Elrich, County Executive

Date

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Sara R. Tenenbaum, Clerk of the Council

Date

Approved as to form and legality:

Trevor Ashbarry 2/21/25

LEGISLATIVE REQUEST REPORT

BILL: XX-25

DESCRIPTION:	To remove references in the County Code to the Child Care and Early Education Officer (CCEEO) as the position is no longer filled and personnel are needed to fulfill other duties within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The bill also eliminates the Early Childhood Coordinating Council as the duties of the Council have been largely transferred to the Early Care and Education Coordinating Entity established by Bill 42-21. Finally, the bill removes a reference to the CCEEO as it related to Child Care in Public Space.
PROBLEM:	The position of the CCEEO is obsolete but references to it remain in County Code.
GOALS AND: OBJECTIVES	To conform County Code to current practice regarding child care planning in the County.
COORDINATION:	The Office of the County Executive.
FISCAL IMPACT:	NA
ECONOMIC: IMPACT	NA
EVALUATION:	NA
EXPERIENCE: ELSEWHERE	NA
SOURCE OF: INFORMATION	NA
APPLICATION: WITHIN MUNICIPALITIES	NA
PENALTIES:	NA

Fiscal Impact Statement

Office of Management and Budget

Bill XX-25

Bill to Eliminate References in the County Code to the Child Care and Early Education Officer and the Early Childhood Coordinating Council

Bill Summary

This bill removes references in the County Code to the Child Care and Early Education Officer (CCEEO) as the position is no longer filled and personnel are needed to fulfill other duties within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The bill also eliminates the Early Childhood Coordinating Council (ECCC) as the duties of the Council have been largely transferred to the Early Care and Education Coordinating Entity established by Bill 42-21. Finally, the bill removes a reference to the CCEEO as it related to Child Care in Public Space.

Fiscal Impact Summary

The removal of the Early Childhood Coordinating Council and the position, Child Care and Early Education Officer from the County Code will not impact expenditures or revenues as the CCEEO position was vacated several years ago and the ECCC has been eliminated.

Fiscal Year	0	0	0	0	0	0	Total
Personnel Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Operating Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Impact	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	

Fiscal Impact Analysis

There is no fiscal impact. This bill recognizes changes that have already occurred as the CCEEO Position Identification Number (PIN) was reallocated to another program within DHHS several years ago, the ECCC has not convened in several years, and the ECCC members were voluntary.

Staff Impact

The bill is not expected to impact staff time or duties.

Actuarial Analysis

The bill is not expected to impact retiree pension or group insurance costs.

Information Technology Impact

The bill is not expected to impact the County Information Technology (IT) or Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems.

Other Information

Later actions that may impact revenue or expenditures if future spending is projected

The bill does not authorize future spending.

Contributors

Jennifer Arnaiz, DHHS, Early Childhood Services
Michelle Gallipoli, DHHS, Early Childhood Services
Deborah Lambert, OMB



Economic Impact Statement

Montgomery County, Maryland

Bill 11-25

Child Care Coordination – Amendments

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates that Bill 11-25 would have an insignificant impact on economic conditions in the County in terms of the Council's priority indicators.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF BILL 11-25

The purpose of Bill 11-25 is to update County laws related to early childhood care and education. If enacted, Bill 11-25 would:¹

- **Eliminate the Child Care and Early Education Officer position.** The County Council created the Child Care and Early Education Officer (CCEEO) position within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) with the passage of Bill 13-15 in 2015. The officer was responsible for leading efforts “to expand and enhance childcare services in the County.”² According to the County Executive, this position has not been filled since 2021.³ Further, the Office of Management and Budget notes the position was reallocated to another program within DHHS several years ago.⁴
- **Eliminate the Early Childhood Coordinating Council.** The County Council also created the Early Childhood Coordinating Council (ECCC) with the passage of Bill 13-15 in 2015. The ECCC was responsible for studying and developing policy recommendations on the availability and quality of childcare in the County.⁵

