

**SICC General Meeting  
January 12, 2017  
Minutes**

- Attendance:** Valerie Ashton-Thomas, Mike Berman, Marcella Franczkowski, Curtisha Hopkins, Brenda Hussey-Gardner, Elizabeth Kelley, Mary LaCasse, Karen Larenas, Cecilia Leger, Mary Leppert, Rachel London, Sarah Nadiv, Natasha Ramberg, Linette Rivera, and FloJean Speck.
- Excused:** Laura Barbee-Matthews, Cynthia Bouchard, Nancy Egan, Miji Kim, Shannon McRae, Karen Mull, Elizabeth Snyder, and Abila Tazanu-Legall..
- Guests:** Michele Baisey, Anna Benshoof, Wes Campbell, Robin Fox, Tyrinda Griffin-Jackson, Jen Harwood, Jessica Henkin, Diane McGowen, Dawniela Patterson, Lisa Reeves, MaryAnn Richmond, Gloria Valentine, and TaYaundra Wood
- Staff:** Janette Guerra, Pam Miller, Brian Morrison, Jennifer Parker, and Nancy Vorobey.

- 
- I. Welcome, Remarks & Introductions: Brenda Hussey-Gardner  
Brenda called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Introductions were made in person and on the phone.
  - II. Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes: Brenda Hussey-Gardner  
November 10, 2016, minutes were reviewed. No questions or comments. Motioned made to approve as written. Group voted on and approved as presented. Any future corrections can be sent to Brenda Hussey-Gardner.
  - III. Announcements & Public Comment  
No announcements.
  - IV. SICC Report
    - A. General Updates: Brenda Hussey-Gardner
      - Discussion of establishing an ECMH task force to foster collaborations between ECMH, EI, ECSE, based on the work that came out of the last SICC meeting. Next steps would be for the group to review the charts started at the Nov. 2016 meeting and make recommendations for Task Force actions.
      - Brian proposed a changing the Joint Meeting time to 10:00-2:00, based on feedback from last year. No questions or comments from the group. The motion was voted on and approved.

- B. Legislative Updates: Rachel London
- Legislative Session started yesterday (Jan. 11, 2017) and continues for 90 days, until April 11, 2017. There are not a lot of actual bills to present due to the session just beginning. Some bills that are known to be coming include the Governor releasing the budget 1/18 and budget hearing dates on 2/23 & 3/6 the DECD and 8<sup>th</sup> Aid to Education Budgets (which includes MITP budget).
  - Additional bills/activities in the works:
    - Legislative Black Caucus voted on priorities – suspension and expulsion PreK-2<sup>nd</sup>
    - Child care dispute resolution – what formal steps can families take when they feel they have been discriminated against (good bill for families and providers)
    - Universal PreK – building capacity
    - Parent Consent – to ensure affirmative consent in IEPs, 5 provisions from last year, one removed for this year’s version
    - KRA – may be something about timelines in relation to later school start dates
  - Developmental Disabilities Day at the legislature is 2/23, register online at [thearcmd.org](http://thearcmd.org)
- V. SICC Family/Provider/Local Spotlight
- A. Family: Anna Benshoof
- Before Anna became a parent, she was a family law attorney for 11 years and then was appointed to the circuit court. On Oct. 11, 2012, her life changed with triplets being born at 25 weeks gestation – 3 boys! One baby only lived a few hours, the other two had significant health issues and were in the hospital several months. One was discharged in Feb. 2013 and the other in June 2013. Babies came home with monitors, lists of appointments, NICU follow ups, and working on OT and PT. Anna is grateful for the ITP coming to the hospital to let them know what EI was because she did not know or have any idea of these services. She shared how one baby had more severe lung disease, a trachea and g-tube and was in and out of the hospital until he passed away that first year. Anna described how her son “trudged” on and developed skills with the support of OT and PT and how they chose to stay on the Extended IFSP option when he was three. He continues to get speech accommodations at school and is doing great! They have found a program in Baltimore City that is perfect for him. She shared several pictures of her beautiful babies. Anna says it’s been quite a journey with lots of therapists. It’s been an interesting road being on the parent side. She resigned from her job when the babies came home and now that her son is starting school, she is again wondering about career choices now.

- B. Provider: Cindy Bouchard  
Cindy has been in early childhood education for 15 years. She started not knowing about it and was in school for elementary education and transferred to early childhood when a teach encouraged her. She interviewed at Anne Arundel Public Schools, signed a contract for 2 years in middle and high school split. This gave her interesting perspective. She had been in contact with Ed over two years and then took a job with early intervention. She is now the program manager and does miss being a provider. She loves to continue to do observations with staff and likes to jump in and model. Recently becoming a new parent also brings new perspectives. She noticed that her infant had torticollis and asked the pediatrician about it, who told her not to worry and to just wait. She knew better and contacted the ITP and asked for an evaluation. Cindy shared that often providers have preconceived notions about parents and now as a parent she realizes that the parent perspective is been the best thing for her professionally and makes her a better provider and leader.
- C. Local: BITP-Gloria Valentine  
Gloria has been with the Baltimore City Infants and Toddlers Program for 12 years, first as a service coordinator and then as an administrator. The most influential person in her life has been her daughter. Her daughter was born premature and weighted 2 lbs, 6 oz and she didn't know what to do at the time. Her experience with the ITP changed her life. Recently when the BCITP director retired, she saw it as an opportunity for the BCITP to grow and change. They started with a Strategic Plan that impacts family. They brought in school readiness consultants to strengthen the perspective of the value of IFSPs not merely being baby IEPs. They wanted to hear: from families what they were doing well; from partners what is working, what needs to be different. They are in the process of reviewing the data and conducting literature reviews and will then start implementation. They are looking at a lean developmental process (manufacturing process term) to look at timeline processes and what they are doing. They took 5 days away from work to ask the "why" questions and what will make it work better. The City government is challenging them to look at what can be improved. It's OK to ask questions – no matter how long we've been doing something – a fresh perspective is always helpful!
- VI. Division of Early Childhood Development: Liz Kelley
- KRA - Results of KRA released at Dec. board meeting- 8 jurisdictions completed census, the rest used sampling. The gap is alarming for children with disabilities. DECD is hoping jurisdictions will use the data and hoping that the legislation will open window for KRRA administration, given the later school start times.

