

SECAC MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 22, 2016, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Jackson, Mississippi

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Vickey Berryman, Ricky Boggan, Margarettte Davenport (phone), Johnny Franklin, Tamara Garner (representative for David Chandler), Brittany Herrington, Rochelle Johnson, Ed Langton, April May, Lora Mederos, Jennifer McNeal, Mimmo Parisi, Robin Parker (phone), Tina Routh, Laurie Smith, Holly Spivey, Cathy Sykes (representative for John Davis), Nita Thompson, Mary Ulmer (representative for David J. Dzielak), Carolyn Willis, Carey Wright

OTHERS PRESENT

Eileen Beazley, Aressa Coley, Debbie Ellis, Tate Gould (phone), Latasha Hadley, Ariel Jacobs, Deloris Suel, Matt Williams

MEETING OBJECTIVES

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

Approval of Minutes

Chair Ricky Boggan opened discussion on the minutes for the Aug. 25 SECAC meeting. Ed Langton motioned to approve the minutes. Johnny Franklin seconded the motion. The council unanimously approved the motion.

SECAC Updates

Carolyn Willis gave the update for the Health, Mental Health, and Nutrition Committee. Professional development was the subject of the committee's recent discussion. Willis said as the committee proceeds with its gap analysis, it is finding that there is a disparity in meeting mental health needs. She said she will chair a subcommittee about professional development around health, mental health, and nutrition.

Ariel Jacobs gave the update for the Family Support Committee. She said the committee has been considering innovative solutions to communication and strategies for supporting families. She said a working group on communication has been formed, and an update on that group will come at the next SECAC meeting.

Langton gave the update for the Early Care and Learning Committee. He said Willis is working with his committee on professional development. He said Latasha Hadley and Deloris Suel had a great dialogue with the committee. He said the committee is moving right along with its model development.

Laurie Smith said the Mississippi Low-Income Child Care Initiative asked her to present provider feedback given during an Aug. 22 meeting that the initiative hosted. The major recommendations from providers included in the handout from the MLICCI was increasing spending on child care, eliminating the QRS, and using quality-improvement funds from

CCDF for wages.

Sykes started the update on Child Care and Development Fund requirements. She said health and safety sessions were held on Saturdays as requested by providers. She said close to 6,000 providers registered for the training. She said the sessions have gone very well and that MDHS received positive feedback in its attempts to assist providers with getting this training. She said more than 2,000 calls have been received by the MDHS call center and the process has gone very well. Sykes said all people who have been trained will receive a letter from MDHS certifying the training.

Public/Additional Comments

Carol Burnett said she thanks Smith for sharing input from the Mississippi Low-Income Child Care Initiative meeting. Burnett said she wants to emphasize strengthening communication between providers and MDHS and that the initiative will do anything it can to help. In regard to helping centers get trained workers, she said WAGES is a successful North Carolina program; she said Mississippi has used the TEACH program as well. She said the stipend from WAGES helps providers achieve education and gives annual wage enhancements to workers so that centers don't have to foot the bill. She said the problem with scholarships is that it creates a highway out of child care because centers can't pay the higher wages for a more trained worker. She said she thinks a program like WAGES is a better way to address the issue of quality compared to the QRS system. Burnett said as far as child support is concerned, she said it is a simple process, but it starts a legal process, and some mothers have informal arrangements with fathers that can be jeopardized with legal action. She said going for child support does not necessarily result in more money for the mother in every case.

Latasha Hadley said at the health and training sessions she attended, there were people at the door at 8:05 a.m., and they were not allowed to come in. She said it was a disservice to people who came in at 8 a.m. for the training. She said some of those people had to go somewhere else because of this oversight

Matt Williams said oral and written comments were delivered to MDHS asking to extend 12-month eligibility to all populations, including homeless, TANF, foster, and others. He said his organization was very happy to see this revision to the policy manual. He thanked MDHS for that.

Debbie Ellis said in regard to child support, it is difficult for providers to compete when Head Start does not require the child support payment. She said providers already don't receive enough funding for everything. She said providers do hope they get a pay raise in October. She said sometimes she likes to watch MDHS and therefore she has not registered for the health and safety training yet.

Eileen Beazley said there was an article in the Clarion-Ledger about Mississippi State Early Years Network losing funding. Boggan said he doesn't know about this story and that it is not anything that SECAC is involved with.

Boggan adjourned the meeting at 11:18.
