

Maryland SICC

STATE INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL

Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)
Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services
Early Childhood Intervention & Education Branch
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Brenda Hussey-Gardner, Ph.D., M.P.H., Chair
Karen Larenas, M.B.A., M.Ed., Vice Chair

SICC General Meeting April 7, 2016 Minutes

- Attendance:** Valerie Ashton-Thomas, Mike Berman, Cynthia Bouchard, Nancy Egan, Curtisha Hopkins, Brenda Hussey-Gardner, Elizabeth Kelley, Miji Kim, Mary LaCasse, Karen Larenas, Rachel London, Shannon McRae, Karen Mull, Sarah Nadiv, Natasha Ramberg, and Elizabeth Snyder.
- Excused:** Janine Aughenbaugh, Cecilia Leger, Mary Leppert, Laura Barbee-Matthews, Marcella Franczkowski, Abila Tazanu-Legall, and Nancy Vorobey.
- Guests:** Wes Campbell and Jen Harwood
- Staff:** Janette Guerra, Pam Miller, Brian Morrison, and Jen Parker.

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- I. Welcome, Remarks & Introductions: Brenda Hussey-Gardner
Karen Larenas called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm.
- II. Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes: Brenda Hussey-Gardner
Participants on the phone did not have access to the minutes so Brian Morrison will email them later and if anyone has changes they can contact him. Motion to move forward with the correction that Shannon McRae was present in the Feb. 4, 2016, SICC meeting via telephone. Minutes approved with noted correction.
- III. Announcements & Public Comment
Brenda Hussey-Gardner shared information about a new collaborative program at the University of Maryland (UMD) Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Port Discovery, University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) and UMD – sponsored by PNC Bank, have created an adapted version of the Port Discovery Mother Goose on the Loose program, called Mother Goose on the Loose - Goslings, for the babies and families in the NICU. Families come to the family lounge and are taught how to respond to the baby's signals, read and gently sing to baby. Dolls and "isolettes" are used to practice in one-hour sessions and families leave with a goodie bag to share with baby. There are 20 sessions this year with a focus on early language and literacy and on the developmental readiness of baby for engaging. The first sessions are on weekends but that may be adjusted later. Each session is open to seven families (max).
- IV. SICC Report
- A. **Membership Update: Brenda Hussey-Gardner**
No new updates except that the Maryland Family Network (MFN) representative is moving along and whoever the next person is at MFN, their packet will be forwarded to replace.
- B. **SICC/LICC Joint Meeting: Karen Larenas**

St. Mary's does not have the technology to support the meeting so the joint meeting will be in Montgomery County. Planning will occur later in this meeting and at executive team meetings.

C. Legislation: Rachel London

Legislative session ends Monday at midnight. Rachel London gave updates on several bills:

- The Able Program has passed and will be established and fully running in 2017.
- Bill to translate Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)/Individualized Education Program (IEP) into native language has passed if parent requests and language is used by at least 1% of school system population.
- HB85-bill passed requiring parents to be notified of the Family Support Services in each system.
- Bill that will phase out 14C Certificates that allows employers to pay people with disabilities less than minimum wage.
- Bill passed requiring information on mediation and resources be shared with families.
- HB668/SB584 Preschool Development Grant passed. Draws down \$15 million in federal grant for two years.
- Nancy Egan - SB297 gives new definition of Habilitative Services may pass now and will require drafting a new pamphlet.
- The Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) bill went to the Conference Committee this morning.
- The Thornton Commission will look at educational funding equations. The Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program (MITP) level funded.

V. SICC Family/Provider/Local Spotlight

A. Family: Miji Kim

Miji Kim has been on the SICC for four years. She joined because of Brenda Hussey-Gardner, who she first met when her twin girls were in the NICU. One was born with Prader-Willi syndrome and the birth of her children changed the trajectory of her life. Miji Kim had been working in defense contracting. Motherhood launched the second phase of her life and was good. She began working on her PhD at 40; she likes working with families; started working at UMD with families in distress; and just passed her oral exams. She is grateful to live in a state and country that provides these services to children and families. Currently, Miji Kim is working on her dissertation, working, and travels a lot. She shared photos of her girls and said her typically developing twin is very dependent on her twin with disabilities. She has a great support system, including her parents and Brenda.

