

MEETING NOTES/MINUTES

October 23rd, 2014

Start Time: [10:09 am CST]

End Time: [11:34 am CST]

Committee Members Present

Vickey Berryman, Ricky Boggan, April May, Jennifer McNeal, Lora Mederos, Danny Spreitler, Laurie Smith, Jennie Sturgis, Rhea Williams-Bishop, Carolyn Willis, Carey Wright, Kelsey Risman (for Mimmo Parisi), Lydia Bethay (for Louise Davis)

Others Present

Tate Gould, Carol Burnett, Deloris Suel, Latasha Brown

Motions Passed

1. Danny Spreitler motioned to amend the agenda to include an item for the approval of a strong letter of support for the preschool development grant proposed by MDE. Rhea Williams-Bishop second the motion. The board unanimously approved the motion.

Meeting Notes

Ricky Boggan called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.

Danny Spreitler motioned to amend the agenda to include an item for the approval of a strong letter of support for the preschool development grant proposed by MDE. Rhea Williams-Bishop second the motion. The board unanimously approved the motion.

Boggan said approval of the 10-08-14 SECAC minutes would be tabled due to a lack of a quorum at this meeting.

Dr. Carey Wright shared the results of the first statewide kindergarten assessment. She said 65 percent of children scored below the benchmark set by MDE. She said the detailed results of the assessment will inform committee objectives and outcomes. Dr. Laurie Smith asked about data that could indicate where children learn before coming to kindergarten. Dr. Wright said those are the kind of data that the state needs to collect in order to develop strategies for interventions and resource allocation. Carolyn Willis asked if transition programs will be part of the plan. Dr. Wright said yes. Dr. Smith said the low scores on phonics and phonemic skills suggest a need for a strategic focus for those subdomains. Jennie Sturgis said that since the assessment is done on a computer, it might be helpful for providers to focus on computer usage with children.

Kelsey Risman shared the Data Committee's timeline for its objectives and explained the specifics of the plan.

Dr. Smith discussed the portal that the Engagement/Partnerships Committee proposed during the last SECAC meeting. She said the committee has discussed developing a template for this project. Boggan said the portal would be able to answer questions and direct people to specific sources. Willis said the engagement committee should encourage all SECAC committees to engage with each other.

April May said the Standards Committee didn't meet in October but is working on setting up a November meeting. She said the committee's goals revolve around both standards and guidelines. Dr. Smith asked if the standards are being changed. Dr. Wright said the standards are being reviewed now. May said easy access to the standards is key. Dr. Wright said MDE is working on its website to make information more readily available.

Lydia Bethay said the committee had not met since the September SECAC meeting. Dr. Smith said some of the committee members met with community college representatives to discuss limitations in training/credentialing and what needs to be included in curricula. Bethay said the committee has been placing a focus on credentialing since it is a big part of early childcare professional development that currently does not fit into community colleges or universities, which speaks to the importance of aligning everything in the system. Lora Mederos said childcare providers have to deal with issues that do not get as much attention in discussion of high-quality care, such as low-income children who struggle socially and emotionally due to family background. She said some of these children can go into a learning environment with the right mindset, but going back home can be a challenge to their development.

There was no update on the progress of the QRS Committee.

Boggan said it's important to keep reminding everyone of the six SECAC goals. He said the committees must work together to accomplish all of the goals. Willis said setting timelines and deadlines seems like an essential step in realizing the goals through committee work. She said the Data Committee's objective timeline can serve as a model.

Boggan emphasized that even if a co-chair is not able to meet, every SECAC committee should meet at least once a month. He said the November SECAC meeting would provide an update on state and committee-specific objectives, which will involve a discussion and action in regard to committee roles and responsibilities.

Dr. Smith said the Early Childcare Spotlight idea would allow an "honorary SECAC member" to participate in a SECAC meeting and to make a 10-15 presentation on the member's organization. She said she hopes to have finalized criteria for the Early Childcare Spotlight as well as a nomination form ready for the November SECAC meeting. Dr. Smith also covered in-state and out-of-state conferences for potential SECAC participation. Berryman asked if the list of conferences could be put on the SECAC website.

Latasha Brown said the SECAC goals are great but that child outcomes hinge on the education of providers. She said there needs to be constant discussion with community colleges and universities to make sure providers are prepared. Dr. Tate Gould said the process to address this communication has started, but he said that the efforts toward this process have perhaps not been communicated as

effectively as SECAC would like. Dr. Smith said the Professional and Workforce Development Committee is actively looking at this subject and its issues. Dr. Gould said the committee is in the process of developing a work plan with a timeline.

Carol Burnett said the provider wages issue is important and needs to be addressed. She said childcare organizations have to be able to pay workers according to their level of education and expertise.

Deloris Suel said she is concerned about early provider stakeholders being left out of efforts to improve the early childcare system.

Boggan adjourned the meeting at 11:34 a.m.