

***The NJFCCPA is actively advocating for Family Child Care and we welcome your participation. If you are ready to step up and advance to the next level, with lots of help from fellow Providers who have taken the plunge, contact us. We can forge ahead together!***

## **State Level Advocacy**

The NJFCCPA sends a representative to various meetings each month to represent family child care providers throughout the state, including:

- NJ Council for Young Children (newly established)
- Child Care Advisory Council
- The Legislative Government Action Committee
- Family Child Care Organization of NJ

The NJFCCPA is often called upon to provide the views of family child care providers At Large and involved in a myriad of state initiatives. We continue to gather information about public policy and advocate for providers everywhere. If you would like to become more involved, please contact us...

The following is an excerpt from an article detailing the establishment of the New Jersey Council for Young Children. We are pleased to announce that our **President, Michelle Melgarejo**, and one of our past Presidents, Justine Foley, have been named to the Executive Council. The New Jersey Council for Young Children is another way NJFCCPA promotes awareness of Family Child Care at the state level. Congratulations to Michelle Melgarejo and Justine Foley. To learn more about legislative issues, please attend NJFCCPA meetings and upcoming mini-conferences.

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### **GOVERNOR CORZINE SIGNS EXECUTIVE ORDER CREATING NEW JERSEY COUNCIL FOR YOUNG CHILDREN**

NEWARK- Governor Jon S. Corzine today signed an Executive Order establishing the New Jersey Council for Young Children to ensure collaboration and coordination among early childhood programs in the State and to maintain compliance with federal guidelines.

"The foundation of New Jersey's future begins with early childhood education," Governor Corzine said. "Without question, the work of the New Jersey Council for Young Children will help to ensure the educational needs of our young learners are met and exceeded by making quality early childhood programs available to all of our students."

Establishment of this statewide council is required under the federal Head Start statute. Recently, the federal government announced the availability of federal funding for the council, allocating \$1.6 million for its activities. In addition, the creation of the Advisory Council is necessary for New Jersey to apply for the Early Learning Challenge Fund, a pending new federal funding opportunity designed to help states better coordinate and more comprehensively implement early childhood programs.

As a separate entity "in but not of" the New Jersey Department of Education, the Advisory Council's key responsibilities include:

\* conducting a periodic Statewide needs assessment concerning the quality and availability of early childhood education and development programs and services for children from birth to school entry;

\* identifying opportunities for, and barriers to, collaboration and coordination among federally-funded and State-funded child development, child care, and early childhood education programs and services;

\* developing recommendations for increasing the overall participation of children in existing federal, state, and local child care, as well as early childhood education programs, including outreach to underrepresented and special populations;

\* assessing the capacity and effectiveness of two- and four-year public and private institutions of higher education in the State to support the development of early childhood educators;

\* recommending improvements in State early learning standards and undertaking efforts to develop high-quality comprehensive early learning standards, as appropriate.

The 25-member Advisory Council will be chaired by Ellen Wolock, Ed.D., Director of the New Jersey Department of Education's Office of Preschool Education. The diverse membership represents New Jersey's educational, child care, health, mental health, and disabled communities and includes: Joseph Ferraina, Superintendent, Long Branch School District; Laura C. Morana, Superintendent, Red Bank School District; Peter B. Contini, Ed.D., President, Salem County Community College; Dr. Sharon Ryan, Associate Professor, Department of Learning and Teaching, Graduate School of Education, Rutgers University; Ana I. Berdecia, Senior Fellow/Director, Center for the Positive Development of Urban Children, John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy, Thomas Edison State College; Justine M. Foley, Child Development Associate Credential (CDA) Instructor, Catholic Charities Diocese of Metuchen; Alice D. Rose, Flight Chief, Family Member Program, McGuire Air Force Base; Theodore Gooding, Executive Director, O.C.E.A.N., Inc.; Hilda "Betty" Acosta, CFDS Manager, PathStone Corporation; Veronica E. Ray, Executive Director/ CEO, The Leaguers, Inc.; Suzanne S. Burnette, State Director of Head Start Collaboration, Division of Early Childhood, NJ Department of Education; Barbara Reisman, Executive Director, The Schumann Fund for New Jersey; **Michelle S. Melgarejo, President, New Jersey Family Child Care Provider Association**; Aimee Gelnaw, Executive Director, Professional Impact NJ, Kean University; Lorraine C. Johnson, Head Start/Early Head Start Director, North Hudson Community Action Corporation Head Start/Early Head Start Program; Gerard Costa, Ph.D., Founding Director, YCS Institute for Infant and Preschool Mental Health; Cecilia Zalkind, Executive Director, Association for Children of New Jersey; Barbara A. Kiley, President, Coalition of Infant/Toddler Educators; Lisa Marie Lockwood, President, everychildfirst.com; William Steven Barnett, Ph.D., Director, The National Institute for Early Education Research

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## Mandatory Registration?

Introduced in 2008-2009 Legislative Session, Bill A4073 would require mandatory registration for family child care providers in New Jersey. To read this bill, visit [www.njleg.state.nj.us/6/11/2009](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/6/11/2009) Introduced, Referred to Assembly Human Services Committee

## Expanded Care?

In 2002, Senator Shirley Turner reintroduced S2005. This bill would permit up to 10 children to be cared for by a registered family day care provider. To read this entire bill, visit [www.njleg.state.nj.us/](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/)

## Zoning Problems?

The State of NJ passed S926 during the 1998- 1999 session, which exempts family daycare homes from municipal zoning laws. "By repealing the 1987 law deeming family day care homes a "home occupation" for the purposes of municipal zoning laws, this bill removes any ambiguity created by the subsequent enactment of the 1991 measure declaring family day care homes a permitted use in all residential districts of a municipality. In so doing, it is the sponsor's intent to facilitate the establishment of family day care homes in single family residential districts." To read this bill in its entirety, visit [www.njleg.state.nj.us/](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/)