B. Provider: Valerie Ashton-Thomas

Valerie Ashton-Thomas works at MSDE in the Division of Student, Family, & School Support, as the Coordinator of the Homeless Education and Neglected & Delinquent Programs. These are prevention and intervention programs to ensure high quality education for students who are neglected, delinquent, or at risk. Valerie provided numerous of statistics on numbers of children enrolled and funding. She also spoke about the McKinney-Vento Education of Children and Youth Assistance Act. In about 2009, numbers of homeless children/families were on the rise, due in part to lack of housing and domestic violence. About 51% of those in HUD shelters were under age 6. Nationally, 1.3 million homeless students are identified in schools. In Maryland, there are 16,239 students (2013-14) and numbers continue to rise each year. Most of these

children/families are sleeping at friends' houses, in cars, camps, and motels (in MD, mostly doubling up with friends). About 17% of these receive special education services. The impact of homelessness includes increased anxiety, illness, achievement gaps, and dropouts. It leads to barriers for education. Every Local Education Agency (LEA) is required to identify a McKinney Vento Liaison to help identify and remove those barriers.

Valerie Ashton-Thomas has always worked in the early childhood field. She worked with an agency that received a grant to provide services for children with disabilities. Her youngest son began receiving services through the Howard County Infants and Toddlers Program when he was 15-16 months old. He was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in about 3rd grade and was in Howard County Public Schools until he was in 7th grade. Then he was placed in a non-public school. He loves sports and is a proud uncle. At age 18, he registered to vote and went to President Obama's inauguration. He went to prom, graduation, and got his first job at Royal Farms. She testifies, "Early intervention and parent involvement works!"

C. Local: Howard County

Jen Harwood started by giving a brief overview of where the Howard County Infants and Toddlers Program (HCITP) currently stands. They typically have ~325 active IFSPs at any given time. The number of children on the Extended Option tends to stay fairly low because there are multiple options for 3-year-olds. The staff is organized in four clusters. 40 total providers include 15 Educators, 9 SLPs, 7 OTs, 4.6 PTs, 1.2 Psychologists, and 1 Social Worker. Each of the 4 clusters have a team lead and a Cluster Coach. Last summer the HCITP took assessment out of the home. They have also been implementing the Routines-Based Early Intervention Model for about 2 years. There are about 97% of staff trained in the Routines-Based Interview (RBI) however they struggle with getting new staff trained. Also, plans to recheck for fidelity were to be every year, then every other year but it has been inconsistent at best due to time. The program is working on their Child Outcome Summary (COS) data to increase inter-rater reliability. They see the trend improving. Fidelity Checklists have been utilized to measure functional outcomes. Gathering data on the Primary Service Provider model has been challenging. It was thought that single service IFSPs could show that but the data is unclear. Use of the Home Visiting Reflective Coaching Fidelity Checklist shows that staff are doing well with that. Next steps include engaging everyone throughout any changes to help everyone understand and have input about where the program is moving and to hold each other accountable. Jen Harwood has also talked with Dathan Rush and M'Lisa Sheldon about partnering more in the future. Also, ITP teachers do Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) so she is working to involve the administration more so they understand best practices.

VI. Division of Early Childhood Development: Liz Kelley

RTT activities/money is winding down. Maryland EXCELS will continue. They have about 52% of childcare programs participating and ~1/3 have published ratings, which is a high percentage, especially since it includes family childcare programs. Maryland has high expectations for licensing. Some providers and a law firm are challenging the Developmental Screening requirement moving forward but they've had excellent feedback from those moving ahead. One family childcare center provider shared what a wonderful experience it was for her and the family to share the results of the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ). The Child Care Development Fund grant has been submitted and addresses the use of developmental screening plan to implement regulations in 2017. They will have to modify the data system EARS to be able to

upload the voluntary enrollment and screening info. To date, about 12,000 of an approximate 14,000 workforce have been trained on developmental screening.

