

**SICC General Meeting—Virtual**  
**January 5, 2023**  
**1:00-3:30pm**  
**MINUTES**

**In attendance:** Angela Gilbert, Annemiek Wilms Floet, Beth Boyle, Brenda Hussey-Gardner, Brian Morrison, Cecilia Leger, Charlotte Fomengia, Cheryl Hamlin, Christy Tirrell-Corbin, Cindy Bouchard, Cyndi Lessner, Deborah Gudger, Don Corbin, Elizabeth Hall, Elizabeth Proffitt, Eric Ebersole, Erin Simmons, Faith Fischel, FloJean Speck, Gloria Valentine, Heather Harding, Jen Riccardi, Jennifer Willis, Julie Bertling, Karen Frank, Kerry Fair, Koryne Nnoli, Kristin Murphy, Laurencia Hutton-Rogers, Linda Tsantis, Lisa Jarboe, Lisa Shanty, Marie Marino, Marisa Conner, Mary Jo Harris, Mary Manning-Falzarano, Megan Fleury, Michelle Steelman, Mindy Torres, Patricia Muldowney, Patti Brown Adkins, Paula Boykin, Rachel London, Rebecca Oliver, Sarah Sherry, Sheila Myers, Theresa Ryan Rivera, V James Young

- I. Welcome, Remarks & Introductions: Brenda Hussey-Gardner (1:00-1:05)**
  - Guests introduced themselves via chat
  
- II. Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes: Brenda Hussey-Gardner (1:05-1:10)**
  - November meeting minutes approved without corrections
  
- III. Announcements & Public Comment—Connections Beyond Sight and Sound: Jennifer Willis (1:10-1:20)**
  - MD and DC Deaf-Blind Project
  - Serve children B-21 with hearing and vision challenges, including those at risk for having dual sensory loss due to etiology or atypical responses to auditory/visual stimuli
  - Federal and state-funded; collaborative partners supporting school systems and families across MD and DC free of charge; not an additional service on IFSP or IEP
  - Provide TA to educational teams and families; can transfer info from early childhood to school team
  - [www.cbss.umd.edu](http://www.cbss.umd.edu)
  - For more information, contact Jennifer Willis; [jcwillis@umd.edu](mailto:jcwillis@umd.edu)
  
- IV. SICC Report**
  - A. Updates: Brenda Hussey-Gardner (1:20-1:25)**
    - All general meetings will be virtual
    - SICC/LICC joint meeting (June 1, 2023) will be in person
    - Marcella has resigned as Assistant State Superintendent
    - Brian Morrison will provide update about interim plan
    - Building Better Beginnings (B3) Statewide PN3 Listen & Inform Tour: Felicia Jones-Taylor-- POSTPONED
  - B. Member Spotlight: Kristen Paul (1:25-1:35)**
  - C. Legislative Updates: Eric Ebersole (1:35-1:40)**

- Several bills passed last year in B-5; no current updates but will have more during next legislative session
- D. SICC Task Force Updates
1. **PIE: Brenda Hussey-Gardner (1:40-1:45)**
    - Reviewed recommendations for VLBW Phase II study from SICC November General Meeting (What is happening with babies 120-1500g? how many are automatically eligible for EI due to a different condition or make their way to EI later?)
    - Identified deidentified variables to request from MDH, MSDE DEI/SES, & UMB NICU Follow-Up chart review
    - To review IRB proposal once completed
    - [bhussey@som.umaryland.edu](mailto:bhussey@som.umaryland.edu)
  2. **Technology: Mary Manning-Falzarano & FloJean Speck (1:45-2:05)**
    - SICC Technology Survey
      - Number of respondents: 229
        - Of the 33 who indicated their county, majority were from Montgomery County
      - Survey dates: 09/26/2022 to 11/07/2022
      - How do you communicate with parents between EI visits?
        - Text messaging most popular, followed by email, then telephone call
        - Other technology used: Google Voice (most frequently mentioned), Zoom, Facetime, Remind app, interpreter, stop at family's home, through another provider, TalkingPoints app, What's App
      - 97% of respondents said their technology needs and usage have changed since COVID
        - Need updated technology; using personal devices more often; parents prefer to communicate via text and not phone calls, need to go paperless; etc.
      - Concerns around the recommendation for a statewide electronic filing system
        - Most common: Avoiding duplication; need for scanning; how an electronic record will be organized
      - What is going well in the online IFSP currently?
        - Works well for service coordination; can retrieve info from anywhere; outcomes all in one place; access to other providers' notes; prompts when things are missing; can send IFSP to families; communicates with MOIEP
      - Advantages to electronic files
        - Everything is in one place; secure; should save time
      - Concerns/comments about electronic files
        - Hard for some providers and families to learn tech; hackers/security; data loss risk; service logs easier to

write by hand; dependent on access to good  
wifi/equipment

- Suggestions for improvement made by jurisdictions' leadership
  - Highest priorities: Provide file directors of all available forms, templates, and documents; develop specific categories within electronic files; increase uniformity across jurisdictions including using standardized forms when possible
- Average comfort level with the process of moving to electronic records: 7/10
- Suggestions for changes to the online IFSP
  - Eliminate redundancy; extending expiration time; ability to have 2 providers work at same time; reducing system downtime; electronic signature
- With these data, the hope is for the SICC to deliver a set of recommendations to MSDE; will be a topic of discussion in next meeting (Mary and FloJean will send slides to group)
- Mary Manning-Falzarano: [mary.manning-falzarano@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:mary.manning-falzarano@montgomerycountymd.gov)
- FloJean Speck: [fspeck@marylandfamilynetwork.org](mailto:fspeck@marylandfamilynetwork.org)

