

**SICC/LICC Joint Meeting**  
**[Abundant Life Church, 7305 East Furnace Branch Road, Glen Burnie, MD 21060]**  
**May 7, 2015, 12:00-4:00 p.m.**

**Minutes**

**Attendance:** Laura Barbee Matthews, Cynthia Bouchard, Nancy Egan, Curtisha Hopkins, Marcella Franczkowski, Elizabeth Kelley, Brenda Hussey-Gardner, Miji Kim, Karen Larenas, Mary Leppert, Rachel London, Shannon McRae, Karen Mull, Amy Nicholas, Natasha Ramberg, Elizabeth Snyder, Abila Tazanu-Legall, and Nancy Vorobey.

**Excused:** Valerie Ashton-Thomas, Debbie Badawi, Mike Berman, George Failla, and Erin Stauder.

**Guests:** Melanie Adams, Paula Boykin, Beth Boyle, Wes Campbell, Debbie Crosby, Nicole Elliot, Ed Feinberg, Alyson Felder, Robin Fox, Joyce Harrison, Jen Harwood, Mary Hendricks, Jessica Henkin, Michelle Landrum, Cecelia Leger, Sharon Leyden, Sheila Myers, Miriam Robins, Robin Soul, Josie Thomas, Chelsea Tighe, and Rosalyn Wiley.

**Staff:** Brian Morrison, Pam Miller, Janette Guerra, and Dan Szczepaniak

**I. Welcome, Remarks & Introductions: Brenda Hussey-Gardner**

- Meeting called to order at 12:09 pm. Brenda announced that due to schedules of presenters, the agenda would be reorganized slightly.

**II. Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes: Brenda Hussey-Gardner**

- Committee approved the previous meeting's minutes with no amendments.

**III. Announcements & Public Comment: Lenisa Joseph, Engaging Current Graduate Students who are Future Leaders in the Field**

- Lenisa Joseph, scheduled to speak, was unable to attend so will join the SICC at a later date.
- Amy Nicholas announced that there will be an IDEA Family Outcomes Data Institute in Atlanta, GA, October 6-7, 2015. The institute is looking for inspired and/or emerging family leaders who have been or are in Birth-5 early intervention programs to participate. Institute will teach how to collect data, privacy practices, etc. Brian will receive more info by email and disseminate to LITP's. There will also be scholarships for the DEC Conference to be held in conjunction.
- Brian acknowledged the contributions of Sharon Leyden from Prince George's County as the LITP transitions from the County Health Dept. to the PG County Public Schools, effective July 1, 2015.
- Brenda thanked Anne Arundel County for hosting the Joint Meeting.

**IV. SICC Report**

**A. Membership Updates & New Nominations: Brenda Hussey-Gardner**

- Brenda shared who the current SICC members are and where there are vacancies (current & future). Currently there are two State Agency openings. Brenda suggested Mary La Casse be nominated as the DHMH State Partner. Natasha Ramberg nominated her, the committee voted and unanimously passed to forward to the Governor's office for approval. Amy Nicholas also nominated Cecilia Leger for the Personnel Preparation slot that Amy was

vacating beginning July 1, 2015. Cecilia accepted the nomination, the committee voted and passed unanimously to forward to the Governor's office.

- Future SICC meeting dates announced:

Executive Meetings (1:00-3:00, MSDE)

June 4, 2015  
August, 27, 2015  
November 12, 2015  
January 7, 2016  
March 17, 2016  
May 5, 2016

General Meetings (1:00-4:00, CTE)

October 1, 2015  
December 3, 2015  
February 4, 2016  
April 7, 2016  
Joint Meeting (12:00-4:00, TBD)  
June 2, 2016

**B. Legislative Update: Rachel London**

- Rachel passed out a Legislative Overview (April 2015) handout that summarized the 90-day session. She highlighted the DDA Budget, saying it passed the General Assembly adding back \$3M for people on waiting lists however the Governor still has to assign the money and he has until August 1<sup>st</sup> to do so. In regards to the MSDE budget, the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program received level funding and the Autism Waiver received an increase in funding but not in the number of children to be served. She also highlighted: the Maryland ABLE Act passed into law allowing individuals with disabilities to build savings for qualified disability expenses; the Early Childhood Education Master Plan passed to address the shortage of qualified ECE teachers and child care providers and; the Translation of IEPs/IFSPs failed to pass.

