

SECAC Council Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 25, 2015, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Jackson, Mississippi

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Vickey Berryman, Ricky Boggan, Louise Davis, April May, Lora Mederos, Nita Norphlet-Thompson, Mimmo Parisi (phone), Tina Routh, Marcie Skelton, Laurie Smith, Jennie Sturgis, Carolyn Willis, Carey Wright, Holly Spivey

OTHERS PRESENT

Kelsey Risman, Kristin Javorsky, Candice Pittman, Jed Pressgrove, Lydia Bethay, Laura Dickson, Jill Dent, Joyce Greer, Debbie Ellis, John Davis, Kim Benton, Anna Lovejoy

MEETING OBJECTIVES

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

Approval of Minutes

Marcie Skelton motioned to approve the minutes from the May 2015 SECAC meeting. Dr. Louise Davis asked to delete the sentence about sharing a survey during the professional development and workforce committee update. April May seconded the motion. The council unanimously approved the motion.

Committee Progress Update

Data System: Dr. Mimmo Parisi said the committee worked with MDE to help with the SLDS early childhood grant.

Professional Development and Workforce: Dr. Davis said the committee met and clarified data points. She said the committee will meet with two-year degree community college faculty to give them an overview of the pilot with the articulation agreement. She said four-year university faculty will also be invited for the same purpose. The committee needs input and approval from faculty for the pilot to be implemented. Joyce Greer, program coordinator for Teach Early Childhood Mississippi, discussed the amount of scholarships that had been awarded to early childhood college students.

Quality Rating Standards: Kelsey Risman gave the update by sharing the results of a preliminary report. She said the information is based on five of the eight transcripts of the QRS listening sessions across the state. She emphasized that the numbers are raw numbers and there has not been interpretation of how codes may be combined. She said

the full report will be based on raw numbers, but it will be tied to the committee deliverables and SECAC goals. Risman discussed the top themes. She started with the theme of important factors of the early childhood experience. The themes from those that had participated in QRS were related to being unhappy or participating in order to improve. For those who had not participated in QRS, there were themes of “I had a negative experience with QRS” and “I don’t participate because I feel it is irrelevant to my center.” The survey also asked questions about what prevented centers from reaching a higher score, and hand washing had the highest mention. On benefits of participating in QRS, the most common was general satisfaction, followed by financial benefit and parental involvement. In regard to communication with QRS program or the Early Years Network, the most common theme was that expectations are unclear. In regard to benefits that providers would like to see, degree of flexibility and consistency across centers were the two major themes. For voice representation, direct representation was the top response.

Risman drew the council’s attention to the outline. She said the current results are very preliminary and represent only what the researchers have accomplished thus far. She said all transcripts are based on the themes and that themes are split up into questions. She said there will be qualitative differences after further analysis. Dr. Carey Wright asked about the sources for the preliminary results. Kelsey said the sources refer to listening sessions including about 80 people.

Marcie Skelton complimented the work of the researchers on this issue and asked if the draft plan for QRS revisions is coming next. Sturgis said the main problems with QRS has been issues related to handwashing. Since most classrooms do not have bathrooms it is impossible to meet those criteria.

Kindergarten Readiness Assessment: Dr. Wright shared the results of the kindergarten assessment by district and by school. She presented fall-to-spring transitions for each type of reader group. She said the improved scores were great news, she stated that “think about the impact these kids would have had if we they had all attended high quality preK in our state Dr. Wright said the professional development, resources, and technical assistance that MDE provided really helped. She said MDE used the fall data to find out where help was needed. Marcie Skelton asked what kind of reader do you want? Dr. Wright said any teacher would love all children to read by first grade. But she said she would like to see no more emergent readers – a shift to transitional and probable readers would help first-grade teachers a lot. She said she’s worried about kids who sit out of kindergarten. She said the more language a kid knows coming in, the better off he or she will be. She said not knowing certain words at all can be a hard thing to overcome for readers and teachers. She said it would be great if there could be literacy coaches across the state.

Standards Committee: May said the 11 child care providers from MBB attended the meeting at NSparc for the pilot survey results. The providers gave feedback on the survey leading to many revisions to strengthen the overall format and questions. Once approved, the survey will be sent to 1,600 providers that have been validated. She said letters informing providers about the survey will be sent first. She said the final report will be done by the end of August. Most revisions from the pilot meeting were clarifications on the questions and making sure that all the options for answers were provided in the survey. Dr. Smith asked if the telephone survey would allow for convenient times to be made for the survey. Dr. Pittman said yes. She said an online survey can also be provided for convenience.

Dr. Smith asked about the public comment period that MDE was giving for the renamed standards. Dr. Wright confirmed that the public comment period for the renamed

standards has been completed.

Public/Additional Comments

Dr. Smith said the governor hosted an agency lead meeting related to governance of early education. She stated that SECAC's work is leading the way for future policy to improve services for young children.

Debbie Ellis asked Joyce Greer who would receive the BS scholarships? Greer said the scholarship is for childcare center teachers and directors. Ellis asked Risman if the 80 participants' input for the QRS report included written comments. Risman said she hasn't received any written comments. Ellis said she had sent an email and would like to have it included in the results of the QRS listening sessions. Chair Ricky Boggan said Ellis' comments could be included. Ellis then asked about the main purpose of the standards survey. May said the committee wants to know the best way to get standards info to providers and find out how to best channel the info through different programs.

Skelton motioned to adjourn. May seconded the motion. Chair Boggan adjourned the meeting.