**3. Nominations & Bylaws: Kristen Paul (2:05-2:15)**

- 4 vacancies among parent members: several parents attending today's meeting to learn more about the SICC
- 1 vacancy for ITP provider rep
  - Mary Manning-Falzarano unanimously endorsed for this position
- 1 vacancy for Homeless Children and Youth rep
- 1 Vacancy for children's mental health
  - D'Lisa Worthy unanimously endorsed for this position
- Contact Kristen Paul if interested in joining the nominations and bylaws committee (short-term); [kristenannpaul@gmail.com](mailto:kristenannpaul@gmail.com)

**4. IECMH: Donald Corbin (2:15-2:25)**

- Finished Phase 1 of framework; Phase 2 upcoming
- Working with WestEd to develop Trauma-Informed Care modules (providers can get CE hours for this)
- Currently completing part 2 of IECMH program evaluation with UMD College Park

**V. Division of Early Childhood Update: Donald Corbin (2:25-2:35)**

- New Asst State Superintendent: Dr. Shayna Cook
- MD Rebuilds has closed; grant award notices will go out this week
- Childcare information session for providers, parents (focus will be on Childcare scholarships) on January 26 from 6-7PM
  - <https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-information-session-1>

- Current grants:
  - <https://marylandpublicschools.org/about/Pages/OFPOS/GAC/GrantPrograms/index.aspx>
- [Donald.corbin@maryland.gov](mailto:Donald.corbin@maryland.gov)

## VI. Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services (DEI/SES) Early Childhood Update: Erin Simmons (2:35-2:50)

- MD Elevates Grants Program: notice of grant awards have gone out to 8 recipients
  - Strands: Inclusive Early Childhood Education; Kindergarten Readiness Interventions; Social Emotional Learning
  - Grantees: UMSSW Pyramid Model; JHU IDEALS Institute; UMBC/Head Start; MD Coalition for Inclusive Education (SSIP); Special Olympics; LOCATE Child Care; Kodem Kol at Kennedy Krieger; Bedtime and Beyond through IMAGE Center of MD
- House Bill 664: Child Care Programs—MD Infants and Toddlers Program; Childcare providers will have to provide information to families about MITP at least 1x/year
  - Updated brochure and childcare provider guide are developed and awaiting approval
  - Can these resources be adapted?
  - January 27: Training of trainers of childcare providers focused on inclusion
- Upcoming regional professional learning-- Narrow the Gap: Improving Outcomes for our Youngest Learners: this Spring (TBD)

## VII. SPP/APR & SSIP Annual Data Review: Brian Morrison (2:50-3:20)

- 2 branch chief positions are vacant
- Division is currently reporting to Dr. Deann Collins (Deputy State Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Office)
- Preliminary statewide FFY 2021 Part C and Part B/619 State Performance Plan (SPP)/ Annual Performance Report (APR)
  - FFY 2021 July 1, 2021- June 30, 2022
  - Compliance data
    - Indicator #1: 98.49% of services provided within 30 days or with a family-related reason for delay
    - Indicator 7: 96.93% of referrals with evals, assessment, and IFSP developed within 45 days
    - Indicator #8a: 99.54% of transitioning children with timely steps and services on their IFSP
    - Indicator #8b: 100% of transitioning children with timely notification to the state and local education agencies
    - Indicator #8c: 99.5% of transitioning children with timely transition planning meetings
    - Indicator #2: almost 100% of services provided in the natural environment
    - Indicator #3a,b,c: Child Outcomes Summary-- Positive social-emotional skills

- Decreases in both summary statements from FFY 2020 to FFY 2021 (likely due to impact of COVID)
- SS1: narrowing the gap
- SS2: leaving at age level
- Extended IFSP Option—decreases in SS1 for each indicator but some increases in SS2
- Family Outcomes indicator: Know Your Rights: Above state target in all areas
- Indicator #5: Child Find B-1 served; below state target (likely due to declines in referrals during COVID)
- Indicator #6: Child Find B-3 served; above state target (4.10%)
- Part B/619 preschool data
  - Preschool LRE: decrease in % of preschool students receiving majority of services in regular EC program (COVID exacerbated behavioral issues, leading to a greater need for restrictive environments)
  - Child Outcomes Summary
    - Increase in SS1 for positive SE skills; Decrease in SS2
    - Increase in SS1 for use of knowledge and skills; Decrease in SS2
    - Decrease in SS1 and SS2 for use of behaviors to meet needs
  - Parent involvement in preschool: below state target for % of parents that indicated schools facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for CWD
  - Early Childhood transition: 98% compliant in children who have IEP developed for Part B by third birthday
- Q/A
  - Will staffing challenges hurt compliance with 30 and 45 day timelines? Most likely, as this has been a challenge across jurisdictions
  - Decreases in child outcomes are being seen nationwide
  - Thoughts related to increases seen in child outcomes for children on extended IFSP vs B-3? Children who had been in program longer may be continuing to benefit
  - Did referrals from pediatricians go down? Referrals from all sources declined; childcare provider referrals have been the bigger challenge (very low numbers)
  - For full report cards, see: [mdideareport.org](http://mdideareport.org)

## VIII. Wrap-Up & Adjournment (3:20-3:30)

Meeting adjourned at 3:06PM

# 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, Ph.D., M.P.H., Chair*  
*Kristen Murphy, PT, DPT, Co-Chair*

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## **SICC UPCOMING MEETINGS**

### General Meetings (1-3:30pm, virtual)

March 6, 2023<sup>1</sup>

May 4, 2023

### Executive Meetings (1-2pm, virtual)

February 2, 2023

March 30, 2023

### Joint Meeting (10am-2pm, in person)

June 1, 2023

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<sup>1</sup> This is a Monday to accommodate the legislative session.