**C. Update on Survey for Federal Application: Amy Nicholas**

- Amy summarized that the respondents of the survey were from 21 different roles and there were only 5 very general comments about the application. Brian explained the process and shared that they typically do not change the Federal Application much from one year to the next because funding remains fairly consistent. This year there was an additional \$133,000 and MSDE looked at either splitting it among the local jurisdictions or keeping it at the MSDE for training and decided it would be better used for statewide training initiatives. Local LITP Directors were polled and agreed.

**V. RTT-ELCG & Preschool Expansion: Liz Kelley**

- This is the last year of RTT funding and things are wrapping up so there are no more monthly updates. Current efforts are on R4K, Maryland EXCELS, and assessments. 80% of subsidy providers are engaged.
- The Guide to Early Childhood Pedagogy is complete.
- The Workforce Competency Framework is at the printers.
- Wrapping up the Developmental Screening program and in the process of training child care providers on approved screening tools (ASQ, Brigance Screen, Best Beginnings, Speed DIAL, ESIR). As part of the application process, MSDE will pay for the screening tool requested on the application. Child care providers will be required to screen all children birth to the start of Kindergarten, twice per year with parent involvement. The group had a discussion about the professional development follow up around conversations with parents around the sensitive nature of screening findings. The licensing agency and QA monitoring will be responsible for following up on best practice implementation and PD issues.

**VI. MSDE Birth Through Five Updates**

**A. Preschool Updates—What's Happening & What's Coming: Nancy Vorobey**

- One-hour webinar on May 15<sup>th</sup> will provide more updates on all of the following:

### **1. COS for Preschool**

- 7/1/15 implementation for preschool children with initial/entry IEPs. Children already with entry IEPs and using Work Sampling will continue until exiting and use Work Sampling as exit criteria.

### **2. Preschool IEP**

- 7/1/15 implementation. One-day trainings on June 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> for all local jurisdictions.

### **3. Early Learning Assessment**

- R4K selected content aligned to the 3 broad child outcomes to inform the COS process that becomes available 7/1/15.
- May 19<sup>th</sup> is the public release of the 1<sup>st</sup> KRA Statewide Administrative Results
- August-September will be ELA Training of Trainers

### **4. Making Access Happen**

- Current updates will be discussed.

## **B. Part C Updates: Brian Morrison**

### **1. Hearing Aid Loan Bank**

- State statutes (x 12 years) have required loaning hearing aids to families until they are able to get their own and needs to be added to the state regulations. Contact Marsye Kaplan at marsye.kaplan@maryland.gov for additional information or to comment on proposed regulations.

### **2. Birth Through Five Staffing Update**

- Janette Guerra is moving from monitoring and compliance to programmatic position. This still leaves one vacancy in the Early Education Programmatic Support and Technical Assistance Branch. Brian thanked the group for their patience and understanding as the MSDE has handled staffing shortages.

### **3. Continuous Year Round Services**

- There have been issues in several jurisdictions. A complaint was filed at the MSDE and was found “not actionable” because the complainant could not find children who didn’t receive services. The complaint was then submitted to OSEP and still found “not actionable.” In response to concerns, the MSDE required all jurisdictions to submit their plan for the provision of year-round services by April 1, 2015.

### **4. Increase in Referrals Secondary to Developmental Screening in Childcare Settings Best Beginnings in Childcare Settings, Parent & Provider Findings: Brenda Hussey-Gardner**

- Study explored the BBDS and BBFQ validity when used by childcare providers. Fifty-four providers from 30 centers across the state received one day of training then split into two groups, one looking at validity and one at feasibility. Most providers said the screening was easy to use, they would make referrals if there were concerns, and that they would complete the screenings twice a year. The BBDS referred 15% and 7.7% of children screened were found eligible for early intervention services. The BBFQ referred 27% and

7.9% were later found eligible. Another pilot study to look at the ASQ in home-based child-care will be done in the future.

