

State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) Meeting
January 28, 2022
9:00 am-12:00 pm

Present	SICC Members	Affiliation	Role
X	Brittany Herrington (C)	<i>Parent (South)</i>	Parent
	Alberstein Pickett	<i>MS Dept. of Mental Health</i>	State Agency
X	Anitra Townsend	<i>Parent</i>	Parent
	Audra Classen	<i>USM, Associate Professor</i>	Personnel Preparation
X	Barbara Coatney		Provider
X	Candace Taylor	<i>MS Dept. of Education</i>	State Agency: Education
X	Carlen Henington	<i>Inst. of Higher Learning, MSU</i>	Personnel Preparation
	Chad Allgood	<i>MS Dept. of Human Services, Div. of Early Childhood Care & Dev.</i>	Personnel Preparation
X	Doug Williams	<i>Parent</i>	Parent
X	Gwen Woodard	<i>Division of Medicaid</i>	State Agency: Medicaid
X	Holly Spivey	<i>Office of Gov., Head Start Collab</i>	Head Start
	Janet Slaughter	<i>Independent Provider (Central)</i>	Provider
X	Jenifer Tasma	<i>Parent</i>	Parent
	Jennifer Wentworth	<i>Division of Medicaid</i>	State Agency: Medicaid
X	Julie Parker	<i>Inst. of Higher Learning, MSU</i>	Personnel Preparation
X	Jullian Harper Peavey	<i>Div Dir, Women's Health</i>	State Agency
X	Kamme Riddle	<i>Independent Provider (North)</i>	Provider
X	Kara Butler	<i>UMMC, EI, SI (Central)</i>	Provider
X	Kara Driver, MD	<i>UMMC, Pediatrics-Newborn Meds</i>	Provider
X	Karonica Crumedy-Mikell	<i>Parent</i>	Parent
	Keith Vuncannon	<i>Caring Hands Rehab</i>	Provider
X	LaDewayne Harris	<i>MS Dept. of Education</i>	State Agency: Education
X	Leslie Junkin	<i>MS-PTI, Asst Project Director</i>	State Agency
	Linda Shivers	<i>Independent Provider (Central)</i>	Provider
	Nichole Boyd	<i>State Legislature</i>	State Agency
	Nita Thompson	<i>MS Head Start Association</i>	Head Start
X	Ronjanett Taylor	<i>Inst. of Higher Learning</i>	Personnel Preparation
	Ryan Blakeney	<i>MS Dept. of Insurance</i>	State Agency: Insurance
	Tina Routh	<i>MS Band of Choctaw Indians</i>	State Agency

Additional Attendees:

Anissa Pace, MSDH, EI Region 3 Coor
 Anne Williams, Audiologist, Univ of MS
 Audrey Gill, MSDH, Maternal & Child Health Dir
 Bevin Glass, Interpreter
 Bradley Long, MSU, MS Thrive & Kids Count Project
 Callie Poole, MSU, Project Manager, Policy Research & System
 Cathy Grace, Univ of MS, The Graduate Center for Study of Early Learning
 Chelsea Panse, Asst Professor, MSU
 Claudia Shedd, MSDH, NE LEIP Coordinator
 Coreaner Price, Parent
 Donna Sorensen, MSDH, EI Quality Technical Assistant
 Gay Logan, EI Central Regional Coordinator

Henry Moore, *Parent*
Jacquelynn Taylor, *Families as Allies, Office Manager*
Jimmie Faye McCarty, *MSDH, CE LEIP Coordinator*
Kaye Carr, *Dir of EI, MS School of the Deaf & Blind*
Leslie Junkin, *MS-PTI, Assistant Project Director*
Linda West, *Executive Director, MS Families for Kids*
Lisa Bonds, *MSDH, SW LEIP Coor*
Lisa Bryant, *Physical Therapist*
Melissa Cox, *MSDH, EI Northern Region Coordinator*
Miranda Richardson, *MSDH, EI Operations Director*
Paulita Childs, *MSDH, CW LEIP Coordinator*
Rachel Tyrone, *UMMC, Speech Language Pathologist*
Sarah Myers, *USM, Director of Children's Center Communication & Development*
Tamiela Ramsey, *MSDH, NW LEIP Coordinator*
Toni Hollingsworth, *USM, MS Hearing Vision Project*
Valecia Davis, *MSDH, Health Services Operations Director*

MINUTES

NOTE: Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, this meeting was held virtually on Zoom. Attendees were able to participate on the phone or online.

