

SICC General Meeting

April 2, 2020

1:00-2:30pm

Minutes

Attendance

Members:

Kristin Murphy, Roikensha Craig, Anna Benshoof, Jen Harwood, Mary LaCasse, Rachel London, Anna Maria Wilms Floet, FloJean Speck, Christy Tirrell-Corbin, Cecilia Leger, Pamela Jones-Bush, Margaret Berman, Cyndi Lessner, Michele McCoy, Valerie Ashton Thomas, Peaches Wilson, Elizabeth Hall, Brenda Hussey-Gardner, Marcella Franczkowski

Guests:

Hayley Anthony, Angela Gebert, Elizabeth Saylor, Erin Simmons, Karen Frank, Beverly Lyles, Faith Fischel, Debbie Crosby, Michelle Steelman, Windy Phillips, Karen Frank, Tatiana Owens, Patty Muldowney, Sheila Myers, Melanie Miller

Staff:

Pamela Miller, Janette Guerra, Shelley Downs, Marsye Kaplan, Sharice Lane

I. Welcome, Remarks & Introductions: Brenda Hussey-Gardner (1:00-1:05)

Brenda welcomed everyone to participate, virtually, as the meeting officially started at 1:03pm. All participants introduced themselves by listing their names, roles, and jurisdiction, in the online chat box section. Cecilia provided quick review of how participates using the online platform's features throughout this meeting.

II. Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes: Brenda Hussey-Gardner (1:05-1:10)

The minutes from the February 2020 general meeting were approved as presented at 1:10pm.

III. Announcements & Public Comment: If you have an announcement or public comment, please notify Brenda Hussey-Gardner via email at bhussey@som.umaryland.edu (1:10-1:15)

Brenda announced that the University of Maryland School of Medicine released a website about COVID-19 with information that is helpful for families, providers and the general public. This resource will be updated daily at medschool.umaryland.edu/CVD/Kids--COVID-19.

IV. SICC Report (1:15-1:30)

A. Membership Update: Brenda Hussey-Gardner

1. Vacancies: 1 parent and 1 legislative representative
2. Co-Chair Nomination: Mai Hall

The SICC typically has a co-chair position. Mai nominated herself as the co-chair, who would attend the state ECAC on the SICC behalf, as well as, the executive meetings. At 1:16pm, the motion was granted for Mai Hall to serve as Co-Chair of the MD SICC.

B. Joint Meeting Update: Brenda Hussey-Gardner

Anna Maria confirmed that Dr. Lipkin would be able to speak about the AAP guidelines on developmental screenings and COVID-19's impact on these screenings at the joint SICC meeting upcoming in June 2020. Kay Connors will possibly be able to speak to discuss community mental health. Brenda announced that if the upcoming joint meeting will be held virtually, the schedule would be shorter to accommodate participants.

C. Legislative Updates

1. Updates from Rachel London
This legislative session ended 20 days earlier, with a priority shift due to the current national emergency. All bills were sent to the governor today, and he has 30 days to sign to enact them into law. As of March 18, 2020, the bills that have passed include:

[House Bill 847](#): State Coordinator for Autism Strategy and Advisory Stakeholder Group on Autism-Related Needs

[Senate Bill 455](#): Maryland Children's Service Animal Program

The DD Council is still awaiting the passage of a bill that would require newly built and renovated state buildings to include changing facilities that support both children and adults with special needs. The DD Council website has a section on resources on COVID-19 for people with developmental disabilities and families at <https://www.md-council.org/covid-19/>

2. Testimony experiences: Mai Hall, Jen Harwood

D. Infant Mental Health Task Force Updates: Cyndi Lessner

Cyndi announced that the Division of Early Childhood would be releasing a request for quote (RFQ) soon in search for someone to write an analysis on the early childhood mental health gap throughout the state.

