

Maryland SICC

STATE INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL

SICC General Meeting—Virtual

June 3, 2021
10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Minutes

Attendance: Anna Benshoof, Cynthia Bouchard, Eric Ebersole, Brenda Hussey-Gardner, Mary LaCasse, Cecilia Leger, Cyndi Lessner, Brian Morrison (proxy Marcella Franczkowski), Kristin Murphy, Jennifer Riccardi, David Rose, FloJean Speck, Christy Tirrell-Corbin, Gloria Valentine, Anna Maria Wilms Floet,

Guests: Alicia Abresch, Melanie Adams, Wendy Baber, Paula Boykin, Debbie Crosby, Faith Fischel, Dawn Fraser, Nicki Gardner, Debra Grudger, Elizabeth Hall, Cheryl Hamlin, JoAnn Hayes, Nancy Hiltbrand, Jennifer Issadore, Joan Johnson, Christine Keeney, Katie Klein, Rachel London, Lauren Mangrum, Mary Manning-Falzarano, Betina Myers, Patricia Muldowney, Pam Nehring, Tatiana Owens, Kristen Paul, Andrew Pollock, Terri Ridneour, Kathy Schiaffino, Kanika So, Hillary Spivack, Michelle Steelman, Kathy Toscano, Sheila Umayam

Staff: Shelley Downs, Marsye Kaplan, Sharice Lane, Nancy Vorobey

- I. Welcome, Remarks & Introductions: Brenda Hussey-Gardner
 - A. Cecilia placed a sign-in link in the chat box to capture today's attendance.
 - B. Brenda reminded all participants spell out acronyms while speaking for guests.
- II. Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes: Brenda Hussey-Gardner
 - A. April 2021 meeting minutes were approved as accepted.
- III. Announcements & Public Comment: M.Ed. Early Childhood Special Education—Birth to AgeFive, Agnesanne Danehey, University of Maryland—College Park
 - A. Shared an advanced training – graduate work – to address the needs for early intervention training in MD, sensory, significant cognitive and physical impairments
 1. Professionals currently holding a licensure/certificate
 2. For working professionals (1 course per semester)
 3. NOT a certificate program
 4. Hybrid instruction model
 - B. Build upon evidence-based practices, assessment, positive behavior supports, deepening family engagement, support more intensive needs
 - C. Teachers have noticed a different relationship with families across the past year
 - D. Want to ensure successful transition back to in-person learning
 - E. Support infants and young children who are most vulnerable to inequities in learning
 - F. Contact adanehey@umd.edu for more information or with questions
- IV. SICC Report
 - A. SICC Membership: Brenda Hussey-Gardner
 1. Mai Hall has resigned as Parent member & Co-Chair to SICC
 2. Nominate Kristin Murphy as Co-Chair to SICC (parent & provider)
 - Motion was accepted to send Ms. Murphy's name to the Governor as Co-Chair of the SICC
 3. Introduced three additional parent nominations to the SICC
 - Nickie Gardner, Prince George's County - Approved to become an official member

- Alicia Abresch, Calvert County - Approved to become an official member
- Kristin Paul, St Mary's County - Approved to become an official member

B. SICC Initiatives

1. PIE Update: Brenda Hussey-Gardner
 - Working with Cecilia Leger, CTE, on initial steps for enhancing communication, in collaboration with Marcella, with funding from MDAAP
 - To present at the October 2021 (10/5/2021, 6-8pm) meeting of the MDAAP, recording to be posted on website
2. Infant Mental Health Task Force Update: Cyndi Lessner
 - Framework Committee meets monthly to establish the infrastructure to move the work forward
 - Mapping Exercise: key actors in IECMH spaces
 - Conditions for Thriving
 - What thriving looks like
 - Conditions needed to thrive
 - Barriers