In 2022, the County Council passed Bill 42-21, which created the Early Care and Education Coordination Entity. This non-profit entity (currently the Montgomery County Children's Opportunity Alliance⁶) is responsible for developing recommendations to increase “availability of and access to high quality early care and education programs with particular attention to underrepresented and special populations.”⁷ While the Council was considering Bill 42-21, there were concerns that the duties of the Early Care and Education Coordination Entity overlapped with those of the ECCC.⁸ Nonetheless, the ECCC remained intact, and the group continued to meet following the passage of Bill 42-21. The Office of Management and Budget notes the ECCC has not convened in several years.⁹ Meeting minutes for the ECCC were last posted in May 2023.¹⁰

¹ [Introduction Staff Report for Bill 11-25](#), Montgomery County Council, Introduced April 8, 2025.

² Memorandum from the County Executive to the Council President, Introduction Staff Report for Bill 11-25, PDF pg. 11.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Fiscal Impact Statement, Office of Management and Budget, Introduction Staff Report for Bill 11-25, PDF pg. 22.

⁵ [Action Staff Report for Bill 13-15](#), Montgomery County Council, Action May 12, 2015, PDF pg. 23.

⁶ [Montgomery County Children's Opportunity Alliance](#).

⁷ [Action Staff Report for Bill 42-21](#), Montgomery County Council, Action February 14, 2022, PDF pg. 3.

⁸ Ibid, PDF pg. 7 and 81.

⁹ Fiscal Impact Statement, Office of Management and Budget, Introduction Staff Report for Bill 11-25, PDF pg. 22.

¹⁰ [Early Childhood Coordinating Council: Meeting Minutes](#), Department of Health and Human Services.

The County Executive argues these changes would reduce redundancies within the County’s Early Care and Education system, “creating a more efficient, coordinated system.”

The Council introduced Bill 11-25, Child Care Coordination – Amendments, on April 8, 2025.

INFORMATION SOURCES, METHODOLOGIES, AND ASSUMPTIONS

As required by 2-81B of the Montgomery County Code, this Economic Impact Statement evaluates the impacts of Bill 11-25 on residents and private organizations in relation to Council’s priority economic indicators. In doing so, it examines whether the Bill would have a net positive or negative impact on overall economic conditions in the County.¹¹

OLO sees no direct connection between eliminating the CCEEO position or the ECCC and the indicators prioritized by the Council and therefore concludes that the Bill would have insignificant impacts on private organizations, residents, and overall economic conditions in the County.

VARIABLES

Not applicable

IMPACTS

WORKFORCE ▪ TAXATION POLICY ▪ PROPERTY VALUES ▪ INCOMES ▪ OPERATING COSTS ▪ PRIVATE SECTOR CAPITAL INVESTMENT ▪ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ▪ COMPETITIVENESS

Not applicable

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Not applicable

CAVEATS

Two caveats to the economic analysis performed here should be noted. First, predicting the economic impacts of legislation is a challenging analytical endeavor due to data limitations, the multitude of causes of economic outcomes, economic shocks, uncertainty, and other factors. Second, the analysis performed here is intended to *inform* the legislative process, not determine whether the Council should enact legislation. Thus, any conclusion made in this statement does not represent OLO’s endorsement of, or objection to, the Bill under consideration.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Stephen Roblin (OLO) prepared this report.

¹¹ [“Sec. 2-81B, Economic Impact Statements,”](#) Montgomery County Code.

Climate Assessment

Office of Legislative Oversight

BILL 11-25: CHILD CARE COORDINATION - AMENDMENTS

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) anticipates Bill 11-25 will have no impact on the County's contribution to addressing climate change as it proposes changes to reduce redundancies in the County's early childhood care and education system.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF BILL 11-25

The purpose of Bill 11-25 is to update County laws related to early childhood care and education. If enacted, Bill 11-25 would:¹

- **Eliminate the Child Care and Early Education Officer position.** The County Council created the Child Care and Early Education Officer (CCEEO) position within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) with the passage of Bill 13-15 in 2015. The officer was responsible for leading efforts "to expand and enhance childcare services in the County."² According to the County Executive, this position has not been filled since 2021.³ Further, the Office of Management and Budget notes the position was reallocated to another program within DHHS several years ago.⁴
- **Eliminate the Early Childhood Coordinating Council.** The County Council also created the Early Childhood Coordinating Council (ECCC) with the passage of Bill 13-15 in 2015. The ECCC was responsible for studying and developing policy recommendations on the availability and quality of childcare in the County.⁵

