**SICC/LICC Joint Meeting**

**May 25, 2017**

**Minutes**

**Attendance:** Valerie Ashton-Thomas, Mike Berman, Cynthia Bouchard, Margo Candelaria, Marcella Franczkowski (proxy), Jessica Henkin, Curtisha Hopkins, Brenda Hussey-Gardner, Miji Kim, Mary LaCasse, Karen Larenas, Mary Leppert, Shannon McRae, Karen Mull, Linette Rivera, FloJean Speck and Abila Tazanu-Legall.

**Excused:** Nancy Egan, Elizabeth Kelley, Cecilia Leger, Rachel London, Natasha Ramberg, and Elizabeth Snyder.

**Guests:** Melanie Adams, Christa Bellanca, Paula Boykin, Stacey Bundy, Nadia Burts, Wes Campbell, Nicol Elliott, Robin Fox, Flora Gee, Kathy Kauffmann, Sheila Maness, Lynne Markowitz, Nina McNealey, Sheila Myers, Dawneida Patterson, MaryAnn Richmond, Nancy Robitaille, Robyn Soul, and Rhonda White-Yakoub.

**Staff:** Janette Guerra, Marsye Kaplan, Pam Miller, Brian Morrison, Jennifer Parker, and Nancy Vorobey.

# Welcome, Remarks & Introductions: Brenda Hussey-Gardner

Brenda called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM. Introductions were made in person and on the phone.

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

March 2, 2017 minutes were reviewed. No comments from the audience. Motion to accept was made and minutes were accepted.

# Announcements & Public Comment: Brenda Hussey-Gardner

Brenda was approached by a pediatric practice regarding families going directly to a helmet company bypassing the pediatrician for treatment of plagiocephaly. Sometimes, families have received this advice from an ITP therapist. In order to obtain a helmet the family needs to obtain a prescription for the child’s pediatrician and approval is needed from the insurance company. In addition, there are guidelines regarding when a helmet is indicated and when it is not. As such, it is important to encourage families to discuss their child’s plagiocephaly and to determine if a helmet is the best treatment option. Three articles regarding the efficacy of helmets and guidelines for usage will be emailed to SICC.

1. Sharpening the Focus for 2020, Birth to K Presentation: Marcella Franczkowski, Assistant State Superintendent, MSDE, Division of Special Education/Early Intervention (SE/EI) Services

Marcella expressed appreciation to each attendee for the work they are doing, relating the importance of the State and Local Interagency Coordinating Councils’ voice and work. She also recognized the Councils importance in advising the State’s birth to kindergarten system of services. The presentation covered several topics:

* 1. Strategic Plan: Sharpen the Focus for 2020 – Expresses the importance of moving to a full implementation mode with the expectation that our locals mirror our work, including:
     + What does SE/EI need to do to narrow the gap? How do we change the trajectory and rate of growth for the child?
     + Three Imperatives
       - * Early childhood
         * Secondary transition
         * Access, equity, progress
       - Five Key Strategies
         * Evidence-based practices
         * Professional learning
         * Strategic collaboration
         * Family partnerships
         * Data-informed decisions
  2. Child Counts
     + MITP serves almost 18,000 children each year and has grown 3.7% since last year. The Extended IFSP Option provides services to over 1,000 children per year.
     + There has been a 4.5% increase in children receiving preschool special education services this year compared to last year. This population represents 6% of total preschool-age population.
  3. Service delivery
     + - Sitting in an environment is not the same as participation and engagement. Children should be involved in all activities and have full access to developmental guidelines and age level curriculum.
       - Decisions should be made by looking at developmental level and chronological age, as well as family concerns and priorities.
       - The State has seen positive changes in the least restrictive environment (LRE) for preschool students.
         * The focus this year is on getting 3-4 year olds in the LRE with the awareness that there is a continuum of services.
       - The strongest predictor of school success is the relationship between family and school.
  4. Impact Data
     + - By 3rd grade 68% of children who received services in MITP were in general education.
       - By 6th grade 71% of children who received services in MITP were in general education.
         * MITP family outcome data are at all-time highs. At least 97% of families reported that MITP helped them:

Know their rights,

Communicate their children’s needs, and

Help their children develop and learn.

* 1. Legislative Session Review and Summary
     + - SB710
         * Impact on IEP teams, family engagement and involvement.

Parent signature required when an IEP team proposes to:

Enroll the child in an alternative education program that does not issue or provide credits towards a Maryland High School Diploma,

Identify the child for the alternative education assessment aligned with the State’s alternative curriculum, and/or

Include restraint or seclusion on the IEP.

* + - HB1061
      * Requires the MSDE to update guidelines to accommodate, safeguard, and evacuate individuals with disabilities on public school grounds.
      * Requires school systems to update the school’s emergency plan based on departmental guidelines,
      * Requires a student’s IEP to include accommodations for the student during an emergency.
    - SB651
      * Prohibits the suspension or expulsion of prekindergarten, kindergarten, first grade, or second grade students from public schools with exceptions.
  1. State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)
     + - The focus for Part C is social emotional development.
         * Four jurisdictions are participating: Frederick, Cecil, Howard, and Montgomery counties.
         * The goal is to create a model that will be rolled-out statewide.
         * Marcella acknowledged the work of the SICC Task Force on Social Emotional Development.
  2. Tools
     + - Revised IFSP and Online IFSP with a laser focus on authentic assessment.
       - Preschool component on the IEP integrates COS into the IEP, just like the IFSP.
  3. ELA
     + - Guidance forthcoming as a result of the ELA webinar.

