

Maryland SICC

STATE INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL

Maryland State Department of Education
Division of Early Intervention & Special Education Services
200 W. Baltimore Street, 9th floor, Baltimore, MD 21201
(410) 767-0261
Brenda Hussey-Gardner, PhD, MPH, Chair
Kristen Paul, Vice-Chair

SICC General Meeting—Virtual
March 4, 2024 (Monday)
1:00-3:30pm
DRAFT Minutes

Location: This was a virtual meeting

In attendance: Karen Baumeister, Cynthia Bouchard, Pamela Bush-Jones, Meagan Clemence, Molly Conner, Don Corbin, Eric Ebersole, Megan Fleury, Elizabeth Hall, Jill Harris, Mary Jo Harris, Jennifer Harwood, Marny Helfrich, Antoine Hickman, Brenda Hussey-Gardner, Patricia Julianelle, Keight Kennedy, Bonnie Kinsey, Cecilia Leger, Rosa Lily, Kristen Paul, Sarah Sherry, FloJean Speck, Jeni Stepanek, Christy Tirrell-Corbin, Anna Maria Wilms-Floet

- I. Welcome, Remarks & Introductions: Brenda Hussey-Gardner (1:00-1:05)
- II. Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes: Brenda Hussey-Gardner (1:05-1:10)
 - Approved without changes
- III. Announcements & Public Comment (1:10-1:15)
 - Brenda Hussey-Gardner grand rounds with Mr. Hickman 3/6
- IV. Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services (DEI/SES) Early Childhood Update: Marny Helfrich/Meagan Clemence (1:15-1:45)
 - A. Introduction to the new Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services, Antoine Hickman, Ed.D
 - Started November 2023
 - Together we will continue to make significant strides. Committing to do better by ALL populations. Looking forward to working with SICC. Experienced working with children with disabilities – future collaborations.
 - B. General Updates
 - Marny Helfrich: Grant season. Annual grants webinar 03/05/24. CLIG released. SPP/APR coming being presented to individual jurisdiction ITPs soon. SSIP – partner w some jurisdictions re: authentic assessment, RBI/reflective coaching/SE through Pyramid – improving Outcome 1 of COS. Expanding work to additional jurisdictions later this month.
 - C. Response to SICC Motion to Change Birthweight Eligibility Criteria to 1500g
 - Marny Helfrich: Grateful to receive report and data analysis, SICC recommendation to change from 1200 to 1500. Recommendations shared with Dr. Hickman. Reaching out to LITP program directors to share summary, get feedback (questions, concerns). Change to COMAR may occur depending on eventual outcome.
 - D. Online Referral System Discussion
 - Cecilia poll: How aware are you of the online reporting tool (ORT)?
 - Have you ever used the ORT to create a referral?

- How confident are you in handling online tasks?
- ORT in use since 2019
- Best that referral sources provide referral directly (research)
- 60% referrals coming through tool
- Increased use by pediatricians, others
- Question: Does system make it clear when the timeline begins?
 - Answer: When submitted
 - Received: When district received, opens
 - Processed: When acted upon
 - Submitted CONFIRMS receipt in the system
 - For Part C: Timeline begins when received, NOT when parental consent given (per Molly Conner)
 - This is different than part B
- Tool serves broad audience: Parents, primary referral sources (cc, social workers, etc.). Need to submit AND track referral (those primary sources)
- Feedback: Pediatricians (per Brenda Hussey-Gardner) – a little confusing first time or two, but now the preferred way of making referrals
- 30% of referrals - pediatricians
- 14% of referrals - hospitals
- 41% of referrals - parents
- Cecilia – data shows getting referrals both day and night (not restricted to time of day anymore)
- Brenda Hussey-Gardner: ORT hosts everything MITP – recommends more generic name
 - Some parents think the site is for referrals only and don't go to it for more information
 - Unclear when you first visit site that it's where you can make a referral
 - Clearly articulate to parents that they can make a referral (a lot of parents think it has to come from pediatrician)
 - MD AAP formerly expressed concern re: never hearing back when they make referrals

V. SICC Report

- Legislative Updates: Eric Ebersole (1:49 – 2:05)
- Hb 600 – changes slightly child care career and professional development fund (money for people, childcare centers)
 - Additional requirement 20+ hour per week to get
 - Native language/bilingual course4owrk
- HB 1139 – growing family child care opportunities – allows for grants to start, keep cc going
 - Was a pilot program, - this will take pilot out and add years into this
 - Ongoing funding stream for child care
- 19 to work in child care drops to 18
- Reduce 2-year limit for child care provider (having own child there)
 - Ratio changes
 - Drops from 24 months to 15 months
- HB 1403 (prior)
- BH 1441 – change requirements to quality for pre-k
 - Allow for 2 tiers of certification
 - Experience-based educator PD program
 - Allow LEAs to rent space for pre-k programs
- HB 1385 – establishing temporary (conditional) certificate
 - About creating better pathways

Universal pre-k

- Do not have enough space to guarantee all children pre-k
- 300% or lower: eligible FREE (NOT required) pk3 and 4
- AIB: sliding scale 300-600 poverty level
- After 600% cannot offer support/assistance