In 2022, the County Council passed Bill 42-21, which created the Early Care and Education Coordination Entity. This non-profit entity (currently the Montgomery County Children's Opportunity Alliance⁶) is responsible for developing recommendations to increase "availability of and access to high quality early care and education programs with particular attention to underrepresented and special populations."⁷ While the Council was considering Bill 42-21, there were concerns that the duties of the Early Care and Education Coordination Entity overlapped with those of the ECCC.⁸ Nonetheless, the ECCC remained intact, and the group continued to meet following the passage of Bill 42-21. The Office of Management and Budget notes the ECCC has not convened in several years.⁹ Meeting minutes for the ECCC were last posted in May 2023.¹⁰

The County Executive argues these changes would reduce redundancies within the County's Early Care and Education system, "creating a more efficient, coordinated system."

The Council introduced Bill 11-25, Child Care Coordination – Amendments, on April 8, 2025.

ANTICIPATED IMPACTS

As the Bill proposes changes to reduce redundancies in the County's early childhood care and education system, OLO anticipates Bill 11-25 will have no impact on the County's contribution to addressing climate change, including the reduction and/or sequestration of greenhouse gas emissions, community resilience, and adaptative capacity.

RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS

The Climate Assessment Act requires OLO to offer recommendations, such as amendments or other measures to mitigate any anticipated negative climate impacts.¹¹ OLO does not offer recommendations or amendments as Bill 11-25 is likely to have no impact on the County's contribution to addressing climate change, including the reduction and/or sequestration of greenhouse gas emissions, community resilience, and adaptative capacity.

CAVEATS

OLO notes two caveats to this climate assessment. First, predicting the impacts of legislation upon climate change is a challenging analytical endeavor due to data limitations, uncertainty, and the broad, global nature of climate change. Second, the analysis performed here is intended to inform the legislative process, not determine whether the Council should enact legislation. Thus, any conclusion made in this statement does not represent OLO's endorsement of, or objection to, the bill under consideration.

PURPOSE OF CLIMATE ASSESSMENTS

The purpose of the Climate Assessments is to evaluate the anticipated impact of legislation on the County's contribution to addressing climate change. These climate assessments will provide the Council with a more thorough understanding of the potential climate impacts and implications of proposed legislation, at the County level. The scope of the Climate Assessments is limited to the County's contribution to addressing climate change, specifically upon the County's contribution to greenhouse gas emissions and how actions suggested by legislation could help improve the County's adaptative capacity to climate change, and therefore, increase community resilience.

While co-benefits such as health and cost savings may be discussed, the focus is on how proposed County bills may impact GHG emissions and community resilience.

CONTRIBUTIONS

OLO staffer Kaitlyn Simmons drafted this assessment.

¹ [Introduction Staff Report for Bill 11-25](#), Montgomery County Council, Introduced April 8, 2025.

² Memorandum from the County Executive to the Council President, Introduction Staff Report for Bill 11-25, PDF pg. 11.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Fiscal Impact Statement, Office of Management and Budget, Introduction Staff Report for Bill 11-25, PDF pg. 22.

⁵ [Action Staff Report for Bill 13-15](#), Montgomery County Council, Action May 12, 2015, PDF pg. 23.

⁶ [Montgomery County Children's Opportunity Alliance](#).

⁷ [Action Staff Report for Bill 42-21](#), Montgomery County Council, Action February 14, 2022, PDF pg. 3.

⁸ Ibid, PDF pg. 7 and 81.

⁹ Fiscal Impact Statement, Office of Management and Budget, Introduction Staff Report for Bill 11-25, PDF pg. 22.

¹⁰ [Early Childhood Coordinating Council: Meeting Minutes](#), Department of Health and Human Services.