## **VII. Presentations**

### **A. Special Olympics Birth to Five Initiative: Nate Garland**

- Materials were distributed and an overview of the program provided. The Young Athletes Program has been in communities for 7-8 years. Special Olympics wants parents to know their child is capable and the program is working on embedding in daily curriculum of PreK programs. This was described as a new opportunity to close the Kindergarten Readiness gap. The program provides kits to be used by PT's or other providers to bring in to home/programs and then would direct families to website for additional activities.
- The overview and program surveys show that:
  - Participation in Special Olympics positive impacts social and employment opportunities; and
  - Sports encouraged in early childhood are usually on the playground and includes social inclusion.

### **B. Making Access Happen: Panel Presentation**

- Representatives from Anne Arundel, Washington, and Harford Counties shared their local implementation of Making Access Happen grants. Each county provided a handout with description of the least restrictive environment (LRE) efforts, which included collaborative partnerships, reflective coaching, and the routines based interview (RBI) process.

### **C. Pediatricians & Social-Emotional Development: Mary Leppert & Joyce Harrison**

#### **1. RTTT-ELCG Efforts Regarding Social-Emotional Screening for Pediatricians in Maryland**

- Mary and Joyce discussed the Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) phone consultation for pediatricians, ECMH training for primary care providers (PCPs), mapped resources for pediatricians across the state, and the need for lots of work around trauma informed care. Their goal was to enroll 20 pediatricians/PCP's and currently there are about 550 enrolled.

#### **2. AAP recommendation for screening behavior & emotional problems in preschoolers**

- Mary and Joyce discussed the February 2015 American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Clinical Report, which showed that 11-20% of US children have a behavior/emotional (B/E) disorder and that less than 50% with significant B/E problems are detected. A study with 3169 children 6-36 months old found 711 (22.4%) scored above risk cutoff, and that 32% of parents of children receiving Part C services report difficulty w/behaviors but few receive treatment.

### **D. DSE/EIS Updates: Marcella Franczkowski, Assistant State Superintendent DSE/EIS**

- Marcella provided an annual DSE/EIS update. Bullet points included:
  - The DSE/EIS is in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the Strategic Plan;
  - The MSDE DSE/EIS Organization chart was shared;

- The Division lost 2 PINS (permanent positions) so there had to be a reorganization of staff ;
- Glen Grayman will be doing all of the Part C fiscal work formerly done by Claudette Harvey;
- The DSE/EIS uses a Statewide Differentiated Framework and currently there are 2 LITPs in Targeted support. The work has shifted to become more TA and PD for local providers;
- The DSE/EIS has two State Systemic Improvement Plans (SSIPs), one for Part C and one for Part B. The State Identified Measurable Results (SIMR) for Part C is for improved social emotional skills and for Part B is improvement in math;
- The DSE/EIS is making enhancements to the Online IFSP like building online referral system for anyone to more easily make a referral to the program:
- The MITP just released a revisers version of its Personnel Standards Guide/Suitable Qualifications Guide; and
- There is celebratory data including LRE increases at age three and increases in Graduation Rate - closing the gap!

#### **E. SSIP Updates: Brian Morrison & Pam Miller**

(The SSIP updates were not given due to lack of time)

#### **F. Online IFSP Enhancement – Cecilia Leger**

- Online referrals should be up and running by about February 2016 and will open another avenue for families and communities to reach LITP's; also will give information about MITP/LITP's and child development; Cecilia requesting input about what it should look like.
- Parent Portal – moves beyond access to the IFSTP and takes information gathered from the family and gives back useful information. For providers, it will give more case management resources.
- Parents can contact Cecilia at [cleger@jhu.edu](mailto:cleger@jhu.edu) to provide feedback and inform the process of building the online resources.
- Question from the group about how the pediatric community will know about the online referral capabilities. Cecilia and Brian said there are strategic partnerships in place to help spread the word. There will also be a link in the Maryland Physicians Guide and CLIGS will require how locals will help with the process. Brian shared that DHMH has money to make sure the online referral is state of the art, not just basic. Because of the requirements of the DHMH money, much of the building of the online referral will need to be complete by Sept. 30, 2015.

**VIII. Adjourned at 4:10 pm.**