



State Early Childhood Advisory Council

of Mississippi

SECAC MEETING MINUTES – February 7, 2013

Council Attendees: Rickey Berry, Vickey Berryman, Ricky Boggan, Louise Davis, Jill Dent, Annjo Lemons, Robin Lemonis, Lora Mederos, Steve Renfro, Tina Routh, Marcie Skelton, Laurie Smith, Holly Spivey, Danny Spreitler, Forest Thigpen, Rhea Williams-Bishop, Carolyn Willis

Public Attendees: Claiborne Barksdale, Jane Boykin (MS Forum on Children and Families), Nadine Coleman (Excel by Five), Bob Clay (Excel by Five), April May (MBB), Kate McMillin (MSCEI), Deloris Suel, Jack Wilson (Governor's Office)

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action to be Taken
Call the Meeting to Order	Boggan called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.	
Welcome and Introductions of Council	Boggan welcomed everyone and asked the attendees to introduce themselves and name the entities they represented.	
Approval of the Minutes from 11/09/2012	Copies of the minutes from the November 9, 2012, meeting were distributed to the Council. Minor corrections were noted. Renfro made a motion to accept the minutes with corrections and Spreitler seconded. The motion carried unanimously.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Change "Smith expressed her expectations of SECAC" to "Smith expressed thoughts of SECAC". 2. Change "Leflore" to "Leffler". 3. From this point forward, list the acronyms and the recommendations when referring to them.
Executive Director Remarks – Legislative Update	<p>Smith reviewed Governor Bryant's education agenda: Education Works House Bill 890 (HB890)- Omnibus Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third Grade Gate – one state approved universal screener and students will be screened three (3) times a year; funding to implement a training system for Kindergarten – Third grade teachers, principals, and university faculty focused on best practices in literacy instruction; provide literacy coaches to schools that have the lowest reading proficiency scores; student exemptions – 13 total; • Seventh Grade Gate – If a student does not score proficient in reading and math, then the student will be retained. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dropout prevention- Schools with graduation rates lower than 80% will submit a restructuring plan to the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE). Quality Teachers and Leaders – Increasing the entry standards for schools of education; minimum entry is 3.0 grade point average (GPA) and 21 ACT score; scholarships for students entering the schools of education- must meet requirements. Performance-based compensation system (pilot) – Four participating school districts; statewide implementation would be considered in 2016. <p><u>House Bill 906 (HB906)-</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity Scholarships – provides a family that is at or below 250% of the poverty level and in a “D” or “F” school district a scholarship to attend an approved non-public school. Funding comes from corporations and individuals. The corporations or individuals will receive a tax credit for making a donation. MDE approves the non-public schools and selects a non-profit to manage the scholarships. There will be a \$10 million cap on the scholarships each year. <p><u>Appropriations Bills-</u> Teach for America, Jobs for Mississippi Graduates, Mississippi Building Blocks (MBB), national certification for technical and career education programs.</p>	
<p>Discussion- SECAC Bylaws, Executive Order, and 2013 Goals</p>	<p>Boggan opened the floor for discussion regarding the executive order creating SECAC, bylaws, past work of SECAC, and past reports to the Governor.</p> <p>Skelton asked – How is SECAC doing? Where is the needs assessment? Lemons stated the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) grant was written on the scope and purpose, and the original proposal is on the website. The 2011 Report shows what work has been done and what is left to do, and the most current periodic statewide needs assessment was conducted by Public Consulting Group (PCG) for the Consolidated Services Report. Renfroe stated that the Council has come to a point where we have to transition from one administration to another. What have we done, and what will we do next? Lemons reminded the group that the funding will end October 2013.</p> <p>Discussion of SECAC and Senate Bill 2395 (SB2395) – should this bill pass, SECAC would be in legislation and not just an executive order. Renfroe briefly discussed the influence of Excel by 5 on the pre-k legislation. Smith added that, according to this bill, SECAC would advise MDE regarding the</p>	

	<p>pre-k but would not have any authority. Boggan added that this would add a great deal of responsibility to the work of SECAC. Renfroe asked if the Governor's Office is in support of SB2395, and Smith answered that the Office is in support of this bill along with MBB. The funding for MBB ends in July 2013. Even though MBB is included in the bill, if MBB does not receive funding to continue they would not be able to participate. The statement to the media was supportive of both. Bishop asked - Will SECAC have to make amendments or changes to the by-laws if the legislation passes? Boggan stated that the Council probably will.</p> <p><u>Suggestions for moving forward:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council members should read and be familiar with the 2011 Report. • Renfroe suggested a fact finding group follow SB2395 and develop recommendations in regards to SECAC. • Lemons suggested Council representatives meet with Senator Wiggins. • Smith will provide summaries to the Council on all proposed Early Childhood legislation. • Bishop will provide notes from 2.6.13 Learning Lab meeting to the Council regarding SB2395 and HB781. • In regards to SB2395, Smith noted it will be important to look at how SECAC will change. <p>Discussion of FY2013 Recommendations – Spreitler asked if Council would be looking forward in regards to the recommendations and past work of the Council or focus on the proposed legislation. Renfroe suggested the Council examine whether or not the 5 recommendations/committees have completed the proposed work. Bishop stated that some of the recommendations of the Council as well as recommendations from PCG are different from the Governor's Education Agenda. Should we reassess and prioritize? Smith said the Governor is very supportive of early childhood efforts. Council then discussed the recommendations and the focus on literacy.</p>	
<p>Committee Reports: Data – Jill Dent</p>	<p>Recommendation #2 – Develop a family/child-centered information/data system and sharing process that will ensure significant improvement in the delivery of high quality early care and education services. The process will be built around a logic model where information collected will serve to improve the system or service(s) in question.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is currently a \$1.8 million legislative request for Lifetracks to continue. • Dent recommended the Council maintain a partnership with National 	<p>SECAC should continue to have this committee but have a maintenance role.</p> <p>Moving forward, the goals and activities must be adjusted.</p>