¹¹ Bill 3-22, Legislative Branch – Climate Assessments – Required, Montgomery County Council, Effective date October 24, 2022

Racial Equity and Social Justice (RESJ) Impact Statement

Office of Legislative Oversight

BILL 11-25: CHILD CARE COORDINATION - AMENDMENTS

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) finds Bill 11-25 will have a minimal impact on racial equity and social justice (RESJ) in the County. While Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (BIPOC) community members, especially young children and families who are Latinx, could be disproportionately impacted by the elimination of the Child Care and Early Education Officer position and the Early Childhood Coordinating Council, these resources do not impact the affordability of early care and education in the County and have been inactive for several years. Therefore, their elimination is not likely to meaningfully impact outcomes for BIPOC young children and their families.

PURPOSE OF RESJ IMPACT STATEMENTS

RESJ impact statements (RESJIS) evaluate the anticipated impact of legislation on racial equity and social justice in the County. RESJ is a **process** that focuses on centering the needs, leadership, and power of Black, Indigenous, and other people of color (BIPOC) and communities with low incomes. RESJ is also a **goal** of eliminating racial and social inequities. Applying a RESJ lens is important to achieve RESJ.¹ This involves seeing, thinking, and working differently to address the racial and social inequities that cause racial and social disparities.²

PURPOSE OF BILL 11-25

The purpose of Bill 11-25 is to update County laws related to early childhood care and education. If enacted, Bill 11-25 would:³

- **Eliminate the Child Care and Early Education Officer position.** The County Council created the Child Care and Early Education Officer position within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) with the passage of Bill 13-15 in 2015. The officer was responsible for leading efforts “to expand and enhance childcare services in the County.”⁴ According to the County Executive, this position has not been filled since 2021.⁵ Further, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) notes the position was reallocated to another program within DHHS several years ago.⁶
- **Eliminate the Early Childhood Coordinating Council.** The County Council also created the Early Childhood Coordinating Council (ECCC) under DHHS with the passage of Bill 13-15 in 2015. The ECCC was responsible for studying and developing policy recommendations on the availability and quality of childcare in the County.⁷

In 2022, the County Council passed Bill 42-21, which created the Early Care and Education Coordination Entity. This non-profit entity (currently the Montgomery County Children’s Opportunity Alliance⁸) is responsible for developing recommendations to increase “availability of and access to high quality early care and education programs with particular attention to underrepresented and special populations.”⁹ While the Council was considering Bill 42-21, there were concerns that the duties of the Early Care and Education Coordination Entity overlapped with those of the ECCC.¹⁰ Nonetheless, the ECCC remained intact, and the group continued to meet following the passage of Bill 42-21. OMB notes the ECCC has not convened in several years.¹¹ Meeting minutes for the ECCC were last posted in May 2023.¹²

RESJ Impact Statement

Bill 11-25

The County Executive argues these changes would reduce redundancies within the County’s Early Care and Education system, “creating a more efficient, coordinated system.”

The Council introduced Bill 11-25, Child Care Coordination – Amendments, on April 8, 2025.

This RESJIS builds on the RESJIS for Bill 42-21, Child Care – Early Care and Education Coordinating Entity – Established, which OLO published in December 2021. Please refer to this RESJIS for background on economic opportunity, childcare, and racial equity.¹³

ANTICIPATED RESJ IMPACTS

To consider the anticipated impact of Bill 11-25 on RESJ in the County, OLO recommends the consideration of two related questions:

- Who would primarily benefit or be burdened by this bill?
- What racial and social inequities could passage of this bill weaken or strengthen?

Young children and their families could be directly impacted by the elimination of the Child Care and Early Education Officer (CCEEO) position and the Early Childhood Coordinating Council (ECCC) within DHHS. Table 1 summarizes the share of children under 5 years in the County overall and by race and ethnicity. The data shows that, compared to the overall share, young children are more likely to be Latinx, equally likely to be Black, and less likely to be White or Asian.

Table 1: Share of Children Under 5 Years by Race and Ethnicity, Montgomery County

Race and Ethnicity ¹⁴	Share of Children Under 5 Years
Asian	3.0
Black	5.3
White	4.5
Latinx	8.1
County	5.6

Source: [Table S0201](#), 2023 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Census Bureau.

