

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 November 2, 2023 1:00pm-3:30pm Minutes

Location: This was a virtual meeting.

In attendance: Wendy Baber, Karen Baumeister, Don Corbin, Eric Ebersole, Megan Fleury, Dawn Fraser, Mary Jo Harris, Marny Helfrich, Brenda Hussey-Gardner, Patricia Julianelle, Keight Kennedy, Cecilia Leger, Rachel London, Marie Marino, Tatiana Owens, Kristen Paul, Brenda Rivera Ruiz, Lisa Shanty, Sarah Sherry, Erika Skewes, Missly St. Louis, Jeni Stepanek, Denise Tillery, Christy Tirrell-Corbin, Maria Wilms Floet

- I. Welcome, Remarks & Introductions: Brenda Hussey-Gardner
- II. Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes: Brenda Hussey-Gardner
 - Minutes from 09/14/23 general meeting approved without revisions
- III. Announcements & Public Comment
 - Nothing to report
- IV. SICC Report
 - A. Updates: Brenda Hussey-Gardner
 - Seeking additional SICC Executive Committee members
 - Executive Committee meetings typically first Thursday of the month on months we do not have a General Meeting
 - B. Member Spotlight: Cecilia Leger, JHU CTE
 - C. Legislative Updates: Eric Ebersole
 - Challenges in funding ECE – need for increased funds due to rising number of children qualifying to attend childcares, pre-K
 - Over 1,700 additional children (nearly 1300 families) newly-qualified
 - 80M more per year needs to be financially supported
 - Expiration of federal funding and decrease in sales tax revenue may lead to deficit
 - D. SICC Task Force Updates
 1. PIE Update: Brenda Hussey-Gardner
 - PIE: Pediatricians, Interventionists, Educators
 - VLBW Study (1200-1500 grams)
 - 1070 with IFSP 01/01/15-01/01/23
 - 41.8% eligible by high probability condition
 - 193 (11%) born 1/1/16-1/1/20 attended University of Maryland NICU Follow-up

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- 1,677 born in Maryland (1,200-1,500 grams) 1/1/16-1/1/20)
 - User feedback re: online portal led to changes
 - 0-1 data count: Some jurisdictions provide data
 - PIE taskforce meets 2nd F of month 12-1pm
 - Do not need to be SICC member to join the taskforce
 - PIE will make recommendations to the SICC
 - SICC will then vote on moving any new recommendations forward for their consideration
 - 2. Technology Task Force Update: No report (FloJean Speck not present)
 - 3. Nominations: Kristen Paul
 - Reviewed historical process of becoming a member of the SICC
 - Self-nominations now possible under new state leadership
 - Current vacancies noted; we are currently in compliance with Federal ratio requirements (20% parents, etc.)
 - Denise Tillery (Department of Human Services) introduced as nominee; unanimous vote to approve moving her forward to the Governor's Office for appointment.
 - Karen Baumeister was introduced as a Parent Member, having been appointed by the Governor's Office through the self-nomination process
- V. Division of Early Childhood Updates: Donald Corbin (12:05-12:15)
- Updates on licensing branch continuous training hours, which need to be completed by childcare personnel
 - Increase in scholarship program participation due to change in income requirement
 - 80% of all childcare providers licensed through MSDE
 - New pre-K expansion grants (52) and a capacity building fund awarded
 - 6 new therapeutic childcare programs (one on Eastern Shore), additional funding from previous legislation
 - Plans for more workforce capacity building
 - IECMH programs have been funded and are being implemented
- VI. Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services (DEI/SES) Early Childhood State Update: Marny Helfrich (for Molly Connor)
- Significant leadership changes at MSDE
 - Dr. Kerrie Wright – new State Superintendent. Most recently in Mississippi, she is from MD and has worked in several LEAs in MD
 - DEI/SES welcoming Dr. Antwan Hickman as new ()
 - Ongoing projects including SSIP and the development of school readiness modules (6 of them) in collaboration with Johns Hopkins
 - Making adjustments based on feedback, will be available for all providers
 - Short, recorded webinars also released; Looking to expand series to include additional topics
 - Farewell message from Erin Simmons

VII. DEI Next Steps: Kristen Paul & Anna Maria Wilms Floet

- Recap of previous meeting
 - MSDE DEI/SES “ask” from previous meeting: Will SICC assist in the development of DEI statement for early childhood
 - Breakout groups:
 - Should the SICC assist MSDE by proposing a DEI statement for the birth to 5 early intervention system? Unanimous YES
 - If the SICC moves forward with proposing a DEI statement, how should we proceed?
 - 3 groups: Establish a DEI Taskforce
 - 6 groups: Other
 - DEI taskforce with a trained DEI facilitator who can promote authentic and vulnerable conversations in a safe space
 - 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.
- Since last General Meeting, Executive Committee learned that MSDE’s Office of Teaching and Learning is currently revising its vision and mission statements
 - Discussion: With this in mind, what should the SICC’s next steps be?
 - Explore the DEI work currently being done by SICC member organizations (DEI Spotlight)
 - Anna Maria Wilms Floet shared internal initiatives and resources at Kennedy Krieger
 - Kristen Paul reached out to Mid Atlantic Equity Consortium (MAEC) regarding possible support for SICC effort
 - Brenda Hussey-Gardner proposed postponement of SICC mission/vision statement effort until Office of Teaching and Learning work is completed
 - Marny Helfrich: Echoes the idea of waiting for MSDE statement to be released, bringing a DEI lens to all of our work, possibly bringing in support (KKI, MAEC, someone else)
 - Pyramid Model SLT has Elevating Equity subcommittee – might they offer insights on ways forward?
 - Brenda Hussey-Gardner proposed we vote on (1) whether or not to postpone of DEI Mission/Vision Statement effort, (2) whether or not to

embed a DEI spotlight and/or dedicated DEI time to our next two meetings, and (3) whether to have DEI as our focus for the June 2024 Joint Meeting

- Voting: (1) 100% yes
(2) 78% yes, 22% no
(3) 100% yes
- Decision made to embed DEI Spotlight in next two meetings and make DEI the focus on the Joint SICC/LICC Meeting in June 2024

VIII. Community Portal Updates: Cecilia Leger

- Stakeholder feedback in progress
- Portal allows for secure collaboration and sharing of information, with the aim of reducing the burden to families of managing and distributing/sharing information and facilitating communication
- Portal features such as meeting reminders, resources, child records information, ability to upload and share documents
- Development team working on functionalities, hoping to start using in January 2024
- Community-facing web application will be introduced in phased-in approach, beginning with a few referral sources and gradually expanding
- Portal will be available to everyone eventually, but will initially involve families identified by local ITP to pilot
- Support materials, trainings, and focus groups (feedback)
- Breakout groups discussed different phases of implementation (now, pilot implementation, second phase of pilot)
 - Importance of including families with varying levels of technology literacy in the pilot

IX. Wrap-Up & Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 3:31PM

SICC UPCOMING MEETINGS

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