

## SECAC Council Meeting

### MEETING MINUTES

JULY 23, 2015, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Jackson, Mississippi

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

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Louise Davis, April May, Lora Mederos, Mimmo Parisi, Marcie Skelton, Laurie Smith, Sandra Parks, Jennie Sturgis, Carolyn Willis, Carey Wright

#### OTHERS PRESENT

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Latasha Brown, Laura Dickson, Debbie Ellis (phone), Delores Suel

#### 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

Dr. Laurie Smith corrected the June Minutes by adding Holly Spivey to the “Committee Members Present” section of the minutes for the June 2015 SECAC meeting. Marcie Skelton motioned to approve the June 2015 minutes. Dr. Mimmo Parisi seconded the motion. The council unanimously approved the motion.

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##### Committee Progress Update

Professional Development and Workforce: Dr. Louise Davis said the committee’s pilot idea will be shared with community colleges during a meeting in August. She said the early childhood conference in October will serve as a place to inform both two- and four-year colleges of the pilot. Marianna Chauvin, MDHS Director of Policy, gave a presentation on the childcare subsidy program as related to professional development. She said new requirements would need to be made to strengthen Mississippi’s professional development. She said MDHS will be discussing options for providing services to help providers. She suggested that SECAC can help by continuing to suggest ideas on ways to help centers be prepared for these future changes. Dr. Parisi asked how new training would work and how would MDHS provide it for the child care centers? Marianna Chauvin stated that some providers are already performing standards and that this is about making sure that the finalized standards aren’t too burdensome. Laura Dickson said MDHS is envisioning this as a flexible process to accommodate providers throughout the state. Dr. Parisi asked how will all of this work as far as planning? Dickson said the plan is to continue to generate ideas on how MDHS can help child care centers. Dr. Carey Wright said an assessment component could be a critical in making sure that high-quality

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development is happening across the board. Dr. Smith asked how can centers give provide input to MDHS? Dickson said once MDHS gets the state plan together, there will be many opportunities for centers to get involved.

Data System: Dr. Parisi said everything is moving along fine with the work related to the committee.

Quality Rating Standards: Kelsey Risman gave the update on QRS listening sessions. She referred to a two-page summary of the report. She stated that revising/expanding QRS is a major goal of SECAC and that the listening sessions are a deliverable. She said the report is about interpreting the content of the listening sessions. She said the report will group findings by experiences, expectations, and things that may not fit either category. She said specific provider voices from the listening sessions will be used to explain the broad findings listed in the two-page summary. She said the full report will be provided at the next meeting. Laura Dickson said the Frank Porter Graham QRS report will be available at MDHS on Aug. 24.

Kindergarten Readiness Assessment: Dr. Wright shared how the Collaboratives scored on the assessment. She said most of the Collaboratives fell into the early emergent reader category in the fall but improved to late emergent reader in the spring. Dr. Wright also said MDE has learned that it needs to figure out how to involve parents more and that social skills are an important predictor of kindergarten success. She also said self-contained ways of dealing with disabled children is not the right way to go – children with disabilities need to be more involved in the general approach. Dr. Wright said Child Find needs to be strengthened across the state. She said MDE is looking at targeted assistance for Collaboratives and identifying best practices in the ones that are doing particularly well. Dr. Parisi said the literature clearly shows emotional development is the tool that kids use to learn and that the issue of poverty is connected to the emotional stability issue. He said he hopes the state will continue to emphasize this point. Dr. Wright said social skills is something that everyone – teachers, parents – can teach children.

Standards Committee: April May said 384 of the standards surveys have been completed so far. She said the most popular method has been the web survey. She said Aug. 31 is the date the report will be done. Dr. Parisi said the high response rate shows how important it is to make sure that survey questions are relevant, so he concluded that the pilot survey process was essential. Carolyn Willis asked if the surveys will be recorded by region. Dr. Parisi said yes. He said you could create regions and then look at the results. Dr. Candice Pittman said there will be some preliminary results presented at the next SECAC meeting.

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### Public/Additional Comments

Dr. Smith said the Early Childhood Mississippi Conference in Natchez could serve as the location of the October SECAC meeting. May said presenting at the conference can inform more people about what SECAC is doing. Skelton said having the meeting at Natchez can allow more people to see how the SECAC process works.

Debbie Ellis said she has received no invitations or any emails to any meeting discussing the professional development standard change in regard to a proposed required 30 hours of professional development for providers from MDHS. Latasha Brown said Jackson State has an early childhood conference in February, and that in regard to increasing required professional development hours, the universities need to be involved and informed so that people can take the hours that they need before they enter the workforce. Delores Suel said she shared her comments at the last meeting about the professional development changes and that she was told her suggestions would be taken into account with MDHS. Sandra Parks said as far as the childcare development block grant is

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concerned, she understands you have to have a state plan in order to get funds from the federal government. She said she just wanted to clarify that point. Ellis said a block grant is determining the policy that puts these standards into place. She said this can have an economic impact. Ellis said she doesn't want an unfair federal mandate coming down on providers. Eileen Beazley asked if licensure would change for everyone. Dickson said no, the standard would only affect those who receive subsidies. She also said she's not sure if the state has the capacity to offer 30 hours of development to everyone who needs it. She said the state plan will include what Mississippi has determined to be the appropriate number of hours. Ellis reiterated that she needs more notification of these meetings regarding this subject so that childcare providers can be at the table. Suel said the preliminary report from the Civil Rights Commission is available online.

Dr. Smith adjourned the meeting at 11:28.

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