Since Latinx and Black communities have higher shares of young children, Bill 11-25 could widen racial inequities and disparities in early care and education. However, as noted in the RESJIS for Bill 42-21, a lack of significant public investment in making early care and education more affordable likely plays a larger role in shaping racial and social inequities in this area than coordination.¹⁵ Further, the CCEEO position and the ECCC have been inactive for several years. Therefore, eliminating these resources is not likely to meaningfully impact outcomes for BIPOC young children and their families.

Of note, enabling legislation for the Early Care and Education Coordination Entity (currently the Children’s Opportunity Alliance or COA) required it to consult with the ECCC to develop “final recommendations for realigning existing County committees and advisory groups that provide input into the early care and education system.”¹⁶ ECCC meeting minutes from April 2023 confirm the COA was studying “strengths and areas of duplication” of County groups focused on early care and education, including the ECCC.¹⁷ In discussions with OLO, COA staff noted that while this study was completed, final recommendations were not issued. However, the study ultimately found it would be valuable to continue some functions of the ECCC as a subcommittee of the COA instead of as a separate entity under DHHS. COA staff report they are currently working on forming a steering committee that would assume some ECCC duties.¹⁸

RESJ Impact Statement

Bill 11-25

Overall, OLO finds Bill 11-25 will have a minimal impact on RESJ in the County. BIPOC community members, especially young children and families who are Latinx, could be disproportionately impacted by the elimination of the CCEEO position and ECCC. However, these resources do not impact the affordability of early care and education in the County and have been inactive for several years. Therefore, their elimination is not likely to meaningfully impact outcomes for BIPOC young children and their families.

RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS

The Racial Equity and Social Justice Act requires OLO to consider whether recommended amendments to bills aimed at narrowing racial and social inequities are warranted in developing RESJ impact statements.¹⁹ OLO finds Bill 11-25 will have a minimal impact on RESJ in the County. As such, OLO does not offer recommended amendments.

CAVEATS

Two caveats to this racial equity and social justice impact statement should be noted. First, predicting the impact of legislation on racial equity and social justice is a challenging analytical endeavor due to data limitations, uncertainty, and other factors. Second, this RESJ impact statement is intended to inform the legislative process rather than determine whether the Council should enact legislation. Thus, any conclusion made in this statement does not represent OLO's endorsement of, or objection to, the bill under consideration.

¹ Definition of racial equity and social justice adopted from Marlysa Gamblin et al., "[Applying Racial Equity to U.S. Federal Nutrition Programs](#)," Bread for the World and [Racial Equity Tools](#).

² Ibid.

³ [Introduction Staff Report for Bill 11-25](#), Montgomery County Council, Introduced April 8, 2025.

⁴ Memorandum from the County Executive to the Council President, Introduction Staff Report for Bill 11-25, PDF pg. 11.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Fiscal Impact Statement, Office of Management and Budget, Introduction Staff Report for Bill 11-25, PDF pg. 22.

⁷ [Action Staff Report for Bill 13-15](#), Montgomery County Council, Action May 12, 2015, PDF pg. 23.

⁸ [Montgomery County Children's Opportunity Alliance](#).

⁹ [Action Staff Report for Bill 42-21](#), Montgomery County Council, Action February 14, 2022, PDF pg. 3.

¹⁰ Ibid, PDF pg. 7 and 81.

¹¹ Fiscal Impact Statement, Office of Management and Budget, Introduction Staff Report for Bill 11-25, PDF pg. 22.

¹² [Early Childhood Coordinating Council: Meeting Minutes](#), Department of Health and Human Services.

¹³ [RESJIS for Bill 42-21](#), Office of Legislative Oversight, December 8, 2021.

¹⁴ Estimates unavailable for Native American and Pacific Islander community members.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ [Montgomery County Code § 10A-12](#).

¹⁷ [Early Childhood Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes](#), Department of Health and Human Services, April 19, 2023.

¹⁸ OLO discussions with COA staff on April 24, 2025.