VII. Online IFSP Enhancements: Cecilia Leger

Cecilia was unavailable. Updates to be provided at a future meeting.

VIII. MSDE Birth Through Five Updates

A. Preschool Updates: Nancy Vorobey

Jen Parker gave updates for Nancy Vorobey.

- Currently there have been ~1100 preschoolers and their families involved in the COS process and anecdotally, families feel engaged in the IEP process and the IEP team has a greater understanding of the child across settings.
- There seems to be some confusion with the LRE data, specifically the setting options. This will be addressed at the April 18th Professional Learning Institute.
- The Early Childhood Connections part of the grants allow jurisdictions to focus on up to 3 early childhood areas.
- The Access and Equity Focus Group is convening to renew a focus on inclusion. MSDE has applied to be part of an InterState Cohort and will be participating in an Inclusion Webinar. The Focus Group has ~17 members to develop Maryland's vision and then will determine long term goals. Rachel shared that there have already been decades of work already done around this and asks how this will be different. Jen said there are participants who were part of the previous work and that will be the group's starting point. They will continue to talk outside SICC.

B. Part C Updates: Brian Morrison

- Brian Morrison explained that when MD first rolled out the Extended IFSP Option, the State worked with the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) throughout the initial planning and OSEP guidance was that the MITP did not have to prepare IFSP and IEP documents and then offer to families to choose. Advocates continue to challenge this and the OSEP response has been, "What MD does is sufficient". OSEP is now saying that states have the option to prepare both documents. To ensure that families are the most knowledgeable about their transition options, a workgroup is convening April 24, 2016, to draft best practices and provide streamlined guidance for providers. There are more than 15 people from various jurisdictions participating.
- The SSIP was submitted April 1, Phase III is due April 1, 2017, and Brian Morrison is leaving next week for Phoenix to begin Phase III planning.
- Social Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (SEFEL) Coaches training was completed last month. SEFEL training for 200/300 Montgomery County providers happened this week and the additional modules for Montgomery County will be next week. The additional three SSIP jurisdictions' SEFEL training was pushed back, due to MSDE staffing issues. The first module will be May 24, the second July 20, and the third day will be a date in September, TBD.
- Reminder that SICC attendance requirements are that members must attend at least 50% of meetings each year. If that is not met, members are automatically "resigned" unless a waiver has been submitted.
- The Legislative Report is "completed" by the SICC each year and submitted to the Governor's office. Brian Morrison will have a draft to share at the joint meeting in June.
- The Legislative Booklet was given to the legislature to see data and then it was changed slightly to modify SSIP language and to include a powerful comment from

the family surveys (on page 8). It will be on the Maryland Learning Links (MLL) and MSDE websites. Rachel London expressed that it would be helpful if it was published in final version and provided to legislators prior to any budget hearings.

IX. Small Group Work

- A. SICC Bylaws Review: Brenda Hussey- Gardner
No new requirements in the 2011 regulations pertaining to SICC however it's been a long time since a review of the bylaws. Small group looked at the law and see that the list of designated members may need to be addressed. Members will complete their review and submit to Brenda Hussey-Gardner who will share at the SICC Executive Meeting. Feedback from the executive meeting will then be incorporated and changes sent to the MSDE legal team. A vote will happen at a future meeting for any changes.
- B. Joint Meeting Planning: Karen Larenas
Lots of conversation about the recommendations for topics from last month's meeting (social emotional resources, including trauma informed care). The small group tried to identify jurisdictions that are "doing it well" but it seems to be a struggle everywhere. Other ideas included having a panel to look at service connections; Cindy Bouchard shared info about a presentation done at the health department on trauma; Sara Nadiv could do a SEFEL presentation.

X. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:05pm.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Executive Meetings (1:00-3:00, MSDE) Joint Meeting (12:00-4:00, Montgomery County)

May 2, 2016

June 2, 2016