

MEETING NOTES/MINUTES

August 21st, 2014

Start Time: [10:06 am CST]

End Time: [11:48 pm CST]

Committee Members Present

Rickey Berry, Ricky Boggan, Louise Davis, Johnny Franklin, Jenny Kern, April May, Jennifer McNeal, Nita Norphlet-Thompson, Mimmo Parisi, Sandra Parks, Marcie Skelton, Danny Spreitler, Laurie Smith, Rhea Williams-Bishop, Carey Wright

Others Present

Tate Gould, LaTasha Brown, Deloris Suel

Motions Passed

1. Danny Spreitler motioned to approve the minutes from the last SECAC board meeting. Sandra Parks seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the motion.
2. Spreitler motioned for adjournment. Dr. Wright seconded the motion. Boggan adjourned the meeting at 11:48 a.m.

Meeting Notes

Ricky Boggan called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

Danny Spreitler motioned to approve the minutes from the last SECAC board meeting. Sandra Parks seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the motion.

Marcie Skelton and Jennifer McNeal gave a presentation on the progress of the SECAC Data System Committee, including its suggested goals and objectives. Dr. Mimmo Parisi asked if the board should make a motion to accept the committee's suggestions. Boggan said board members might take time to consider the suggestions. Various members of SECAC raised questions about longitudinal data, the impact of family demographics, and infrastructure (such as Internet access in childcare centers). Dr. Parisi said the plan is to make partnerships across the board and get the right technical people to address these concerns.

Dr. Carey Wright shared the progress of the Assessment Committee, which included the drafting of objectives and the establishment of deliverables. Dr. Wright said the committee would bring a packet to the next SECAC meeting that will show how the kindergarten assessment will work from the teachers' and parents' perspectives.

Dr. Louise Davis shared the progress of the Professional Development and Workforce Development Committee. She said the committee developed two goals and objectives and proposed a subcommittee.

Spreitler shared the progress of the QRS Committee. He said the committee has been gathering information about quality systems and plans to hold its meetings in different parts of the state to learn about different definitions of "quality." Spreitler also stated that the committee's understanding of quality must be compatible with the Data System Committee's work. Richard Berry said the feds are moving away from quantity and toward quality, which could impact the number of individuals served. Dr. Parisi and Spreitler emphasized the importance of quality being defined in achievable terms. Johnny Franklin said it's also important to have high enough expectations and that Mississippi's children are victims of low expectations. Spreitler said the challenge would be the federal and state benchmarks for quality. Berry indicated the importance of addressing emotional development and mental illness in children.

Rhea Williams-Bishop shared the progress of the Standards Committee. She said the committee discussed the importance of meeting childcare providers where they are. She also said communication is a top priority, as online access is an issue. The committee will focus on making sure everyone (including parents) are aware of early childhood standards.

Nita Norphlet-Thompson said the Engagement and Partnerships Committee had not met.

The board addressed the issue of increasing public access to SECAC committee and council work. Spreitler said the current meeting place in Jackson limits participation for those who live far away, adding that 10 a.m. meetings don't work well for providers. Parks raised the idea of another meeting place. Dr. Parisi pointed out that SECAC has to make sure it meets a quorum during each meeting. Dr. Parisi suggested having four or five SECAC members tour the state. Skelton said SECAC could have a presence at other important meetings. The board discussed the possibility of SECAC participating in childcare conferences in the state. Norphlet-Thompson said a website with a frequently asked questions section might be very helpful to the public. Dr. Wright said SECAC meetings could be webinars. Board members mentioned community colleges, high schools, and county offices as places with the infrastructure for webinars. Dr. Wright also said a survey could attain needed input from the public.

Franklin asked how can SECAC talk to all providers. Jenny Kern indicated that licensure is the best way to communicate information to providers. Latasha Brown, director of Jackson State University's early childhood center, said information from the State Department of Health comes from an outdated system. Brown also said provider conferences were the best way for SECAC to connect with childcare providers. McNeal confirmed that licensure receives emails for providers. Dr. Davis said her organization is trying to set up a one-stop shop for questions and the formation of advisory groups and partnerships. Childcare provider Deloris Suel said that Davis' organization can be defensive, which discourages providers from seeking assistance. "All I want is respect," Suel said. Dr. Davis said her organization is working on its flaws with communication.

Norphlet-Thompson said everyone needs to provide a link to SECAC's website, which is currently hosted at the MDHS website, to make finding it easier. Dr. Parisi added that it's important to explain how SECAC's work fits into the daily work of providers. Boggan said he would like the committee chairs to figure out the best way to get input from the public. Dr. Wright said she would be willing to host a conference call for all the chairs.

Spreitler motioned for adjournment. Dr. Wright seconded the motion. Boggan adjourned the meeting at 11:48 a.m.