¹⁹ Bill 27-19, Administration – Human Rights – Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice – Racial Equity and Social Justice Advisory Committee – Established, Montgomery County Council

Saanvi Lanke, 7th Grade Student

Testimony in Favor of Bill 11-25, Child Care Coordination

Hello Montgomery County Council,

My name is Saanvi Lanke, and I am a Montgomery County Public School student. I'm writing in strong support of Bill 11-25, *Child Care Coordination*. This bill would help expand access to affordable, high-quality child care, support working families, and strengthen small businesses by providing essential financial assistance for child care benefits.

A deep crisis facing families in Montgomery County is the declining number of child care providers and the rising costs of child care. This leaves many families facing difficult decisions, struggling to maintain their jobs while ensuring their children are safe and cared for. Local businesses are also impacted, and child care providers themselves are working to stay strong in an uncertain environment. Child care isn't just a family issue, it's a community issue. When families struggle, our economy struggles, and the children who represent the future of our workforce are affected by the decisions we make today.

As a child, my family had better access to child care resources. When my parents began their search, they encountered a broad range of options at different price points and with various advantages. Although the process was time-consuming, providers' availability meant they could eventually choose care that aligned with our family's values, schedule, and financial situation. This bill would help ensure that families today and in the future have access to that same opportunity, if not better.

By advancing this bill, stressed parents are empowered to thrive at work and ultimately strengthen our local economy. The four-year action plan outlined in the bill shows that Montgomery County is thinking long-term and committing to real, systemic

change. By supporting families who have historically faced barriers to early education, we're also advancing equity, the foundation of MCPS's success.

Thank you for your time and for prioritizing the needs of families across Montgomery County. Bill 11-25 is not just a step toward solving our child care crisis, it's a meaningful investment in our future. By supporting this legislation, you are standing up for working parents, small businesses, and most importantly, the children who deserve a strong start in life. I urge you to pass this bill and continue building a county where every family has the support they need to thrive.

Thanks for your consideration,

Saanvi Lanke



Recommendation Regarding the Early Childhood Coordinating Council

The Children's Opportunity Alliance, after close consultation with our partners and stakeholders, agrees with the recommendation from the County Executive and Department of Health and Human Services leaders that the County's Early Childhood Coordinating Council (ECCC) be eliminated.

The Children's Opportunity Alliance is planning to set up an advisory board of ECE stakeholders that is similar to the make up of the ECCC body, taking into account the feedback received during our due diligence process. This new body will function to provide strategic and relevant advice to the Entity as it fulfills its duties related to developing an equitable system of high quality, accessible, sustainable early care and education and eliminating systemic racism and structures that created access barriers for vulnerable, racially and ethnically diverse populations.

Historically, the ECCC served as Montgomery County's Local Early Childhood Advisory Council, an optional local body that informs the State Early Childhood Advisory Council. The Children's Opportunity Alliance plans to take on this role, pending the outcome of this legislative process.

Background

In July of 2022, Bill 42-21 designated the Children's Opportunity Alliance (The Alliance) as the County's Early Care and Education Coordinating Entity. During the hearings regarding this legislation, several parties, including the County Attorney's Bill Review Memorandum, pointed out the overlapping duties for the Entity with the existing Early Childhood Coordinating Council (ECCC) – which was established through Bill 13-15 in May of 2015. In its worksession, Council's Joint HHS-E&C committees "decided to defer on the future of the Coordinating Council until after the Entity is up and running."

Due Diligence

Team members from the Alliance have worked closely with the ECCC and staff from DHHS over the last year. Kimberly Rusnak, Executive Director of the Alliance, is a member of the ECCC. Laura Jahromi, Manager, Strategic Initiatives, has also attended each monthly meeting of the ECCC since the inception of the Alliance, so that the Alliance can have a presence in both subcommittees of the ECCC.

In close partnership with staff at the Department of Health and Human Services, including Jennifer Arnaiz, Administrator, Early Childhood Services, we issued a survey to current and previous members of the ECCC. The short, anonymous survey was sent to over 40 individuals.



