

SECAC MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 29, 2018, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Jackson, Mississippi

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Jacob Black, Margaret Chapman, Johnny Franklin, Brittany Herrington, Patti Marshall, April May, Eloise McClinton, Nita Norphlet-Thompson, Robin Parker, Mimmo Parisi, Tina Routh, Laurie Smith, Holly Spivey, Carolyn Willis

OTHERS PRESENT

Carol Burnett, Matt Williams, Jill Dent

MEETING OBJECTIVES

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

Approval of Minutes

No minutes were discussed at this meeting.

SECAC Updates

Chair Mimmo Parisi said that the SECAC team has worked on a statewide communication plan on the standard/comprehensive framework for the last three months. SECAC's three committees have been receiving input from council members and community affiliates on the framework. Chair Parisi then reviewed the purpose of the framework. He said the standard and comprehensive designations are not about ratings so much as determining the level of assistance that a center might need. All centers with designations meet a baseline level of quality care, and comprehensive centers will focus more on social integration and continuity of learning as the child makes his or her way to kindergarten.

Chair Parisi stated that he and Dr. Smith had shared the plan with Governor Bryant.

Dr. Smith shared an update on Ms. Ivanka Trump visiting Gulfport, MS the previous week. The event brought more awareness around early childhood efforts in Mississippi aimed at assisting the whole family. Ms. Trump was very complimentary about the state system. Business leaders in attendance discussed the cost of childcare and ways business and industry can assist in addressing this workforce issue.

Jacob Black gave an update on the CCDF plan. He said the Mississippi Department of Human Services submitted the plan on Aug. 31. On Oct. 18, MDHS received comments about the plan, and clarifying answers were sent to the federal government the previous week. He stated that the majority of the changes requested were minor in nature and

related to the consumer-education website. He added that the federal partners are very interested in the plan and that SECAC should be proud of its commitment for this reason.

Chair Parisi moved the discussion to Mississippi's goal of winning a preschool development grant, which will allow states to improve coordination, quality, and transitions in their systems. The grant is designed for states that have not yet developed a plan to move forward. Because Mississippi has already produced a needs assessment, strategic plan, and consumer-education website, it has a head start over other states.

The Mississippi Community College Board is the coordinating entity for the grant, as the grant is more about coordination than programs. Chair Parisi said Mayfield organized working sessions with all stakeholders, and the information from those sessions has been collected and processed.

The grant design is focused on how the state can help child care centers participate in the process of becoming comprehensive.

Public/Additional Comments

Carol Burnett said the Mississippi Low-Income Child Initiative released a report last week. The report examines the use of CCDF funds for direct services to children and for other activities over the last 20 years. Matt Williams said the financial data in the report came from a federal source and that policy manuals and annual reports were used for the sources of information. Chair Parisi asked if MDHS was given the opportunity to review the report. Williams said Andrea Sanders have read the report. Chair Parisi expressed further concern, indicating that it would be unfair to release a report without giving MDHS a chance to review and comment.

Chair Parisi adjourned the meeting at 11:18 a.m.
