

SECAC MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 22, 2017, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Jackson, Mississippi

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Ricky Boggan, Margarette Davenport, Johnny Franklin, Brittany Herrington, Ed Langton, April May, Eloise McClinton, Diane Mikula, Mimmo Parisi, Robin Parker, Sandra Parks, Tina Routh, Laurie Smith, Holly Spivey, Nita Norphlet-Thompson, Carolyn Willis, Carey Wright

OTHERS PRESENT

Carol Burnett, Aressa Coley, Tate Gould, Micca Knox, Delores Suel, Cathy Sykes

MEETING OBJECTIVES

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

Approval of Minutes

Ricky Boggan opened discussion on the minutes for the SECAC meeting on March 23, 2017. Johnny Franklin motioned to approve the minutes. Dr. Carey Wright seconded the motion. The council unanimously approved the motion.

SECAC Updates

Cathy Sykes gave an update on the state early childhood plan, “A Family-Based Unified and Integrated Early Childhood System.”

Dr. Smith said it is important for SECAC to be as aware of the video to assist childcare providers through the application process. The video played. Aressa Coley provided an overview of the application process. Coley reiterated the user friendliness of the system, the fact that the Early Childhood Academies will be providing technical support for the directors and that no centers will be denied as a result of completing the application. Dr. Smith mentioned that Dr. Currier from the MS Department of Health is willing to provide professional development hours for completion of the application. The amount of hours is yet to be determined.

Dr. Micca Knox gave an update on the Early Childhood Academies. She said there are now 13 community colleges included in the project. She said East Mississippi Community College and Coahoma Community College have now been added and that Jones County Junior College and Holmes Community College have expressed interest. She said Carolyn Willis and others are helping with the Delta area to establish a satellite academy in that region.

Chair Boggan began the update on SECAC committee organization and activities. He said last year’s committee structure, informed by national standards, was very efficient and helped get the state plan together. He said the emphasis for the new committee structure

will be on implementation rather than planning. He said funding and professional development will be examined through this structure as well.

Smith provided the slides with the Chairs of the new committees

Early Care and Learning Committee – Carolyn Willis

Family Support Committee – Brittany Herrington

Health, Mental Health, and Nutrition Committee – Sandra Parks

Chair Boggan thanked the outgoing chairpersons of last year's committees. Parisi motioned to accept the above recommendations. Wright seconded the motion. The council unanimously approved the motion.

Dr. Tate Gould said the committees are the muscle of the council. He noted their progression. He said two years ago they were more focused on data collection. He said last year the committees were focused on supporting the state plan. He said this year the committees will work on implementation. He said the committees will meet similarly to how they have in the past: five or six members to help support the chair. Gould said TA support from Aressa, Kathy, and Tate will help with scheduling. He said all SECAC members will be asked which committee they wish to serve on. He said emails will be sent out to accomplish this step.

Gould then shared slides outlining the proposed purposes of the different committees:

Boggan said the council had a motion for committee chairs and that now it needs a motion for the proposed committee structure. Franklin motioned to accept the structure. April May seconded the motion. The council unanimously approved the motion.

Public/Additional Comments

Langton thanked everyone who contributed to last year's committee work. Smith then gave a letter to the chairs from Gov. Bryant.

Carol Burnett said she wants to remind the council that in addition to looking at educational experiences at child care centers, she said there also needs to be attention paid to low-income parents. She said redeterminations are asking parents to make a phone call to get vouchers. She said she has gotten a story about a woman who couldn't make the phone call because of busy lines and work restraints. She said addresses on different documents must match for eligibility, but low-income parents might move, and the addresses may not work. Burnett said she hopes these obstacles can be removed with the help of MDHS. Dr. Parisi said there is a letter sent to parents 60 days and 30 days out. Burnett said some low-income parents can't return phone calls. Sykes said MDHS can help if names could be given.

Delores Suel said she received a phone call from NSPARC for information. She said the person on the phone said if Suel can't get in touch with the parent, the parent's eligibility will be terminated. Chair Boggan suggested she provide her name directly to MDHS so they could help as soon as possible.

Chair Boggan adjourned the meeting at 11:32 a.m.



State Early Childhood Advisory Council
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