All recipients were also given the opportunity to schedule a confidential 1:1 conversation with the Alliance's Laura Jahromi. At the ECCC's meeting on June 21, 2023, we shared out the feedback received on the surveys, invited open meeting attendees to add additional thoughts, and facilitated a conversation about solutions and next steps. A small committee of ECCC and Alliance representatives met in July to discuss all feedback received and make a final recommendation on next steps.

Overwhelmingly, the feedback received through this process suggests that the ECCC's greatest success is that it consists of a multi-disciplinary group of expert stakeholders close to the day-to-day experiences within Montgomery County's early childhood system who regularly gather and advise about issues important to ECE in the County. However, with a lack of funding, inconsistent participation, and the ability to only advise rather than implement recommendations, the impact of the ECCC has been stifled in the past few years. Even more so in the past year since the creation of the Alliance and the uncertainty around the ECCC, there has been a dearth in leadership of the body and its subcommittees. While the ECCC, formerly the Early Care Advisory Council (ECAC), served a valuable role for many years, now, post-pandemic, it is important to update the existing advisory bodies to adapt to the new landscape of ECE in the County.

The Children's Opportunity Alliance deeply embodies a value of inclusive family and community input into strategic decision-making processes that are equitable and prioritize voices of those closest to the issues we are aiming to address. We acknowledge that we have a shared responsibility to work together on behalf of the community to transform our system of early care and education. As such, we believe it is critical to continue to have advisory bodies that are multi-disciplinary and representative of the ECE system's diversity in order to inform strategic recommendations moving forward.

Additional Note

A recommendation to shift the responsibility of staffing the ECCC from DHHS to the Alliance was explored with leadership at DHHS and ultimately, given the nature of the original legislation, DHHS leaders recommended it would be best to eliminate the ECCC and create a new advisory body under the Alliance's direction.

ATTACHED: summary of survey responses; links to padlets used to capture notes during ECCC meeting



Summary of responses to ECCC Survey

1. What do you think are the strengths and successes of the ECCC?
 - Multi-disciplinary group of expert stakeholders with a wealth of knowledge
 - Local & State advocacy; Provides input to the County Council about issues associated with ECE
 - Holds regular meetings during the work day and has consistent participation from agencies and providers
 - Creation of the ECEI
2. What challenges has the ECCC faced in its ability to fulfill its duties?
 - Only makes recommendations rather than implementing initiatives (with exception of pandemic learning kits)
 - Lack of funding
 - Inability to identify and sustain chair/leaders, lack of leadership & representation on the working groups
 - Inconsistent participation, low attendance at meetings, providers & parents cannot attend during the work day
 - Members are siloed, limited in ability to step outside of their org's priorities
 - Duplication with Commission on Child Care, Community Action Board, ECEI, service parent/community advisory groups
3. Regarding the membership of the ECCC, which members have been critical to helping the ECCC have an impact on the County? What recommendations do you have to ensure a future ECCC body has a successful makeup of members?
 - Diversity of the membership is critical
 - Needs more connection to the State, such as MSDE/OCC, licensing
 - DHHS has outsize influence
 - County government role is not always welcoming to parents
 - Too many appointed agency staff
 - A smaller group could be more productive together
4. What ideas do you have to refresh the ECCC given the changing landscape in the County since its inception in 2015 in order to make it more effective in today's landscape?
 - Clarify and communicate its role, mission, & responsibilities
 - Must be properly funded
 - Require people to attend meetings, pay a membership fee, think/work outside of their organization's silos



- Hold it accountable to achieve its strategic goals and stated outcomes
- Authorize a staff person to serve as a leader with a vision and to make decisions
- Break down siloes, provide more meaningful partnership opportunities
- Use COA and ECEI as permanent bodies, while bringing in representation frequently for input & committee work
- Consider what is duplicative and consolidate
- Change the backbone organization
- Set and measure clear results for all groups

ECCC June 21st Meeting: Padlet boards used to capture feedback:

<https://padlet.com/laura2635/eccc-survey-input-reactions-ukau78lrhu0ehquu>

<https://padlet.com/laura2635/eccc-next-steps-tvrpopjm21fmjke5>