Welcome/Introductions (B. Herrington)

B. Herrington opened the meeting at 9:35 am. She welcomed all SICC members and attendees.

Review and Approval of Minutes (B. Herrington)

Minutes from the October 22, 2021, meeting was reviewed by everyone (motion by C. Henington; second by J. Parker). Minutes were then approved as written.

SICC Business (B. Herrington)

The following business items were discussed:

Orientation of New Members (S. Callender)

A video was shared as part of the new membership orientation. S. Callender went over a quick overview of the history, purpose, and general information of the SICC committee. She stated that the new members will receive a new members orientation packet.

SICC Committee Reports (B. Herrington)

The following updates were provided on the work of the committees:

- **Personnel Preparation Committee:** J. Parker, Chair, reported that they continue to be very collaborative with our ECPC partner and our technical assistance person – Jim Lesko. We are working really hard with our core planning team to make sure that all of our areas both in CSPD, subcommittees and other areas as well are meeting and moving our action plans forward. That's an ongoing process for all of us.
- **Public Awareness Committee:** K. Driver, Chair, had no updates to report.

- **Transition Committee:** C. Henington, Chair, reported two main things the committee is working on: The first being providing parents with information about what the transitions look like. In addition to that we have been working on putting together a resource book that has a list of contacts that parents may find helpful, and the goal is to have one component that is statewide and then also in the area where the parent is residing.
- **Recruitment/Retention Ad Hoc Committee:** R. Blakeney, Chair, was not available. S. Callender reported that they have been focusing the work on increasing reimbursement rates for providers as well as improving the classification for Early Intervention personnel that are employed at the Department of Health. We have all completed a reclass but that will be discussed at a later date. We're trying to address what are the barriers to recruiting new people into the system and retaining them so we can address those concerns.

Update Committee Membership

The following were new people added to committees:

- **Personnel Preparation Committee:** Sara Myers, Toni Hollingsworth, Paulita Edward-Childs
- **Public Awareness Committee:** Cathy Grace, Bradley Long, Jenifer Tasma, Doug Williams, Linda West, Jimmie Faye McCarty
- **Transition Committee:** Leslie Junkin, Anitra Townsend, Kaye Carr, Callie Poole
- **Recruitment/Retention Ad Hoc Committee:** Barbara Coatney, Chelsea Panse – Barone, Rachel Tyrone, Claudia Shedd, Anissa Pace

Program Updates – MS First Steps EI Program Office

The following updates were provided by the Program personnel:

- **Annual Performance Report:** M. Richardson reported on the APR results for FFY July 2020 – June 30, 2021.

Indicator	2019	2020
1: Timely Services (January 2021 – March 2021)	87%	87%
Total Number of Infants and Toddlers with IFSPs	455	
# received their early intervention services in a timely manner	360	
# of had documented delays in services due to exceptional family circumstances (e.g. parent cancellation, child in hospital)	34	
# had documented delays in services due to problems in the EI system (e.g. providers was unable to see the family, no provider was available)	61	
2: Natural Environments (December 1, 2020)	87%	80%
Total # of children who received services from EI	1621	
# receiving early intervention services in the natural environment (e.g., home, community)	1289	