C. Early Childhood Legislation—the Successes & Opportunities: Eric Ebersole

1. Fiscal and Policy Note (**HB 776**): Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Project: Study and Report
 - \$2M must be earmarked to support this project each year; Ebersole will advocate for increased funds
 - Report on the findings to the Governor and General Assembly on or before January 1, 2022
 - **Bill takes into effect July 1, 2021**
2. Fiscal and Policy Note (**HB 944**): Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program
 - Governor must earmark \$450k in the State budget for the program for the upcoming two fiscal years
 - **Bill takes effect on July 1, 2021 and terminates June 30, 2025**
3. Fiscal and Policy Note (**HB 597**): Teacher Qualifications
 - Helped to streamline the process for provisional hiring of childcare staff or first-time childcare center in the certification and/or licensing process
 - **Bill takes into effect July 1, 2021**
4. Rachel London inquired how SICC can support Rep. Ebersole's understanding for advocacy, especially regarding the IECMH task force to the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Ways and Means Committee. Brenda suggested that families share their success stories. He also recommended professionals can comment on the success of implementation building their professional capacity.
 - Rachel recommended the task force to collect this anecdotal data and she will write it in a legislative-friendly way
 - Motion approved to move forward with this task
 - Cyndi shared how providers and consultants shared the results of the implementation to the SECAC meetings. This can be shared to this SICC and/or documented to share with the Del Ebersole.

V. Presentations & Discussions: COVID—Where Have We Been, Where Are We Now, How Do We Move Forward as Families, Providers & State Agencies?

- A. Perspectives from Pediatricians, Monique Soileau-Burke, MD, IBCLC, FAAN, Vice-President, Maryland American Academy of Pediatrics, The Pediatric Center, LLC
- B. Roundtable Discussion
 1. Kathy Schiaffino, Parents Place of Maryland
 2. Cyndi Lessner, Division of Early Childhood (Early Head Start, Head Start, Child Care)
 3. Mary Lacasse, Program Administrator for Family and Community

Roundtable Questions (3-4 minutes per question)

- What is one good thing that has come out of the COVID pandemic for families of children ages 0-5?
- What is a barrier experienced by families and/or providers during this time?
- What were some novel approaches that were successful to ensure continuity of care for providers and/or families?
- How did you approach cultural sensitivity when working with diverse and vulnerable populations during this time?
 - Mary shared https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/mch/Pages/HV_Toolkit.aspx
- What do you think services in a post-COVID world will look like?

C. Breakout Reflections

1. The main group broke into nine smaller groups to share “AHA” moments generated from the presentation and roundtable discussion. A representative from each group shared one moment in the main group’s chat discussion.
 - Meal time parent group
 - Forum on how to share parent strategies from LITP/PSE/LICC directors
 - The need for a technology task force*
 - E.g., Can we move from paper to electronic records?
 - Cindy shared reporting from ECAC looking into recommendations for forming subcommittee on this topic. If anyone is interested, one can attend the next parent coalition meeting on June 21st. Brenda asked to share updates from this group during the first meeting for SY21-22.
 - Shared information about children who thrived in the virtual setting.
 - We discussed participation in meetings and visits-additional parents and physicians
 - One group discussed the pros and cons of virtual service. Challenging for some parents while helpful to others who are uncomfortable with having people in their homes. Virtual visits can sometimes be challenging for parents while working because it is hard to focus. On-site Child Find screenings were challenging while infant-toddler coaching was very successful. Would be great if Medicaid billing would continue to reimburse virtual service provisions.

D. Break

E. Roots to Recovery: Persevering through a Cycle of Change, Marcella Franczkowski, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services

- Sharice will send resources for Brenda to share with the participants

F. Questions for DEI/SES: Brian and DEI/SES staff

1. Will there be any guidance offered to local programs as to being able to continue to have virtual services stay as an option for families?
 - a. This matter will be researched to support the needs of local Infants and Toddlers Programs, especially regarding reimbursement for services.
2. Expectations for communicating if families are vaccinated to receive in-home service delivery?
 - a. Cynthia Bouchard (Howard County) reported that her LITP have been discussing this conversation with families and plan to move forward with continued virtual service delivery

VI. Wrap-Up & Adjournment

- A. Invited anyone interested to assume the position of SICC Chair. There are no term limits in the by-laws or join the executive committee, as well.
- B. Meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.

SICC UPCOMING MEETINGS

General Meetings (1:00-3:30pm)
October 7, 2021
December 2, 2021 (SPP/APR Data)
February 3, 2022
April 7, 2022

Executive Meetings (1:00-2:00pm)
September 2, 2021
November 4, 2021
January 6, 2022
March 3, 2022
May 5, 2022

Joint Meeting (10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.)
June 2, 2022

¹ This information will be used to determine if a committee, taskforce or other entity needs to be established to support forward movement of any initiatives or to address any identified concerns/gaps.