

SECAC MEETING MINUTES

JULY 26, 2018, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Jackson, Mississippi

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Takisha Bishop, Jacob Black, Margaret Chapman, Margarett Davenport, Brittany Herrington, April May, Lora Mederos, Jennifer McNeal, Nita Norphlet-Thompson, Robin Parker, Sandra Parks, Mimmo Parisi, Tina Routh, Laurie Smith, Carolyn Willis, Bonnie Windham

OTHERS PRESENT

Carol Burnett, Megan Campbell, Cora Rogers, Deloris Suel

MEETING OBJECTIVES

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

Approval of Minutes

Chair Mimmo Parisi said the meeting would function as a working session. No minutes were reviewed.

SECAC Updates

Chair Parisi provided an update on recent Federal presentations that included positive feedback regarding the Mississippi framework for child care centers. Dr. Laurie Smith shared the Harvard Graduate School of Education video created regarding early childhood education in Mississippi.

Chair Parisi facilitated a discussion about standard and comprehensive framework and how it could benefit other early childhood programs, such as Head Start, Mississippi Thrive, Excel by 5, and others.

Carolyn Willis, Brittany Herrington, and Sandra Parks said their committees—Early Care and Learning, Family Support, and Health, Mental Health, and Nutrition—have developed recommendations for an early childhood communication plan. The committees also developed questions for the council to consider.

Willis facilitated a discussion with the council regarding incentives for child care providers., who would be responsible for assigning the standard and comprehensive designations, and what the process is to receive a standard or comprehensive designation. Willis also discussed how the standard and comprehensive framework guide the locations of

resources for all entities involved in child care development.

Parisi said a recommendation from the council might be appropriate. Black motioned that the council move forward with answering the questions the committees have posed, particularly the questions about the governing body and the process, and allow the committees to go forward with research. Norphlet-Thompson seconded the motion. The council unanimously approved the motion.

Public/Additional Comments

Carol Burnett said she encourages the state to look at the challenges for centers to get through the entry point. She said the challenges have more to do with the process than with the standards. She said the online application requirement is still an issue despite the assistance that is out there.

Deloris Suel said it took her from November to January just to complete the application. She said parents must be reached to make them understand their responsibility. She said she probably won't go beyond the standard designation because she doesn't think she can deal with the frustration of becoming comprehensive.

Cora Rogers said she has been in operation for 20 years as a provider. She said she serves infants and does after-school programs. She said it has been a difficult and stressful process over the last 10 years. A lot of centers have gone out of business because of stipulations. She said she wants the council to consider the maxim of "no child left behind," as there have been a lot of children left behind.

Suel told Norphlet-Thompson that some providers have tried to work with Head Start, but the Head Start entities wouldn't work with them.

Black said federal regulations dictate that MDHS allow parents to make a decision about their child care. He said parents are only turned down for CCDF if they do not meet a federal regulation. He said if a provider has been denied it is because they have not met health and safety or other regulations. He said MDHS has received a lot of feedback from providers at meetings and that this feedback was incorporated into MDHS policies. Aug. 18 is the next public hearing for the state plan. He said MDHS set it specifically on Saturday to accommodate providers.

Megan Campbell said there are 1075 providers in the system. She said only more than 700 have submitted applications, that more than half of those applications have been approved, and that the number of approved applications is steadily rising.

Chair Parisi adjourned the meeting at 12 p.m.
