

SICC General Meeting
September 14, 2023
1:00pm-3:30pm
Minutes

Location: This was a virtual meeting.

In attendance: Wendy Baber, Rachel Bonas, Meagan Clemence, Don Corbin, Beth Fagan, , Tara Finkel, Elizabeth Hall, Mary Jo Harris, Patricia Julianelle, Wendy Keen, Keight Kennedy, Cecilia Leger, Cyndi Lessner, Rachel London, Jill Lyons, Marie Marino, Sonya McElroy, Rebecca Miller, Jeni Murphy, Tatiana Owens, Kristen Paul, Tony Pegram, Andrew Pollock, Jennifer Riccardi, Sarah Sherry, Erin Simmons, FloJean Speck, Jeni Stepanek, Tanika Thomas, Christy Tirrell-Corbin, Gloria Valentine

I. Welcome, Remarks & Introductions: Erin Simmons

II. Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes: Erin Simmons

- Minutes approved without revisions

III. Announcements & Public Comment

- Nothing to report

IV. SICC Report

A. Updates: Brenda Hussey-Gardner —not present

B. Member Spotlight: Sarah Sherry, Parent Member

C. Legislative Updates: Eric Ebersole —not present

D. SICC Report

1. PIE Update: Brenda Hussey-Gardner —not present
2. Technology Task Force Update: FloJean Speck
 - No report
3. Nominations: Kristen Paul
 - Erin Simmons to represent MSDE EI and PSSE – approved unanimously
4. IECMH Task Force Update: Donald Corbin
 - FY 24 grantees have been notified
 - Secondary study (UMD) is in implementation stage

V. Division of Early Childhood Updates: Donald Corbin (12:05-12:15)

- Training Conference on November 3
- Enhanced childcare support (closes October 3)
- Encouraged subscribing to Tuesday Tidbits

VI. Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services (DEI/SES) Early Childhood State Update: Erin Simmons

- New performance specialist: Meagan Clemence
 - One position still open (MSDE website has details)
- Early Childhood Updates
 - Part C SSIP grant released September 13
 - LEAs may apply, goal is 2-4 new jurisdictions
 - 3 customer service sessions

VII. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program – Joint Meeting Follow-Up: Erin Simmons and Kristen Paul

- Access to early intervention is a civil right under IDEA
- Need to address disproportionate discipline (screening, referral, identification, outcomes)
- Disparities start early; factors include race, economic status, disabilities
- Importance of racial/ethnic match educators to children/families
- Equity is a priority under Blueprint – we need to eradicate the achievement gaps
- There is no DEI statement for MSDE DEI/SES
- From the SICC/LICC Joint Meeting (June 2023): Is there a need for a SICC Task Force for DEI in order to explore and formulate an approach to these topics or should we embed DEI in all initiatives?
- MSDE DEI/SES “ask”: Assist in the development of DEI statement for early childhood
 - 2-3 sentence statement
 - Shared NAEYC statement
- Breakout groups to discuss the following questions:
 - Should the SICC assist MSDE by proposing a DEI statement for the birth to 5 early intervention system?
 - If the SICC moves forward with proposing a DEI statement, how should we proceed?
 - DEI Taskforce
 - Special in-person meeting
 - Devoting 15 minutes of each SICC meeting to this effort
 - Other
- All breakout groups were unanimous in desire to propose a DEI statement for the birth to five early intervention system
 - Survey results: 3 groups wanted to establish a DEI Taskforce
 - 6 groups responded with Other, with the following comments:
 - DEI taskforce with a trained DEI facilitator who can promote authentic and vulnerable conversations in a safe space
 - Believes a statement is nice and necessary, but it should include not only the problem and overriding hope and goal, but also 3 to 5 specific strategies and timelines for moving forward
 - A combo – a taskforce to do initial draft and then input during the 15 minutes of SICC
 - Hybrid (virtual/in-person option)
 - A special meeting with a virtual option for those who want to be part of the meeting to participate
 - A small group with a diverse representation of stakeholders that will collect and compile resources, samples, etc. and present an organized

structure and starting point, which can be shared to the larger group for input. Could be shared in writing between SICC meetings for notes and comments, then presented in person during dedicated time in an SICC meeting.

- You would not need to be a voting member to join a task force (were one to be started) – reach out to Kristen Paul or Brenda Hussey-Gardner if you would be interested in participating should this work move forward.
- Executive Committee will meet to discuss how to proceed/next steps

VIII. Community Portal Updates: Cecilia Leger

- Community Portal will be called Pinwheel
- Pinwheel (what is complete) demonstrated to meeting participants
- Stakeholder feedback in progress

IX. Wrap-Up & Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 2:50PM

SICC UPCOMING MEETINGS

November 2, 2023: General meeting, 1-3:30pm

December 7, 2023: Executive meeting, virtual, 1-2pm

January 4, 2024: General meeting (APP/APR presentation), 1-3:30pm

February 1, 2024: Executive meeting, virtual, 1-2pm

March 4, 2024 (Monday to accommodate legislative session): General meeting, 1-3:30pm

April 4, 2024: Executive meeting, virtual, 1-2pm

May 2, 2024: Executive meeting, virtual, 1-2pm

June 6, 2024: Joint Meeting, 10am-2pm