- V. Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services (DEI/SES) Early Childhood Updates: Marcella Franczkowski, Pam Miller and Janette Guerra (1:30-2:15)

Dr. Pam Miller reviewed the contents of the FAQ document that was released on April 2, 2020, that summarized the Department of Education and Office of Special Education Program documents with links to the documents. She emphasized the Part C information and to continue the work to be family driven accounting for possible shifts in priorities at this time. The link to the technical assistance addressing serving children with disabilities during the COVID-19 Pandemic is

<http://marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Documents/Special-Ed/TAB/20-01-ServingchildrenunderCOVID-19Pandemic.pdf>.

1. Federal Part C application posted February 25, 2020 – Due May 1, 2020
2. Annual Programmatic/Fiscal Grants F2F Meeting on March 5, 2020 - Allocation sheets distributed
3. Preliminary Part C and B report cards distributed to support grant writing
4. MOIFSP system revisions underway to support SICC recommendations to monitor children with VLBW (1200-1500 grams) - July 1, 2020 release
5. Federal Part C Child Count submitted last week
6. MD Part C SSIP report submitted to OSEP this week
7. Federal Preschool Child Count and LRE data webinar held on 4/1/2020
8. Preschool Component of the IEP 7/1/2020 release
9. Competitive EC Inclusion Systems Building grant - Awarded to Frederick County Public Schools and Somerset County Public Schools

Serving Young Children with Disabilities and Their Families During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Presented by Marcella Franczkowski

She announced the two executive orders delivered from Governor Larry Hogan on April 1, 2020:

1. Expands tele-health services, these are extending services beyond the current tele-health services. Not only audio-only methods (MDH will provide further guidance on this).
2. Healthcare designation for disability personnel, including social service, substance abuse, mental health, interpreters are considered essential healthcare workers which impacts many families of autism.

Ms. Franczkowski continued to make the following announcements:

- The Maryland State Board of Education extended Dr. Karen Salmon's tenure as State Superintendent for an additional year, until July of 2021.
- The Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services (DEI/SES) is creating a series of technical assistance bulletins, in the coming days;
 - These are to serve as short-term guidance documents addressing the student and family needs during the national-state emergency.

- The first technical assistance bulletin was approved yesterday evening and posted this morning.
- Supporting the Continuity of Learning for Students with Developmental Disabilities and Delays during COVID-19 is forthcoming.
- Brenda asked Marcella if the TAB relevant to B-5 could be added to the SICC website. Permission was granted.
- Every Thursday morning, at 11:00am, all state directors and local leaders participate in teleconference meetings with Ms. Franczkowski. April 9, 2020 will be the next B-21 Leadership meeting date.
- Ms. Franczkowski announced some flexibility on grants, timelines, on wet signature (can be electronic) would be granted. She also stated grant amendment extensions can be requested. For example, if a county received LIR funds on virtual learning, what is the goal to use it long term once instruction resumes in traditional fashion?
- Valerie Thomas stated to contact her if families are having difficulty accessing educational services due to homelessness.

Additional comments:

Margaret (Mike) Berman explained that her agency is attempting to meet in order to make significant changes such as deciding to reimburse for services provided by tele-health. She emphasized that most, but not all services, may be reimbursed. She announced program leaders could contact her at margaret.berman@maryland.gov for any questions.

Local jurisdictions (Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's County) discussed how they are contacting and engaging families to move to continuity of service delivery through alternative modality such as tele-health or distance learning. They also discussed how they will speak with families regarding their current IFSPs and how it aligns to their current priorities and needs. All the counties shared their concerns about new referrals and transitions at this time.

- VI. Division of Early Childhood Updates: Cyndi Lessner (2:15-2:25)
None were shared.
- VII. Wrap-Up & Adjournment (2:25-2:30)
The meeting adjourned at 2:42 pm.

SICC UPCOMING MEETINGS

Executive Meetings (1:00-2:00, Call)
May 7, 2020

Joint Meeting (10:00-2:00, CTE or virtual)
June 4, 2020