

MEETING NOTES/MINUTES

May 28th, 2014

Start Time: [10:07 am CST]

End Time: [12:12 pm CST]

Committee Members Present

Rickey Berry, Vickey Berryman, Margarett Davenport, Louise Davis, Johnny Franklin, Juanita Johnson, Jenny Kern, Carolyn Lewis, April May, Jennifer McNeal, Lora Mederos, Mimmo Parisi, Tina Routh, Danny Spreitler (by phone), Nita Norphlet-Thompson, Marcie Skelton, Laurie Smith, Jennie Sturgis, Rhea Williams-Bishop, Carolyn Willis, Trecina Green (for Carey Wright)

Others Present

Governor Phil Bryant, Tate Gould

Motions Passed

Mr. Franklin made first motion to pass the minutes from the 10/10/13 meeting. Mr. Berry seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the motion.

Meeting Notes

Dr. Laurie Smith called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

Dr. Smith welcomed the group and asked everyone in the room to share what they feel SECAC should accomplish.

Governor Bryant emphasized the importance of educating the public on what early childhood education is – that it is not indoctrination but rather another facet of workforce development.

Tate Gould discussed the accomplishments of the state in regard to the RTT grant. While Mississippi wasn't awarded the 2013 grant, Gould explained that Mississippi is only taking 10 years to organize pieces of its early childhood system, whereas other states took at least 20 years. Gould showed that Mississippi substantially increased its RTT scores between 2011 and 2013.

Dr. Mimmo Parisi stated that the early childhood stakeholders must tell one story together, not multiple stories apart. To facilitate a unified story, Parisi opened discussion on a unified plan with six general goals as a guide:

- For the standards goal, Trecina Green discussed MDE's development of early learning standards and an early childhood office.
- John Davis discussed the goal related to revision of QRS. He said MDHS has selected a vendor to evaluate the effectiveness of QRS and conduct studies on QRS best practices and reading goals.

- Dr. Smith discussed the workforce goal. She said the state has what it needs for professional development and improving workforce but that there is still much to do in regard to a career lattice.
- For the kindergarten assessment goal, Green shared that MDE has procured a vendor for the assessment, but she said MDE does not know when it will require schools to give the assessment. Johnny Franklin said the time is now to act and that MDE can have “readiness” defined by August. Margarett Davenport said early childcare must be included in this development. Green said she made note of that and will look into a way to include early childcare.
- April May discussed the goal of integrating community and family engagement/parenting support. May indicated that Building Blocks trains parents on how to read, offers preparation services for kindergarten transition, and provides parent workshops. Dr. Smith mentions the efforts of Excel 5 and others.

Dr. Parisi discussed the goal of building an early childhood system. He said such a system would allow everyone in the state to see the same facts, which will help the state tell a unified story.

Dr. Smith opened discussion on the creation of new committees. Nita Norphlet-Thompson said there needs to be special emphasis on partnerships. Ricky Berry suggested adding “partnerships” after “community” as part of the committee for integrating community and family engagement/parenting support. Rhea Williams-Bishop said perhaps partnerships should be part of a separate committee. Franklin asked about measureable outcomes, and Dr. Parisi said the committees would allow everyone on the board to have their own say on how to move forward with the goals. After more discussion, the board generally agreed that there should be seven committees. Green added that the board needs to prioritize and put together a timeline for a realistic plan.

Meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m.