



State Early Childhood Advisory Council of MISSISSIPPI

SECAC Council Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 26, 2015, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Jackson, Mississippi

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Vickey Berryman, Ricky Boggan, Johnny Franklin, Jenny Kern, April May, Jennifer McNeal, Lora Mederos, Nita Norphlet-Thompson, Tina Routh, Marcie Skelton, Laurie Smith, Holly Spivey, Jennie Sturgis, Carolyn Willis, Jill Dent (for Carey Wright)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Tate Gould, Ariel Jacobs, Kathi Gillaspay

MINUTES

Opening and SECAC Update

The council unanimously approved the motion.

Early Childhood Spotlight

The nomination form was given to Council members, and a request was made to send more nominations to Dr. Laurie Smith for future presentations. The nomination form will also be on the website.

Committee Progress Update

Kindergarten Readiness Assessment: The committee has not met since January 2015. At that time, a deliverable was added to develop a module for ongoing engagement of parents, providers, and kindergarten teachers about the implementation of the KRA and its impact on early childhood outcomes. Work on this module is currently underway.

Professional Development and Workforce: Existing data are being used to create a map to see where EC professionals are within the state. Once the additional data are added, the committee will have information about gaps in areas and different types of certifications to support planning. The committee has added a subtask to look at previous data requests for RTT and preschool development grants to help make decisions about the structure and data sources for an annual workforce needs assessment. A small subgroup has been formed in the committee to work on forming a subcommittee and planning a meeting to advice and support working on articulation agreements in Mississippi, particularly two-year technical degree articulation to four-year institutions.

Data Systems: The survey on policy questions has been completed and closed. The importance of certain policy questions has been ranked in order of importance. Data from the survey were reviewed according to child questions, workforce, programs, and general questions (privacy/safeguards, funding, and return on public investments). The committee did not meet this week as planned due to weather; initial reactions from the Council solicited for the next data systems group (please send any via email).

Standards Committee: Engagement survey has been developed and will be reviewed in today's committee meeting. There are currently 12 questions. The survey will be used to determine providers' understanding of the standards (who knows about them, how they are using them in the classroom, and how they received them). The committee is also developing a one-pager to explain where providers can access the early learning standards, the teaching strategies, and a sample report card and curriculum that align with the standards. Competency checklist and report card samples will be reviewed in today's meeting. Report cards are developmental checklists that will be used by center staff to share current information about children as they transition into kindergarten. Report cards will be aligned across centers. The committee is also reviewing kindergarten report cards for children and analyzing the differences between samples of early childhood report cards and kindergarten report cards.

Point of clarification: The Early Learning Standards are available (those finalized in 2013); the Early Learning Guidelines and Teaching Strategies that accompany the standards are under revision and are due spring 2015 for MDE Board approval.

Quality Rating Standards: Eight sessions are scheduled; four remain to be held. Feedback is being collected through sessions that have been well attended. Next steps include coordinating with MDHS to clarify and be more purposeful about both the SECAC and FPG evaluation efforts. The information from SECAC will be added after FPG work is finished for stakeholder review in consideration for potential revisions. The survey for public comment is a bit delayed due to weather, so hopefully the link will be available next week and will stay open for a few weeks. Information submitted through this survey will be included in the FPG report.

The QRS committee met over the phone and discussed the importance of having a SECAC member at every listening session. SECAC members were asked to check their schedules and let committee leadership know if they are able to attend.

Upcoming meetings:

All currently scheduled meetings are on the SECAC website. One edit was suggested; the Standards Committee location needs to be changed on the list to the Norfolk building on the website.

Public/Additional Comments

Update on MDE Preschool Grant-

- The reviewer comments are on the Department of Education website (all states are there including those that did get funded) – read the comments for more information. Dr. Smith will send the link to the reviewer comments.
- Dr. Smith provided the following update (as of 2.26.15):
 - 3rd grade reading gate
 - Common Core
 - Payment of assistant teachers
 - Education funding
 - Special needs bill
 - Appropriations bill

No additional public comment.

Next Meeting

The next Council Meeting is set for Thursday, March 26, 2015.

- The April meeting (April 30, 2015) is on the same day as the Mississippi Economic Council, so it may be a potential conflict for some. Council officers will look into it and communicate any possible changes.
 - The May meeting will be in either Stoneville or Indianola. More information is forthcoming.
-