

## SECAC MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 13, 2018, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Jackson, Mississippi

### COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

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Takisha Bishop (via phone), Paula Broome, Margaret Chapman, Bonitha Windham, Jacob Black, Dorthy Young, Johnny Franklin, Brittany Herrington, April May, Eloise McClinton (via phone), Mimmo Parisi, Robin Parker (via phone), Sandra Parks, Laurie Smith, Holly Spivey, Nita Norphlet-Thompson, Carolyn Willis (via phone).

### OTHERS PRESENT

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Jill Dent, Carol Burnett, Roberta Avila, Andrea Sanders, Desaree McCray, Carlos A. Latorre, Joey Songy, Megan Campbell.

### MEETING OBJECTIVES

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

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#### Approval of Minutes

No minutes were discussed at this meeting.

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#### SECAC Updates

Chair Mimmo Parisi commenced the meeting by stating the objectives.

Executive Director, Dr. Laurie Smith first introduced Mr. Songy for listening in today's meeting; Mr. Songy works is Chief of Staff to Governor Phil Bryant.

Chair Parisi asked Jacob Black for an update of the CCDF plan. Sanders said that there are changes to the payment program. MDHS submitted the new state plan on August 31. Following minor edits to the plan, MDHS submitted the final version on October 24. Sanders said that the State has received provisional approval of the plan because the State is still working on the prerequisite background checks for its labor force. Smith, also, clarified that all states have received provisional approval. She mentioned that MDHS will file an entire policy rewrite to the Secretary of State by the end of December, along with an economic impact report.

Chair Parisi reminded everyone that every year the Council has to complete an annual report. All present Council members were handed a report titled "*Early Childhood Education in Mississippi: Past, Present, and a Bright Future. Annual Report 2018*". Parisi said that the pictures in the cover signify a bright future for the children of Mississippi. He pinpointed that the report contains only facts, no interpretations. Parisi directed Council

members to the timeline of activities showing the establishment of the Council, QRIS, and MBB. He said that 2013 marked one of the most impactful legislations, which included the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading gate test and the pre-K assessment, the early learning standards and more.

Smith reiterated that the annual report to the Governor contains all the history in one concise manner. Smith thanked Council members for submitting a strong grant application on November 6. Grant funds would assist with the expansion of the Comprehensive piece, and ensure partnerships with MDE and Head Start, which was the missing link in the previous system.

Chair Parisi said that connecting children to early childhood education works, as the numbers of children served by the Collaboratives, and the CCDF plan indicate. However, there are 16,000 children in different environments. Grant funds will ensure that every child in this big bucket is served. Head Start, MDE, and CCDF will combine best practices. Nita Norphlet-Thompson said that Head Start is part of the Collaboratives. She said that there will be an effort to get more Head Start and other programs, not just MDE. This grant will help the State bring more children into quality early childhood education.

Sanders informed of the positive feedback received from the federal office about the market rates. Mississippi is one of the two states with some of the highest pays in the country, with its 75<sup>th</sup> percentile. Parisi said that the Comprehensive's rate of \$600 is market-competitive.

Songy, praised the report. He said that the Council has done an incredible job, which the Governor believes in and supports. Songy mentioned that all Council members are volunteers, but the longevity of this group is a testament of how much they care for children. On behalf of the Governor, he thanked Council members for all they do.

Smith provided some updates regarding early childhood events in January as well as the Governor's Workforce Summit.

Parisi presented the meeting schedule for the next six months. Smith said that these are tentative meetings but the goal is to meet the last Thursday of the month. If the State is awarded the grant, the January meeting will be a celebration and the beginning of the planning process. Parisi said if there is good or bad news about the grant before the first of the year, the Council will be notified. He thanked everybody for their hard work and hoped that everybody feels like a SECAC citizen because they have accomplished a lot.

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

No public comments.

Chair Parisi adjourned the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

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