



SECAC Council Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 24, 2015, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Jackson, Mississippi

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Ricky Boggan, Juanita Johnson, Jennifer McNeal, Nita Norphlet-Thompson, Marcie Skelton, Mimmo Parisi, Jennie Sturgis, Carolyn Willis, Carey Wright

OTHERS PRESENT

Lydia Bethay, Jill Dent

MEETING OBJECTIVES

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

Approval of Minutes

Chair Boggan said the minutes from the August SECAC meeting will be addressed during the October SECAC meeting.

Committee Progress Update

Data System: Dr. Parisi and Dr. Wright announced the \$6 million grant awarded for building an integrated early childhood data system. Dr. Parisi pointed out that big states didn't win this grant, which speaks to how impressive what Mississippi has done.

Quality Rating Standards: Kelsey Risman from the technical team gave the update on a nationwide QRS analysis that is being compiled. She said eventually a manual will be produced that contains all of this information. Dr. Parisi clarified that the manual will be available as a guide for people in the state. Risman said QRS is widespread across the United States, and each program is different. She said rating structures vary and correlate with the needs of the states.

Chair Boggan said SECAC can put the QRS reports on the SECAC website, but he said he thinks it would be good to send reports to members well before a meeting so that they can make a motion to approve the documents to put them on the website.

Professional Development and Workforce Community College Subcommittee: Lydia Bethay gave the update for Louise Davis. She said a 2+2 pilot program has been recommended by the committee. In order for a university or community college to issue a

pre-K public license, the institution must have AAFCS accreditation. Bethay said four universities in the state have the accreditation, including Mississippi State University. She said the committee will be hosting a meeting with all entities interested in the 2+2 pilot on Oct. 8 in Natchez during the early childhood conference.

Kindergarten Readiness Assessment: Dr. Wright said there is no update because the assessment data have just been received. She said she hopes an update on the data can be given in October.

Standards Committee: Ariel Jacobs said the Standards Committee report is nearly complete but that there is additional review on the data.

Dr. Pittman said 49 percent of the 625 center directors who answered the survey have a four-year degree or more. Dr. Parisi said the 625 directors represent the regions of the state and types of centers. She said safety and health certifications were ranked as very important to the majority of directors. Dr. Pittman said 77 percent of the polled directors took the required number of development hours or more. She said July and August are the busiest months for license renewal, so the Mississippi State Department of Health might consider increasing staff during these months.

Willis asked if demographic information was collected on the centers. Dr. Pittman said yes, including a variable about whether they are profit/nonprofit. She said the directory information includes the number of children and contract information. Willis said she knows the report is more about the understanding of standards, but she said she thinks it's a great way to identify centers who need resources. She said the demographics will probably show that those with access to resources will have better child outcomes. Norphlet-Thompson said Head Start already collects degree types for their centers. She said that can be provided to the technical team.

SECAC Committee Structure

Chair Boggan said he would like to discuss the possibility of decreasing the number of committees down to two or three. Skelton said she would like to see a conclusive report from each committee on what has been accomplished on its list and what each committee would like to accomplish that wasn't on its list.

Public/Additional Comments

Debbie Ellis, according to Chair Boggan, raised a question about the newly established standards. Chair Boggan asked Jacobs if she could help with this question. Jacobs said she didn't have the email. Chair Boggan said the question has something to do with the idea of required square footage per child. Jill Dent said the requirement applies to public structures in school districts, not childcare providers. Norphlet-Thompson said sometimes providers might not hear about this public comment period due to out-of-date contact information. Bethay said the Early Years Network has an intake form that collects up-to-date information on providers.

Chair Boggan adjourned the meeting at 11:37 a.m.
