

SECAC MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 26, 2017, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Jackson, Mississippi

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Jacob Black, Ricky Boggan, Tamara Garner (representative for Jess Dickinson), Brittany Herrington, Ed Langton, April May, Jennifer McNeal, Melissa Parker, Sandra Parks, Laurie Smith, Holly Spivey, Laurie Weathersby (representative for Carey Wright), Carolyn Willis, Dorothy Young (representative for David Dzielak)

OTHERS PRESENT

Carol Burnett, Aressa Coley, Matt Williams

MEETING OBJECTIVES

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

Approval of Minutes

Chair Boggan stated that minutes would be approved at the December SECAC meeting

SECAC Updates

Dr. Micca Knox gave an update on the Early Childhood Academies. Knox said there will be another round of face-to-face health and safety trainings in December. Providers still have the option of taking the training online. She said there have been 150 enrollments in online safety training since September and that the online system has been working very well.

Jacob Black gave an update on the family-based unified and integrated early childhood system. He said the redetermination process for providers is going in waves. He said the Mississippi Department of Human Services is still on track to finish redetermination for both providers and families by the end of December. He said the most recent Child Care Payment (CCPP) Newsletter announced that five hours of professional development for will be awarded to providers for completing the application, thanks to the Mississippi State Department of Health. Smith said it was very generous of MSDH to give the five hours of professional development. She said Jacob did a good job negotiating for that on behalf of providers.

During an update about the early childhood state plan, Smith said the State Early Childhood Advisory Council is working with the Education Commission of the States, which is chaired by Gov. Phil Bryant. The commission invited a group of SECAC members to Colorado to meet with five other states. This group discussed alignment of the 0-5 and K-12 systems.

Aressa Coley said the meeting in Colorado highlighted the need to align everything in 0-5. She described work with MDE about this alignment earlier in the week.

Sandra Parks gave an update on the Health, Mental Health, and Nutrition Committee. Sandra Parks said the committee met Oct. 20 and developed two goals.

Brittany Herrington gave an update on the Family Support Committee. April May gave an update on the Early Care and Learning Committee. May said the committee met Oct. 23 and emphasized the idea of supporting the Early Childhood Academies with its different goals..

Public/Additional Comments

Matt Williams said the Low-Income Child Initiative held town-hall meetings with providers, parents, and child care stakeholders during August and September. The initiative now has a summary of those meetings.

Carol Burnett said thus far about half of the parents who have attempted to be redetermined have lost their child care. Most of the reasons have to do with procedural aspects. She said when they lose their child care, they lose their jobs. She said it's one thing if parents become ineligible; it's another thing if it's an administrative procedure that can be adjusted. She said she knows MDHS is working on changes. But she said it's important to make sure these parents don't lose their child care. She said she hopes this document will inspire MDHS to remove procedural barriers.

Chair Boggan adjourned the meeting.
