



## SECAC Council Meeting

### MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 26, 2015, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Jackson, Mississippi

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

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Ricky Boggan, Johnny Franklin, Juanita Johnson, Jenny Kern, April May, Jennifer McNeal, Mimmo Parisi, Marcie Skelton, Laurie Smith, Holly Spivey, Jennie Sturgis, Rhea Williams-Bishop, Carolyn Willis, Carey Wright

#### ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT

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Eileen Beazley, Jill Dent, Laura Dickson, Betty L. Petty, Joyce Greer, Lydia Bethay

#### MEETING OBJECTIVES

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1. Approval of Minutes
  2. Committee Updates
  3. Public/Additional Comments
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#### MINUTES

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##### Approval of Minutes

Carolyn Willis motioned to approve the minutes from the previous SECAC meeting. Dr. Mimmo Parisi seconded the motion. The council unanimously approved the motion.

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##### Committee Progress Update

Kindergarten Readiness Assessment: The committee has worked with LETRS to develop a training module for early childhood that will be rolled out in 2015-16. The Early Childhood Professional Development Plan for 2015-16 will include training for pre-k to kindergarten transitions. The committee will convene an Early Childhood Task Force to work on a transition plan for pre-k to kindergarten. The task force will look at model programs throughout the state, including the Clarke County collaborative. Kindergarten assessment data will not come in until May, and the subcommittee will meet then.

Professional Development and Workforce: Dr. Smith briefly outlined the LifeTracks report. Bethay added that the committee hasn't yet had a chance to look over the report but would meet following the SECAC meeting and discuss. Carolyn Willis said the report is a good first step because it allows the committee to talk about what's missing and where to go next. Dr. Wright asked for a definition of articulation agreement. Bethay said it involves what parts of an AA degree from a community college will transfer to a four-year university. Dr. Wright said that in Maryland, they developed what she defines as an articulation agreement, a document that provides for university teachers to go directly to the cohorts. She said this might be an idea to consider in Mississippi. Willis said pockets of that exist in the state. Dr. Parisi said this is exactly the sort of area where data can help. He said this is the time for the state to start working toward dual enrollment. Dr. Wright said the state can consider strategically where these dual enrollment opportunities need to be. Dr. Parisi said nSPARC can do an analysis that maps out where the greatest needs are in the state.

Juanita Johnson said she loves the idea of a student graduating with a high school degree and AA degree at the same time. She said she understands the transfer credit issue. She said a problem is that sometimes degree holders do not know what they can do with a degree. Johnson said a workforce could help junior and senior early childhood students to find out where they can go for a job before they graduate. She said a college students need to have opportunities made available to them so that they do not feel that their time in college is wasted. She said early childhood students need someone in MDE and the school districts to speak up for them so they can get opportunities. Jennie Sturgis said people with degrees will not get jobs at childcare centers that can pay. She said many childcare centers do not have the money to pay people for their credentials. She said this issue needs to be examined. Dr. Parisi said the data can help the labor market structure to solve this issue, but he said somehow the state has to rethink how it does early childcare.

Data System: Dr. Parisi said everyone has seen the results of the policy questions survey. He said members who have not responded can let him know so that the link to the survey can be made available again. He said all the legwork has been done in terms of identifying all the early childhood programs in the state. He said now the technical group is putting all of these programs in different groups. He said the committee has identified all intake forms. He said by June the committee hopes to have a sense of what to do with the data and how to establish governance. He said the committee did not meet last month but that he and Marcie Skelton will figure out a date for the next committee meeting.

Standards Committee: Williams-Bishop said the committee has drafted questions for a survey of childcare providers and families on their understanding/use of MS early childhood standards. She said she hopes to have the process for this survey done by June. She said another project is checklists, a document that parents can use to make sure their children are on track with the standards. She said the committee needs to determine the cost and methods of distributing the standards. She said the committee is meeting after this meeting.

Quality Rating Standards: Jenny Kern said there is nothing new to report. She said the committee is still conducting its listening sessions for QRS input. Boggan asked council members to look at their calendars and see if they can attend the next listening session in McComb on April 8. Dr. Smith mentioned the site where one can fill out a QRS survey.

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#### **Public/Additional Comments**

Dr. Smith gave a legislative update.

Dr. Smith asked about the idea of SECAC having a stance on studies conducted outside of the state and suggesting needs for additional research. Williams-Bishop said this is a good idea so that people can know where SECAC stands. Dr. Parisi said this relates to the idea of the state telling its own story rather than letting people outside of the state tell the story. Skelton asked if there is a research body that is already doing this. Dr. Parisi said he thinks SECAC can create its own way of looking at studies and counterbalancing the interpretations of people outside of the state. He said some studies only provide one side of the issue. Willis said she agrees with everything that has been said on this issue. She said SECAC should look at a work group or a subcommittee to take on this function, present what it finds, and provide a recommendation on what the statement on a study should be. Dr. Wright said SECAC just needs to prioritize what studies it wants to speak out about. Willis motioned that SECAC move forward with creating a work group/subcommittee to look at outside studies and make recommendations about what SECAC should say about the studies. Dr. Parisi seconded the motion. The council unanimously approved the motion.

Dr. Smith said the April 30 meeting will take place at 9:30 a.m. at the Jackson Convention Complex. Dr. Smith said the May meeting will take place in Stoneville.

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