

SECAC MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 14, 2018, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Jackson, Mississippi

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Takisha Bishop, Jacob Black, Margaret Chapman, Margarett Davenport, Savannah Fountain, Brittany Herrington, Rochelle Johnson, April May, Jennifer McNeal, Diane Mikula, Nita Norphlet-Thompson, Melissa Parker, Sandra Parks, Mimmo Parisi, Tina Routh, Laurie Smith, Holly Spivey, Bonnie Windham, Carey Wright

OTHERS PRESENT

Eileen Beazley, Carol Burnett, Megan Campbell, Andrea Sanders

MEETING OBJECTIVES

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

Approval of Minutes

Chair Mimmo Parisi opened discussion on the minutes for the December 2017 and February 2018 SECAC meetings. Holly Spivey said Dorothy Young's first name should be spelled "Dorothy" in the December 2017 minutes. Sandra Parks motioned to approve the December 2017 minutes with Spivey's revision. Spivey seconded the motion. The council unanimously approved the motion. Bonnie Windham motioned to approve the February 2018 minutes. Parks seconded the motion. The council unanimously approved the motion.

SECAC Updates

Parks gave an update on the Health, Mental Health, and Nutrition Committee. She said the committee is still working on its major goals.

Brittany Herrington gave an update on the Family Support Committee. Herrington said the committee developed recommendations for the "Family" section of the SECAC website and is open to discussing the recommendations. The committee also developed a six-question customer satisfaction survey about the CCPP application. Finally, the committee surveyed Early Childhood Academies (ECAs) to identify different local needs throughout Mississippi.

April May gave an update on the Early Care and Learning Committee.

Jacob Black introduced Andrea Sanders, the interim child care director at MDHS, who went on to give an update on the Family-Based Unified and Integrated Early Childhood

System. Sanders said MDHS lined up all the service delivery programs under one department so that clients can walk into any local office and get information on and access to all services. She said the waiting list for the Child Care Payment Program (CCPP) was addressed earlier in the year. Since this effort started, MDHS has issued more than 7,000 certificates. Sanders said the increased market rates for providers have been federally approved. She said the state plan, the governing document for the Child Care and Development Fund, is nearly completed. She said the deadline was pushed from July 1 to August 31, as the federal government substantially updated the template for state plans. She said this delay gives MDHS a great opportunity to collaborate with more stakeholders about the plan. She said a public hearing about the plan will occur on June 22 for feedback. She said once the state plan is completed, the CCPP policy manual must be revised. She said both she and Black are committed to improving MDHS customer service.

Dr. Laurie Smith said that the 9 years of research at Mississippi Building Blocks is significantly informing the coaching model for the ECAs. Thus, Building Blocks will be incorporated and expanded to the Early Childhood Academy model. May said all of the coaches will train together so that everyone can be on the same page. Smith said this approach will make coaching far more systematic and consistent across the state. May said content and competency are being developed so that a credential can be offered to providers through community colleges. Takisha Bishop asked if the credentialing process would be provided on Fridays or Saturdays. May said the scheduling has not been ironed out, but the goal is to work with provider schedules so that providers don't miss time at centers.

Chair Parisi gave an update on the online CCPP application process. Chair Parisi said a lot of lessons have been learned in the implementation process, which is being actively revised. Focus groups will be done with providers to examine how the system can be further improved in terms of efficiency. Chair Parisi thanked everyone for their feedback to improve the system. Margaret Chapman said she didn't find the CCPP application process extremely difficult, but she is looking forward to the streamlining.

Smith said the Mississippi plan has been widely accepted nationwide during many presentations to other states. She mentioned a prominent publication that listed Mississippi's system for children ages 0-5 as a model for others to consider. She shared a documentary that details early childhood advancement in Mississippi that was filmed and will be shared at Harvard Graduate School to train future leaders in early childhood education. She added that the U.S. Department of Labor will be visiting Mississippi to discuss early childhood. Dr. Carey Wright pointed out that the state is also being recognized for its public pre-K programs.

Chair Parisi said he is honored to serve as the new chair of SECAC. He said priorities for the next year and a half should be considered by the council moving forward. He focused on the importance of providing a continuity of education for young children.

Public/Additional Comments

Carol Burnett said the policy revisions by MDHS have been great. She said the proof of residency change has been particularly helpful. She said, however, that she would hate for the online requirement for the CCPP application to be a barrier to any providers.

Sanders said MDHS is already considering options where the coaches can help with the application. She said the goal is to not exclude anyone.

Eileen Beazley said providers are excited about the new market rates. She then asked about the number of “Standard” centers. Sanders said MDHS has not denied anyone; the goal is to help providers meet the requirements for the standard designation.

Chair Parisi adjourned the meeting at 11:36 a.m.