- Question about the integrity of the data if only sampling. Liz explained that the definition of the sampling as described from the analytics team ensures validity of the data.
  - Developmental Screening – looking at July 1, 2017 start date; training for the majority of providers has occurred and tools have been disseminated; providers worried that parents think they will be making diagnoses.
    - Question if pediatricians are prepared to receive screening results and concern that they might not be familiar with tools. Liz explained that the RTT money allowed for training of pediatricians on tools. Also clarified that the plan is for providers to share results with parents and then parents would f/u with doctors or referrals if they chose. Brenda shared thoughts on writing an article for the MD Academy of Pediatrics. Comment from audience – parents don't always know so people at hospitals should be trained on screenings and services.
  - RTT Early Learning Grant finishing up.
  - Final process of Family Engagement document.
- VII. National Part C Survey  
Lahila-Carina Ojeda, Pediatric Resident, University of Maryland School of Medicine  
Dr. Ojeda unable to attend due to covering ER. She will present at the March SICC. If unavailable then, Brenda will present the information.
- VIII. Break
- IX. MSDE Birth to Kindergarten: Nancy Vorobey & Brian Morrison
- Brian said that MSDE received the State Application for Federal Part C Funds and that it is usually posted about this time. He is hoping to have it posted for public comment by the end of January. SICC typically completes a survey for input. Brenda and Natasha will work on that.
  - Grants for LITPs (CLIG) and Part B to request funds webinar on March 8, 2017.
  - IHE Grants webinar March 22, includes non-LSS grants.
  - Part B disproportionality regulations came out; federal government has allowed states to choose their methods and processes for identifying disproportionality; have set limits to N size (0-30), and cell size (up to 10); good risk ratio is 2.0; will apply to preschool special education. Regulations have to be in place by 7/1/18 and implemented by 7/1/20.
  - SSIP Phase III report due 4/1/17. A draft will be provided to SICC for review as part of the March agenda. New State SSIP Coordinator is Jennifer Dale from Worcester County. Evergreen Contractors (out of Vermont) have been hired as SSIP Evaluators.
  - The B-K Booklet shared. It is organized by the 3 population groups in the B-K system and each has the following topics: Services, Funding, and Results. MSDE would like to update the family stories more often so will

be asking for stories from providers. A pdf of the booklet will be sent to SICC group.

X. Annual Performance Review—Data Sharing & Stakeholder Feedback: Brian Morrison

Brian provided preliminary 7/1/15-6/30/16, data to SICC. He explained the shift in Indicator 3 data, the recheck of data from CTE and at the local level, all indicating data was correct. Survey to locals and data analysis suggests that the change in methodology for preschool adopting COS, which included training of B-K staff and change in Part C exit and Part B entry rating procedures. The federal OSEP allows for change in targets when new methodology is involved, so Brian proposed a change to the targets for the April 1 submission. SICC members in agreement.

XI. Every Student Succeeds Act Update: Marcella Franczkowski

- Marcella started with describing a new TA delivery system from the DSE/EIS that begins with the Assistant State Superintendent traveling across the state for regional listening forums. She will ask locals about the three imperatives (early childhood, access & equity, and secondary transition) and what is going well, what are challenges, and what can the State do to sharpen the focus for implementation.
- Listening tours for ESSA continue around the state. Questions are asked for reflection and then attendees rotate to facilitated questions. Participants should read the plan prior to attending. The MD State Plan, Executive Summary & Survey for each section is available for review and people are encouraged to share it with families, leaders, and community partners for feedback. ESSA captures the need for differentiation in teaching and emphasized accountability. The final State plan will be submitted September 18<sup>th</sup>, and because it is a serious accountability document will go through the governor and the legislature.

XII. Community Compass—Stakeholder Feedback: Cecilia Leger

Today's plan was to allow SICC members to use the computer lab at CTE to create an acct and "test" the Community Compass but time did not allow for it. Members will do it at another time. So Cecilia reminded the group that the CC is an online referral for the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program that allows anyone in the community to create an account and make referrals.

XIII. Adjournment at 3:55

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Executive Meetings (1:00-3:00, Phone)  
February 2, 2017  
April 6, 2017

General Meetings (1:00-4:00, CTE)  
March 2, 2017  
Joint Meeting (10:00-2:00)  
May 4, 2017—Host: BITP  
Hearing & Speech Agency

# Maryland SICC

STATE INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL

Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)  
Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services  
Early Childhood Intervention & Education Branch  
200 W. Baltimore Street, 9th floor, Baltimore, MD 21201  
(410) 767-0261

Brenda Hussey-Gardner, Ph.D., M.P.H., Chair  
Karen Larenas, M.B.A., M.Ed., Vice Chair

---

5900 Metro Drive  
Baltimore, MD 21215