

SECAC MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 28, 2017, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Jackson, Mississippi

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Jacob Black, Paula Broome, Margarett Davenport, Johnny Franklin, Tamara Garner (representative for Jess Dickinson), Ed Langton, April May, Jennifer McNeal, Sandra Parks, Holly Spivey

OTHERS PRESENT

Tate Gould, Matt Williams

MEETING OBJECTIVES

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

MINUTES

Approval of Minutes

Ed Langton, presider of the meeting, said the minutes for the August 2017 SECAC meeting would be reviewed during the October 2017 SECAC meeting.

SECAC Updates

Jacob Black gave an update on the family-based unified and integrated early childhood system.

Dr. Micca Knox gave an update on the Early Childhood Academies. She said 122 providers have enrolled in health and safety training, and about 80 have completed this training. She said face-to-face sessions for health and safety training will end in late September and begin again in December. Online training can be done at any point, however, and hundreds of providers have signed up for training through the academy. Johnny Franklin said he appreciates the update and that what the community colleges do with professional development.

Sandra Parks gave an update on the Health, Mental Health, and Nutrition Committee, which met Sept. 22. Parks said the committee discussion continued to focus on Early and Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment. One of the things the committee discussed was how to promote and educate child care facilities and parents on the importance of well-baby visits. Different committee members are looking at related policies at the Mississippi State Department of Health. Parks said the Division of Medicaid will give a comprehensive list of where families can take their children for well-baby visits. The committee also intends to promote breastfeeding, and Parks said Dr. Mary Currier is looking at licensing policies related to breastfeeding. She also said the committee wants to promote parent empowerment and decision making as well.

Tamara Garner gave an update on the Family Support Committee, which met on Sept. 22. She said Jacob Black joined the committee meeting and told the committee how

communicating with families works. She said the committee talked about potential goals. The committee is considering assessing the process of families applying for the subsidies.

April May gave an update on the Early Care and Learning Committee, which met on Sept. 25. She said Jill Dent from the Mississippi Department of Education joined the meeting. The committee was informed that Jill Dent and Holly Spivey are leading the effort to revise the guidelines for infants and toddlers. She said four of the committee's original eight objectives involved the guidelines for infants and toddlers, but the committee will focus on two of those four goals to reduce duplication: (1) provide recommendations for an assessment that accurately evaluates quality early childhood instruction and (2) provide recommendations for high-action, high-alignment between early childhood service providers. The committee also added recommendations for early learning and development performance measures as another objective.

Langton said the next SECAC meeting will involve reviewing and approving committee plans. Dr. Tate Gould said the technical team is going to work hard on getting specifics and timelines together for the committees to report at the next SECAC meeting.

Public/Additional Comments

Matt Williams from the Mississippi Low-Income Child Care Initiative said the initiative completed a statewide questionnaire of providers and stakeholders and is compiling all the feedback it received. He said the initiative will share that feedback with SECAC and MDHS.

Franklin said if one looks at the data that are being capturing now about the effects on the early learning community, the state is having great results on kindergarten preparedness. He said the most valuable folks are those providing the services to families and children.

Langton adjourned the meeting at 10:32 a.m.