# receiving early intervention services in “other” environments (e.g., clinics, hospitals)	332	
3-A1: Child Outcomes (Social-emotional growth) July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021	89%	74%
3-A2: Child Outcomes (Social-emotional on track) July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021	63%	52%
3-B1: Child Outcomes (Knowledge & Skills growth) July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021	82%	77%
3-B2: Child Outcomes (Knowledge & Skills on track) July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021	50%	47%
3-C1: Child Outcomes (Action to meet needs growth) July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021	82%	75%
3-C2: Child Outcomes (Action to meet needs on track) July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021	50%	50%
4A: Family Outcomes (Family Rights)	82%	95.21%
Number of Families who returned survey (% of families who “Agree/Strongly Agree”)	338	
Number and percent of families participating in Part C who reported that Early Intervention services have: A. Helped the family know their rights	318/334	
B. Helped the family effectively communicate their children’s needs	317/333	
C. Helped the family help their children develop and learn	316/338	
4B: Family Outcomes (Communication Needs)	75%	95%
4C: Family Outcomes: (Help Children Learn)	90%	94%
5: Child Find 0-1	0.73%	0.67%
6: Child Find 0-3	1.98%	0.60%
7: 45-Day Timeline (January 2021- March 2021)	88.8%	92%
# of eligible infants/toddlers who required an initial IFSP meeting	362	
# of eligible infants/toddlers with IFSPs who had a timely initial evaluation/assessment and initial IFSP (within 45 days)	315	
# had documented delays in IFSP due to exceptional family circumstances (e.g. parent cancellation, child in hospital)	19	
# had documented delays in IFSP due to problems in the EI system (e.g., evaluation team availability, SC case load)	28	
8A: Transition Steps and Services (January 2021- March 2021)	90%	92%
Number of toddlers with disabilities exiting Part C	190	
# of toddlers exiting Part C with an IFSP with timely transition steps and services	158	

# had documented delays due to exceptional family circumstances (e.g. family cancellation of scheduled meetings)	16	
# had documented delays due to problems in the EI system	16	
8B: Transition Notification to SEA & LEA (<i>January 2021- March 2021</i>)	97%	96%
# of children with disabilities exiting Part C who were potentially eligible for Part B	214	
# of children with disabilities exiting Part C who were potentially eligible for Part B preschool services with timely notification of the SEA and LEA	208	
# of notifications not sent to SEA and LEA	6	
8C: Transition Conference Meeting (<i>January 2021- March 2021</i>)	90%	92%
# of children with disabilities exiting Part C who were potentially eligible for Part B	190	
# of children with disabilities exiting Part C who were potentially eligible for Part B preschool special education services with a timely transition conference	158	
# had documented delays in their transition conference due to family circumstances (e.g. family cancellation of meeting)	16	
# had documented delays in their transition conference due to problems in the EI system (e.g. SC case load, SC on medical Leave)	16	

EI Staffing Updates

S. Callender reported that we have a number of vacancies:

- **20 Service Coordinators** (All programs); (Public Health Program I or II)
- **4 Service Coordinator/Evidence-Based Coaches**(NW,SE,CP) Public Health Program III
- **2 Program Coordinators** (NC, CC) (Public Health Program Specialist Team Lead)
- **2 State Office Personnel** (Public Health Program Specialist Team Lead)

Public Comments/Announcements

Anissa Pace wanted to bring to the committee’s attention regarding some providers are not taking insurances like Molina and United Healthcare. S. Callender responded that the Executive committee might be able to look at who we can invite to speak to that. S. Callender stated that there are a number of new publication meetings that will be held related to Early Intervention and there are some briefs that will be put out through Thrive and the MS Children’s Foundation. As soon as we are able to share that information with everyone we will.

Scheduling of Monthly Committee Meetings

The next SICC meeting will be held April 8, 2022 (April 22, 2022 – backup)

- **SICC Personnel Preparation Committee** meets third Thursdays at 9:00 a.m.
- **SICC Public Awareness Committee** meets first Mondays at 3:00 p.m.
- **SICC Transition Committee** meets first Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.
- **SICC Recruitment/Retention Committee** meets third Thursdays at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.