There will be flexibility in the choice to implement

* 1. Regionalization for Results
     + - Operationalizing the process
       - Identifying five local regions
       - Co-planning to inform State/local work
       - Implementing TA
         * Responsive customer service
         * Differentiated PL
  2. Professional Learning Opportunities (PLOs): October 2017
     + - Early Childhood
       - $1.7 million to support
         * TAP-IT, coaching, authentic assessment, SEFEL, and other evidence-based practices

Full day

Follow up coaching and TA

* + - * + Policy/Practice/Procedures Guidelines

1. SICC Report: Brenda Hussey-Gardner
   1. Proposed meeting dates for FFY 2017/SFY 2018 were reviewed.
   2. Membership update was provided:
      * Opening for State legislator.
      * Nominated Margo Candelaria to replace Sarah Nadiv (resigned) in personnel preparation.
      * Opening for Head Start representative.

Legislation: Since Legislation was covered in Marcella’s presentation, the committee was referred to the handout from Rachel in the packet. Rachel was unable to attend as she is addressing issues related the removal of the DD Council budget from the proposed federal budget.

1. Division of Early Childhood Development (DECD): Brenda Hussey-Gardner
   1. Liz Kelley could not attend so updates were provided by Brenda.
   2. The following updates were given:

* DECD continues to work on revising the regulations and complying with the changes required by the CCDF.
* DECD is working on four reports mandated by legislation passed this year:
  + Two reports concerning child care subsidy reimbursement rates and methodology,
  + One report regarding dispute resolution process, policies and procedures, and
  + One report on Universal PreK.
* DECD is also finalizing their Suspension and Expulsion Policy for early childhood programs.  The State Early Childhood Advisory Council will be reviewing and, hopefully, approving the policy at their next meeting in June.

1. MSDE Birth to Kindergarten Updates
   * + Preschool updates were provided by Nancy Vorobey. The EC team is finalizing the 5th Parent Information Series document: Guide to Preschool Special Education Services.
       - The document will be posted on Maryland Learning Links (MLL).
       - MSDE will send out an announcement when it is ready.
     + There will also be a 6th Parent Information Series document on Transitions.
     + Within the next month there should be a revised technical assistance bulletin (TAB) on LREs.
   1. MITP updates were provided by Brian Morrison.
      * + The DSE/EIS is currently engaged in grant reviews for LITPs, local school systems (LSSs), institutes of higher education (IHEs), and private agencies.
        + The EC Team is looking at hiring national experts for this year’s professional learning and giving locals the option to utilize their discretionary funds to contract with them, including:
          - Sheldon and Rush, and
          - Naomi Youngren.
        + SEFEL Roll out
          - Continuing into Phase three for FFY 2017/SFY 2018
          - Margo Candelaria has stepped in to Sarah Nadiv’s position,
          - Part of RBI Refresher in August will be devoted to RBI coaches as well.
        + The Revised IFSP is currently in draft form.

A significant goal of the revision is to differentiate between evaluation for eligibility for the program and assessment for IFSP development.

The EC Team is working with JHU/CTE to incorporate changes into the online version of the IFSP.

* + - * FFY 2017 Funding Allocation
        + Estimated Federal allocation is 1% less than last year.

This will not impact any grant funding for locals.

It impacts MITP’s ability to have new initiatives.

* + - * Community Compass Webinar

There will be a webinar on June 8th in preparation for the rollout.

Field test/pilot with UMD NICU and NICU Follow-Up Program as referral sources once ready.

1. Presentation: Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH)
   1. The Critical Role of Social-Emotional Development in Early Childhood: Brian Morrison & Nancy Vorobey
      * + - Nancy and Brian provided background and rationale for the State’s focus on social-emotional development.
          - An overview of ELA and Part C SSIP was provided for context.
   2. Frequency of Mental Health Disorders in Childhood & Diagnostic Overshadowing: Mary Leppert
      * The presentation provided a focus on how behavior disorders often co-occur with developmental delays and disabilities.
      * Other highlights of the presentation included:
        + - Co-occurrence of disabilities is high: 25-40% of children with developmental disorders also have mental health/behavior diagnosis.
        + There is a 2 to 4-year gap between symptoms and diagnosis.
        + Approximately 12% of children in MD have behavior, emotional, or developmental (BED) disorders – approximately 20% of children under seven.
        + Eastern Shore and Western MD parents request training since resources are scarce.
        + Seeing more referrals/concerns for atypical behavior.
        + Growing gap between need for behavior/developmental specialists and the supply.
          - Baltimore City is the only area in MD with sufficient provider supply.
        + Consequences of no action
          - Missed or untreated BED disorders,

Inappropriate service provision,

Ineffective services,

Inappropriate or ineffective medications,

Academic underachievement,

Grade retention, and

School failure.

* + - A copy of Mary’s presentation will be emailed to all SICC members.

1. ECMH Task Force—Overview & Priorities: Sarah Nadiv
   1. Sarah reviewed the process and progress to date.
2. ECMH Small Workgroups: How do we begin to address Silos, Stigma & Screening within ECMH at the local and state level from birth to kindergarten?
   1. Small groups engaged in discussions to brainstorm issues and solutions related to silos, stigma, and screening.
   2. Small group suggestions were shared out with the entire committee.
3. Adjournment at 4:04

*UPCOMING MEETINGS:*

Executive Meetings (1:00-3:00, MSDE) General Meetings (1:00-4:00, CTE)

August 3, 2017 September 14, 2017

October 5, 2017 November 2, 2017

December 7, 2017 January 11, 2018

February 1, 2018 March 1, 2018

April 5, 2018

May 3, 2018 Joint Meeting (10:00-2:00, TBD)

June 7, 2018