



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

MISSISSIPPI FIRST STEPS EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) Meeting

November 13, 2018

8:30 am-12:30 pm

Present	SICC Members	Affiliation	Role
X	Brittany Herrington (C)	Parent (South)	Parent
	Candice Taylor	MS Dept. of Education	State Agency: Education
	Carlen Henington	Inst. of Higher Learning, MSU	Personnel Preparation
X	Chad Allgood	Child Care Licensure	Personnel Preparation
X	Christina Perigoe	Inst. of Higher Learning, USM	Personnel Preparation
	Dorothy Young	Division of Medicaid	State Agency: Medicaid
	Elizabeth Pell	Director CPICC (South)	Provider
X	Holly Spivey	Office of Gov., Head Start Collab	Head Start
	Janet Slaughter	Independent Provider (Central)	Provider
X	Julie Parker	Inst. of Higher Learning, MSU	Personnel Preparation
	Julie Waddle	Parent (North)	Parent
X	Kamme Riddle	Independent Provider (North)	Provider
X	Kara Butler	UMMC, EI, SI (Central)	Provider
	Kara Driver, MD	UMMC, Pediatrics-Newborn Meds	Provider
X	Keishawna Smith*	Parent (Central)	Parent
	Laura Smith	Parent (Central)	Parent
X	Linda Shivers	Independent Provider (Central)	Provider
X	Lori Rolison	Parent (South)	Parent
	Natasha Bennett	Parent (Central)	Parent
X	Nita Thompson	MS Head Start Association	Head Start
X	Ronjanett Taylor	Inst. of Higher Learning	Personnel Preparation
X	Ryan Blakeney	MS Dept. of Insurance	State Agency: Insurance
	Sara Leathers	Parent (North)	Parent
X	Shirley Miller	MS Dept. of Mental Health (Retired)	Parent; State Agency

* ex officio

Additional Attendees:

- Anissa Pace, MSDH, Local Early Intervention Program Coordinator
- Carey Bates, MSDH, Early Intervention Quality Technical Assistant Central Region
- Gwen Woodard, Division of Medicaid
- Lakeshia Unger, MSDH, EHDI-M, Hearing Follow-up Coordinator
- Miranda Richardson, MSDH, Early Intervention Data Manager
- Pamela Kendrick, MSDH, Early Intervention Monitoring Coordinator
- Paulita Childs, MSDH, Local Early Intervention Program Coordinator
- Skylar Jackson, MSDH, EHDI-M, Hearing Follow-up Coordinator
- Stacy Callender, MSDH, Part C Coordinator
- Stephenie Bailey, MSDH, Local Early Intervention Program Coordinator
- Treshika Melvin, Attorney, Southern Poverty Law Center
- Valecia Davis, MSDH, Early Intervention Division Director

MINUTES

Welcome/Introductions (B. Herrington)

B. Herrington opened the meeting at 8:53 am welcoming all SICC members and attendees. All participants provided brief introductions.

Review and Approval of Minutes (B. Herrington)

Minutes from the July 13, 2018 meeting were reviewed and approved as written by the SICC.

Committee Reports (B. Herrington)

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

- ***Personnel Preparation Committee:*** J. Parker, Chair, reported about the state team who attended the Early Childhood Personnel Center (ECPC) Leadership Institute and provided updates from the Division for Early Childhood (DEC) Conference. ECPC has developed a Cross-Disciplinary Standards Crosswalk Initiative. The cross-walk (to be released January 2019) links existing standards for early intervention personnel, including physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, and special educators. The domains covered include family-centered practice, intervention/instruction, professionalism, and coordination and collaboration. DEC has been granted permission by the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) to develop its own competencies for early childhood special educators. V. Davis shared the CSPD Leadership team will be attending a follow-up ECPC meeting in December to begin Intensive Technical Assistance. S. Callender explained the implications for the larger group and greater expectations for SICC as a complete body.
- ***Public Awareness Committee:*** L. Rolison, Chair, reported the Public Awareness committee met to discuss the report to the Governor. Committee decided they would use real life scenarios and requested a family representative from each MSDH Region to tell their story. K. Butler asked if S. Callender could assist with information on how to share success/challenges regarding early intervention, e.g. staff shortages and resources needed to meet the growing demand for EI services. The committee also requested information about growth trends. Dr. Driver will provide an overview of the SICC and how each committee functions. They are hoping to keep the report between 10-12 pages. S. Callender agreed to work with the committee on the layout.
- ***Transition Committee:*** No report.
- ***Retention/Recruitment:*** G. Woodard, reported the committee had a conference call on September 10th and determined the MSDH should conduct a rate study to review provider rates. V. Davis stated the R/R Committee was formed to assist with this. R. Blakeney stated he would review the State insurance plan rates and request private insurance providers in the State share their rates with the SICC. S. Callender stated she would speak with other State Part C Coordinators to obtain their rates for EI services.

SICC Business: (B. Herrington)

L. Rolison expressed concerns about children who could benefit from EI services not being referred. V. Davis explained EI is a voluntary program and asked for suggestions to assist families in understanding the importance of EI. The following recommendations were made:

- Educate physicians more regarding EI principles, services, and procedures
- Educate parents about typical and atypical development and EI benefits
- Peer-to-peer mentoring for parents provided by parents currently or previously enrolled

Public Comments:

No public comments were offered.

Program Update

The following updates were provided by the Program personnel:

- **Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Technical Assistance Visit:** S. Callender reported on the technical assistance visit provided by OSEP contacts as a result of difficulties with timeliness in completing contracts with providers at the start of the State Fiscal Year and resulting delays in services. The EI personnel and other MSDH representatives assisted with explaining the nature of the contracting difficulties and what is being done to prevent this situation from occurring again. The EI personnel presented data on the number of children and families who were impacted, the number of providers who were impacted, the length of time of these impacts, and the amount of compensatory services provided. The OSEP State Lead (contact) has scheduled monthly follow-up calls with the EI State Program to address ongoing service provision.
- **EI Monitoring Updates:** P. Kendrick notified the SICC committee that three formal complaints have been made during the current fiscal year and reports have subsequently been issued.
- **EI Training Updates:** V. Davis provided the SICC with upcoming training dates including the CSPD Leadership Team's plans to attend the ECPC Intensive Technical Assistance Meeting in Avon, CT, held December 2-5, 2018. Ms. Davis also provided the dates for the next SICC meetings.

Adjourn

The SICC Meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.