

## SECAC MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 24, 2017, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Jackson, Mississippi

### COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

---

Jacob Black, Ricky Boggan, Margarettte Davenport, Johnny Franklin, Tamara Garner (representative for David Chandler), Brittany Herrington, Ed Langton, April May, Eloise McClinton, Jennifer McNeal, Diane Mikula, Mimmo Parisi, Sandra Parks, Holly Spivey, Nita Norphlet-Thompson, Carolyn Willis, Carey Wright

### OTHERS PRESENT

---

Aressa Coley, Micca Knox, Cassandra Welchlin

### MEETING OBJECTIVES

---

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

### MINUTES

---

#### Approval of Minutes

Chair Ricky Boggan opened discussion on the minutes for the June 22, 2017, SECAC meeting. Dr. Carey Wright motioned to approve the minutes. Johnny Franklin seconded the motion. The council unanimously approved the motion.

---

#### SECAC Updates

Chair Boggan said the U.S. Department of Education has asked for additional input from SECAC to understand Mississippi's family-based approach to early childhood. He also said SECAC will go to the Education Commission of the States in Colorado to share its work. He said the major point is that Mississippi's accomplishments are being noticed around the country.

Jacob Black gave an update on the Family-Based Unified and Integrated Early Childhood System. Black said the redetermination process for the Child Care Payment Program is going well. Black said MDHS is also working with the provider community to improve the Standard Child Care Center Application. He said the application would be finalized on Sept. 1. Finally, he said MDHS continues to work on the federal background-check requirement. He said the federal government has given MDHS an extension until September 2018 to complete cross-state and sex offender background checks.

Melissa Parker from the Mississippi State Department of Health commented on the background checks. She mentioned the deadline extension and said Mississippi is not the only state facing this challenge. She said the state is waiting on guidance and input on how to make this requirement happen.

Dr. Micca Knox gave an update on the Early Childhood Academies. Knox said Coahoma Community College has completed staffing for its academy. She said EMCC projects that its academy staff will be in place by the middle of September 2017. She also said a

partnership will allow Mississippi Valley State University to serve as an academy for the Delta region.

Knox said the academies will begin hosting orientation for the Standard Child Care Center Application and its curriculum component in September. This orientation will be offered bi-weekly through October at two different time slots (12 to 2 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m.). She said the face-to-face training for health and safety will begin in September as well, and providers will have the option to complete the training online. Each staff member needs a unique email address for the online registration, and there would be no wait for a certificate after the online training is completed.

April May gave an update for the Early Care and Learning Committee. Aressa Coley said the backbone for the objectives is related to the development of the comprehensive child care center framework. She said this framework is based on the idea of providing continuity of learning and that the committee noticed that everyone has different performance measures. She said there is not necessarily alignment on how benchmarks are set for children 0-2 and 3-4, and the objectives of the committee intend to ensure that kids are kindergarten-ready.

Sandra Parks gave an update for the Health, Mental Health, and Nutrition Committee. Working from last year's committee's definitions, Parks said the committee talked about implementing components of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act.

Dr. Brittany Herrington gave an update for the Family Support Committee. Herrington said the committee does not have detailed objectives yet. She said the committee caught everyone up with what happened with last year's committee. She said the next meeting hopes to have representatives from the MDHS Division of Early Childhood Care and Development (DECCD).

---

#### **Public/Additional Comments**

Cassandra Welchlin from the Mississippi Low-Income Child Care Initiative commented on the Child Care Payment Program redetermination process. She said the initiative has been holding town-hall meetings to hear from communities about how the process is going. She said the process is not going smoothly on the ground. She said the initiative has been getting about 15 phone calls a day. She said parents have been getting terminated at high rates and that the initiative has been representing them. She said everyone is free to come to the town-hall meetings. She said parents are losing their jobs because they are not able to get certificates. She said the initiative has been making recommendations to MDHS. She said the vouchers are supposed to help parents willing to work.

Chair Boggan adjourned the meeting at 11:03 a.m.

---