



SECAC Council Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 17, 2015, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Jackson, Mississippi

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Vickey Berryman, Ricky Boggan, Louise Davis, Lora Mederos, Nita Thompson, Mimmo Parisi, Marcie Skelton, Laurie Smith, Holly Spivey, Rhea Williams-Bishop, Carolyn Willis

OTHERS PRESENT

Carolyn Adams-Price, Eileen Beazley, Lydia Bethay, Phil Bryant, Debbie Ellis, Brittney Harrington, Ariel Jacobs, Candice Pittman, Kelsey Risman, Katerina Sergi, Delores Suel

MEETING OBJECTIVES

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

Approval of Minutes

Chair Boggan opened the floor on discussion of the November 2015 SECAC meeting minutes. Rhea Williams-Bishop said her name should be changed from an incorrect spelling in the minutes. Chair Boggan said he would entertain a motion to adopt the November minutes with this suggested change.

Dr. Mimmo Parisi motioned to approve the minutes. Williams-Bishop seconded the motion. The council unanimously passed the motion.

Chair Boggan said that many documents were sent Dec. 8 via email to Council members for review. Comments on those documents were received and incorporated into the final drafts.

Committee Updates

Standards Committee: Holly Spivey reported on behalf of the committee. Spivey recapped the events and tasks the committee completed in 2015. Spivey thanked committee members and the technical-assistance (TA) team for their dedication to committee deliverables. Spivey explained that the final Standards Committee report was ready to be adopted by the council.

Williams-Bishop continued the Standards Committee update. Williams-Bishop said the committee began work on Report Cards for three- and four-year-olds that were aligned

with the standards. Williams-Bishop recommended that report cards be standardized across the state and that this work should carry on in 2016.

Chair Boggan moved the council to adopt the Standards Committee report. Chair Boggan reiterated that any motion to adopt the Standards Committee report would imply formatting additions but no content change or addition.

Williams-Bishop motioned to adopt the report. Vickey Berryman seconded the motion. The council unanimously passed the motion.

Data System: Dr. Parisi reported on behalf of the committee. Dr. Parisi recapped the work completed over the last year. He said he has secured funding in collaboration with MDE to move the Data Committee project forward.

Dr. Parisi said the Data Committee met prior to last month's meeting to verify the recommendations for the council. Dr. Parisi then recapped the process and progress of securing data from different entities in the state, which shall constitute the EC data portal.

Professional Development and Workforce: Dr. Louise Davis reported on behalf of the committee. Dr. Davis said she recently submitted changes (detailed in November meeting minutes) to the Mississippi Blueprint to Chair Boggan on behalf of the committee. She thanked committee members and the TA team for support during 2015. Dr. Davis recapped some of the work accomplished in 2015. She said some of the work has yet to be done, including an Articulation Agreement Toolkit.

Kindergarten Readiness Assessment: Williams-Bishop reported on behalf of the committee. She said the committee has been pivotal in understanding the state of early childhood outcomes in Mississippi.

Quality Rating Standards: Chair Boggan reported on behalf of the committee. He said revisions to the Quality Rating and Improvement System in Mississippi are ongoing. Chair Boggan moved the council to discussion of the QRS Committee report. Dr. Parisi said in accordance with the motion passed in the November SECAC meeting regarding implementing changes from the Mississippi Department of Human Services to some of the statistics in the report, the QRS report has been finalized and is ready for publication.

2015 SECAC/Committee Documents: Dr. Laurie Smith said all of the council documents previously adopted by the council are published on the SECAC website. Dr. Smith thanked the TA team for its assistance throughout the year.

Comments from Gov. Phil Bryant: Gov. Bryant thanked the council for its work and explained that improving the early childhood system in the state is a high priority agenda item for him. He complimented the Mississippi Blueprint document created by SECAC and said he looked forward to taking the document and the ideas within it to the legislature. He said that there is much more work to be done to support families and the childcare workforce and to maximize the learning potential of young children. He said the state has made progress, and he asked council members to not be discouraged. He said the work is slow. Gov. Bryant thanked the council again for its works, then he thanked Dr. Parisi and NSPARC. He said that before NSPARC, the state could only make best guesses in legislature and the direction of policy. He said that only in the last four years has the state been able to make intelligent decisions because of the contributions of Dr. Parisi and NSPARC.

Early Childhood Organization Presentations: Dr. Smith moved the council into early childhood organization presentations.

Eileen Beazley reported on behalf of Excel by 5. Excel by 5 is a certification process for communities to demonstrate a commitment to early childhood care and well-being. The program is currently active in 39 Mississippi communities. Once certification is reached, communities must recertify every three years.

Debbie Ellis reported on behalf of Delta Licensed Providers. Ellis said private childcare providers are left out of the legislation process. She said DLP represents more than 400 private, licensed child care and education providers and that the organization ought to be included in the policy conversation. Ellis said the subsidy program does not adequately fund childcare, which results in inadequate services for subsidy children. She said providers like her cannot survive in the current political climate because subsidy funds are either inadequate or irregular. She added that private providers are providing quality services and that DLP has a blog that is very active.

Dr. Carolyn Adams-Price reported on behalf of Mississippi Building Blocks. MBB works with existing childcare centers to implement an early literacy and mathematics curriculum. The program provides year round, daily coaching and professional development, \$3000.00 per classroom in materials, reading materials, training for the Director on best business practices, and parenting classes. The program includes a pre-test, post-test research design including a control group in order to determine the impact of the program on centers and child outcomes. Dr. Adams-Price presented findings indicating statistical significant differences for students in the MBB group from the most recent project year. She covered MBB's plans moving forward, which include gaining a better understanding of the coach-teacher relationship and following MBB children over time to see if the MBB intervention leads to long-term outcomes.

Dr. Davis reported on behalf of the Early Years Network. Dr. Davis explained a number of services provided by the network, including professional development, technical assistance, special needs services, and Allies for Quality Care. She presented a number of descriptive statistics that summarized the reach of the Early Years Network in the childcare community.

Willis reported on behalf of the Delta Health Alliance. She described the organization as a pipeline of care from early childhood through college. The EC area of the pipeline is the most developed. She said Parents as Teachers, Small World, and SPARK are all sub-programs of the organization. Imagination Library provides free books to families with children ages 0-5. Every time a child is enrolled in any other program, it instantly connects them to the library. Willis presented some recent findings on children in their program from recent years.

Public/Additional Comments

Ms. Debbie Ellis asked Willis a series of questions to clarify the work of DHA in Indianola. Ellis ultimately complimented the work of DHA and went on to explain that organizations can come and make improvements to the environment, pouring thousands of dollars into equipment and supplies, but the root of the problem in Indianola (where DHA is active) and elsewhere is that many childcare providers are not able to secure paying children due in some part to the irregularities of TANF. Ellis said that children get on and off TANF so frequently that a large chunk of income for private providers (who serve subsidy children) is fundamentally unstable.

Dr. Parisi complimented the work of Excel by 5.

Dr. Smith said the new meeting schedule will be set and published after Jan. 1, 2016.

Williams-Bishop motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Parisi seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.