A. SICC Updates: Brenda Hussey-Gardner (2:05-2:10)

- PIE Task Force took brief hiatus – 2nd Tu of month via Zoom (April: resuming)
 - PIE stands for Pediatricians Interventionists and Educators (partnering together for optimal outcomes for children and families) – looking at what’s next
 - Want to join? Indicate in chat or send email to bhussey@som.umaryland.edu
 - VLBW = very low birth weight
 - Do not have to be SICC member to be on an SICC Task Force
- Idea of an onboarding task force
 - Cecilia’s acronym sheet at the SPP/APR meeting was very well-received
 - Virtual module for onboarding?
 - How do we do this/should we do this?
 - Poll: Should the SICC have an onboarding task force?
 - 100% yes
 - Who is willing to serve, Chair?
 - Post-meeting outcome: Kristen Paul with chair the Onboarding Task Force which will be combined with the Nominations Task Force

B. Technology Task Force Survey Results & Feedback Request: FloJean Speck (2:10-2:40)

- SICC MD ITP Provider Technology Survey Outcomes and Recommendations
 - 431 respondents
 - Task Force Summary: Electronic device needs
 - Breakout group discussion: Considering the findings of the technology task force, what – if any – next steps should the tech task force or SICC consider?
 - Breakout room 1: Look more in-depth at the information presented, would like the slide deck. We can make some recommendations, potentially, but want time to really look at the information before making concrete suggestions.
 - Breakout room 2: Sequence of steps, asking CTE and MSDE what is already in the works (Pinwheel will be addressing some of these things, but what might already be in the works for the IFSP system). Task Forces advise recommendations based on what has already been done, plus the CTE MSDE update - then SICC may make recommendation
 - Concerns: Mindful that internet does not exist everywhere
 - Concerns: Finding sources at the local level
 - Breakout Room 3: We are a little behind in where we should be with this; significant concerns about data security (could screenshots be an issue), funding always a concern
 - Breakout Room 4: What data security concerns may local jurisdictions have
 - More information (data) regarding specific impact, and what they might need on a larger scale.
 - FIRST STEP: Get the slide deck (SICC website, listserv)
 - Brenda Hussey-Gardner to distribute via email after the meeting for all to review

C. DEI Spotlight: The Parents’ Place of Maryland – Rosa Lily and Kristen Paul (2:40-2:55)

- Maryland’s Special Education and Health Information Center
- Established in 1990, governed by parents, team made of parents of children with disabilities and/or special healthcare needs
- FREE one-on-one assistance to families
- Leadership trainings, military outreach
- Needs Assessment (gaining insight into community needs)

- Developed and implemented an Equity Plan
 - Targeted outreach, including:
 - Impact Schools – proactive emphasis on high-poverty schools (currently targeting 174 out of 365 schools)
 - Early Childhood Family Partners – funded through Rebuilds, working in 6 counties and Baltimore City (chosen based on SVI).
 - Baby LEADers – training program for families of children ages birth to five
 - Offered in English, Spanish, and a pilot program in Haitian Creole
 - After families complete the program, they agree to volunteer at least 12 hours over the next 12 months. To date, over 1,500 hours have been completed.
- D. Division of Early Childhood Update: Donald Corbin (2:55-3:05)
- Ready at Five Early Learning Conference – Turf Valley
 - Register now if you have not already
 - Expanding the Judy Centers
 - Child Care programs: open office hours March 19, 12-1pm
 - Child Care scholarship program
 - DEC push for pre-k sessions (recordings are available online)
 - IECMH: UMD Baltimore UMCP – released Maryland Pyramid Model annual report
 - MSDE \$\$ kick-started Pyramid Model implementation sites
- VI. Pinwheel Update & Discussion: Cecilia Leger (3:21 – 3:30)
- Heard from families – having to bear the burden of being the person who collects information from a variety of agencies/providers and disseminate to everyone themselves
 - Close to some degree of launch
 - Security issues
 - We are the only ones doing this kind of work
 - Early Intervention Record (EIR): Official paper record (everything has to be downloaded, kept for 6 years)
 - Is there a way to make the ONLINE IFSP the official one?
 - Pinwheel is primarily for the benefit of the **family**
 - How do we have two separate systems (online IFSP and Pinwheel) – how do we have those two systems play together?
 - Online IFSP is for **providers**
 - What's next:
 - Start thinking about how do we communicate the existence of this tool to those who will be invited?
 - First few months: Select few (soft launch)
 - How do we make sure that those who support families are aware that Pinwheel exists (so if/when a family asks them if they will participate, they are at least aware that it is a thing and why it was created)?
- VII. Wrap-Up & Adjournment (3:30)
- Next meeting is the Joint SICC/LICC on June 4
 - 10am-2pm
 - Where can we meet?
 - Meetings moving forward
 - Do we want to go back to 1-4pm with a short break, so we have a little more time to give everybody sufficient time to share out?
 - Want to join a Task Force or the Executive Committee? Email bhussey@som.umaryland.edu

SICC UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

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

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

Advising and Assisting Maryland's Early Childhood Intervention and Special Education System of Services for
Young Children with Disabilities and Their Families