	<p>Strategic Planning & Analysis Research Center (nSPARC) in regards to collecting early childhood data.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> nSPARC has the immunization records from the Health Department, and Dent is working with Mimmo and Dr. Currier to determine next steps for additional data collected from the Health Department. Next steps – Medicaid and Mental Health 	
<p>Committee Reports : Workforce Dev. – Louise Davis</p>	<p>Recommendation #3 - Develop and implement a workforce development plan for individuals seeking to be employed as early childhood educators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee has met – modified the scope to expand to add more counties. Pilot phase of the career ladder. Two field technical assistants that recruit and twenty-four applicants Will need to find funding when grant ends. Currently, Department of Human Services (DHS) has funding for scholarships for the Child Development Associate (CDA), and that can continue. 	<p>SECAC should continue this committee.</p> <p>Moving forward, the goals and activities must be adjusted based on what has been accomplished.</p>
<p>Committee Reports : Coordinated Services Model – Steve Renfroe</p>	<p>Recommendation #4 – Develop a process by which early childhood services and management occurs for the purpose of supplying communities with information and coordinated service models for replication across the state.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee has not met Model is ready to pilot and may have funding soon. Still need consultant help to do the work. Discussion around SB2395 and Recommendation 4 – Could the funded communities be the pilots for the model? 	<p>SECAC should continue this committee.</p> <p>Moving forward, the committee will decide the next steps for implementation.</p>
<p>Committee Reports : In-Home Provider – Jill Dent</p>	<p>Recommendation #5 – Review and revise the existing registry requirements related to family child care homes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registry is set up and complete. 39 providers participate in the in-home Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS). 5 star = 1, 4 star = 3, 3 star = 1, 2 star = 12, and 1 star = 22. Davis discussed one of the in-home provider activities that have not been completed – propose legislation to shift oversight responsibilities for the registry/certification of home-based providers from the Health Department to DHS. Spreitler opposed this move. Currently, this move does not have broad support. Consider an impact study of suggesting this shift before we support the transition. Davis provided the rationale for this activity – The current licensure regulations for family providers do not address individuals keeping children under the age of 5. A certification phase was used in order 	<p>SECAC should continue this committee.</p> <p>Moving forward, the committee will continue to study the most effective practices for engaging in-home providers.</p>

	<p>to engage more providers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SECAC provided grant funds for an in-home QRIS. • The reason for the transition is because the Nurturing Homes Initiative is under the DHS. 	
Committee Reports : Health Access – Rhea Williams-Bishop	<p>Recommendation #6 – Develop and implement a process by which health access issues are addressed for children ages zero to five.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has not met; will meet to determine next steps. • PCG made recommendations and committee work is complete • Discussion around agency directors and the governor changing policy based on the recommendations from the report. Possibly have PCG present findings to House and Senate Finance Committees. 	Committee work is complete.
Motion	Dent made a motion and Davis seconded to move forward with the updated recommendations. The motion carried unanimously.	
Discussion- SECAC Bylaws, Executive Order, and 2013 Goals (continued)	<p>Council discussed a childcare advisory group composed of in-home and center providers.</p> <p>Spreitler asked how the recommendations impact licensed childcare providers. Discussion on the CDA and childcare. Renfro suggested making this a new committee.</p> <p>Bishop suggested the Council also review the Recommendations for Consideration Beyond 2011 from the 2011 Report to the Governor.</p>	
Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bishop reminded the group about Early Childhood Day at the Capitol. • Renfro discussed the marshmallow test as an indicator of children's long term success found in <u>How Children Succeed</u>. • Davis stated Resource & Referral centers expanded to Grenada and University of Mississippi. 	
Executive Session	<p>A motion was made by Boggan, and seconded by Davis, to close the meeting in order for the Council to consider going into executive session to discuss prospective litigation. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>It was announced that the Council meeting was closed and all public attendees were excused from the room, except for Jack Wilson, who remained to advise the Council on certain legal issues.</p> <p>A discussion regarding the Ethics Commission's decision ensued in executive session, but no action was taken by the Council. A motion was made by Renfro and seconded by Boggan, to return the meeting to regular session. The motion passed unanimously, and the Council returned the meeting to</p>	

	regular session.	
Public Comment	Public comment resumed after the executive session. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Boykin commented on the QRIS, in-home QRIS, and the Open Meetings Act.• Berry reminded Boykin that under section 43.1 DHS is able to set policy for an in-home QRIS.• Suel expressed desire for childcare providers to be at the table to give concerns and desires.	
Adjourn	Renfroe made a motion and Williams-Bishop seconded to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 12:32 p.m.	