

**QUAD COUNTIES CHILDCARE COALITION  
MEETING NOTES REVISED  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023**

**Attendees**

Members: Janet Bovee; Gloria Brooks; Jamie Carruthers-Soboleski; Melissa Chambers; LeeAnne Comer; Christopher Martin; Pamela O’Laughlin; Frances Ommani; Penny Payea; Piper Santini; Mike Timreck; Rich Van Tol

Guest: Manuela Kress

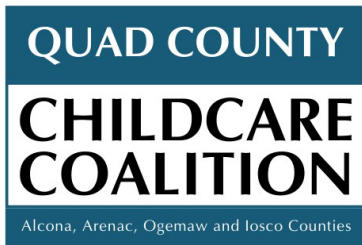
Meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm. All members introduced themselves and their connection to childcare and the coalition.

**ECIC Report**

Gloria provided an update of activities since the September meeting with the finalization of the interviews, surveys and data analysis by NEMCSA.

Frances Ommani from NEMCSA reviewed the final draft of the Childcare Innovation Report and recommendations. After a review of the report, attendees were asked to prioritize their top three options:

<b><u>Coalition Member</u></b>	<b><u>Priority 1</u></b>	<b><u>Priority 2</u></b>	<b><u>Priority 3</u></b>
1. Chris M	MSO	Unified Advocacy	Employer Engagement
2. Mike T	Unified Advocacy Voice	Streamlined Zoning	
3. Penny	Employer Engagement	Ombudsman	(GSTQ is doing the MSO and unified voice for Ogemaw)
4. Janet	Employer Engagement	Ombudsman	Mini-grants
5. Jamie	Ombudsman	MSO	Employer Engagement
6. Gloria	MSO including ombudsman and unified voice	Mini-grants	Employer Engagement
7. Rich	MSO (HR; AP/AR; payroll/budgeting/	Unified Voice/Ombudsman – establish Tri-Star Hub; he’s the hub for SE; admin support for program)	Employer Engagement
8. Piper	Unified Voice/Ombudsman	Employer Engagement Banking – dependent care accounts to put	Mini-grants



		childcare money aside – could this be part of the employer solution; address thresholds for contribution and employer match; cap is \$5k	
9. Melissa	MSO including unified voice and ombudsman	Mini-grants	
10. Pam	Ombudsman	MSO	Employer Engagement
11. LeeAnne	Employer Engagement	Ombudsman	MSO
Final Vote (details below):	#1 MSO with ombudsperson and unified voice	#2 Mini-grant	#3 Employer Engagement

The Coalition members agreed to pursue the following:

1. Creation of a unified advocacy voice through a management services organization that includes an ombudsperson role
2. Implementation of Mini-grants program to support childcare business owners to establish or expand current home-based childcare services (\$1k/per licensed childcare seat = \$6k maximum) to establish a 6-child business or expand a 6-child business to 12
3. Development of Employer engagement strategies including a toolkit and specific options to support their workforce through participating in childcare subsidies/flexible spending accounts/guaranteeing spaces for their employees at local childcare providers. An Employers/CEO Roundtable event will be scheduled for late February/early March as required by our funding source - an after-hours appetizers and drinks event probably at a restaurant in East Tawas that can accommodate up to three dozen attendees. NEMCOG will be hosting the northern location of this event for our combined 12-county area, and DI's QCCC will host the southern location.

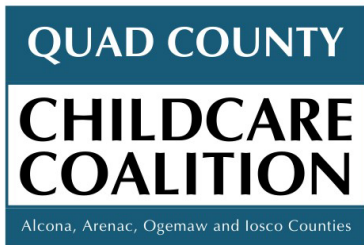
**RCCIP Update**

Penny Payea provided an update on Ogemaw County’s RCCIP collaborative along with the status of the Arenac and Iosco County projects and recommendations. There is the potential for a Childcare Summit

**CEO Roundtable**

Gloria discussed the ECIC’s CEO Roundtable. Feedback from the coalition included:

- Evaluating if Lake life cottages could be a location since they have an event space in East Tawas;
- Need to include how to speak to businesses that this is a holistic effort
- Need success stories about how the Coalition/ECIC report/RCCIP projects have positively impacted hiring, Retention, recruitment, productivity and the return-on-investment (ROI)



- Rich shared that Middle Michigan Development Corporation has brought in zoning experts to make recommendations on streamline process for childcare businesses and recommended following up with Jordan Blough for additional information.
- Rich also said that the Bay-Arenac project is developing an employer toolkit; Gloria to pursue using that at the CEO roundtable

### **Funding Implementation Activities**

Gloria and Manuela discussed two potential grant applications to help implement the recommendations: MDARD due January 9 and Consumers Energy Foundation due anytime.

It was shared that Tri-Share is adding counties – new office will expand to all 83 counties. Melissa and Gloria discussed creating a version of Tri-Share that could be implemented before the state’s program was operational and/or for families who don’t meet the income requirements by using private foundations to fund one third of the childcare cost.

Pam shared that MIW has funding to implement apprenticeships – this could be support for MSO

### **DI Next Steps**

1. Schedule 2024 meetings
2. Send Letters of Support template for the grants and send to members for their response by January 5, 2024
3. Schedule meetings with Data Driven Decisions, NEMCOG and NEMCSA re: mini-grants and MSO
4. Create communication plan for dissemination of QCCC Childcare Report
5. Follow up with Middle Michigan Development Corporation and Bay Arenac Childcare Coalition for additional tools

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Gloria Brooks, MPA  
Co-Chair, QCCC  
President, Develop Iosco