



MISSISSIPPI FIRST STEPS EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM (MSFSEIP)

State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) Meeting

April 09, 2021

9:30 am-12:15 pm

Present	SICC Members	Affiliation	Role
X	Brittany Herrington (C)	Parent (South)	Parent
X	Alberstein Pickett	MS Dept. of Mental Health	State Agency
X	Candice Taylor	MS Dept. of Education	State Agency: Education
X	Carlen Henington	Inst. of Higher Learning, MSU	Personnel Preparation
X	Chad Allgood	MS Dept. of Human Services, Div. of Early Childhood Care & Dev.	Personnel Preparation
X	Gwen Woodard	Division of Medicaid	State Agency: Medicaid
	Holly Spivey	Office of Gov., Head Start Collab	Head Start
X	Janet Slaughter	Independent Provider (Central)	Provider
X	Julie Parker	Inst. of Higher Learning, MSU	Personnel Preparation
	Julie Waddle	Parent (North)	Parent
	Kamme Riddle	Independent Provider (North)	Provider
X	Kara Butler	UMMC, EI, SI (Central)	Provider
X	Kara Driver, MD	UMMC, Pediatrics-Newborn Meds	Provider
	Keishawna Smith*	Parent (Central)	Parent
	Laura Smith	Parent (Central)	Parent
	Linda Shivers	Independent Provider (Central)	Provider
	Lori Rolison	Parent (South)	Parent
	Natasha Bennett	Parent (Central)	Parent
X	Nita Thompson	MS Head Start Association	Head Start
X	Ronjanett Taylor	Inst. of Higher Learning	Personnel Preparation
X	Ryan Blakeney	MS Dept. of Insurance	State Agency: Insurance
	Sara Leathers	Parent (North)	Parent
	Shirley Miller	MS Dept. of Mental Health (Ret)	Parent; State Agency

\* ex officio

Additional Attendees:

Stacy Callender, MSDH, Part C Coordinator  
 Paulita Childs, MSDH, LEIP 5 Coordinator  
 Stephanie Bailey, MSDH, EI Region 8 Coord  
 Melissa Cox, MSDH, EI Region 1 Coordinator  
 Valecia Davis, MSDH, EI Operations Director  
 Nicole Graham, MSDH, EI Region 1 QTA  
 LaSondra Jenkins, MSDH, LEIP 6 Coordinator  
 Melissa Cox, Div Director, Northern Reg  
 Alyssia Thomas, MSDH, Lead Spec Proj Ofc  
 Jillian Harper-Peavy, Div Dir, Women's Health

Lisa Bonds, EI Region 7 Coord  
 Halle Ricketts  
 Michele Masterson, MSDH, LEIP 1 Coordinator  
 Jimmie Faye McCarty, MSDH, LEIP 4 Coordinator  
 Anissa Pace, MSDH, EI Region 3 Coordinator  
 Miranda Richardson, MSDH, EI Data Manager  
 Claudia Shedd, MSDH, LEIP 2 Coordinator  
 Gina Smith, MSDH, LEIP 9 Coordinator  
 Chelsea Panse, Assistant Professor, MSU

# MISSISSIPPI FIRST STEPS EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM (MSFSEIP)

## MINUTES

***NOTE: Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, this meeting was held virtually on Zoom. Attendees were able to participate on the phone or online.***

### **Welcome/Introductions (R. Taylor)**

R.Taylor opened the meeting at 9:35 am. She welcomed all SICC members and attendees.

### **Review and Approval of Minutes (R. Taylor)**

Minutes from the January 22, 2021 meeting were reviewed by everyone (motion by C. Henington; second by C. Taylor). Minutes were then approved as written.

### **SICC Business (R. Taylor)**

The following business items were discussed:

- **Old/New Business**

S. Callender thanked everyone for the nominations that been received for parents. We are looking for providers as well who might be willing to serve. We do have quite a number of individuals who have been nominated and are being put forward. We do have a couple of agencies that are not represented, and we are looking for people that might already have established connections or can make some recommendations on that. In particular we have received nominations of a family member from the north and two from the central region. We only have a few individuals who are providers from the central and northern region. We need some additional providers. We have people who represent personal preparation and institutions of higher learning, but we are looking to add someone from child protective services as well as someone who can represent within the state tribe, tribal council, or the Bureau of Indian Education. The following are parents that have been received: Jennifer Tazman, Erica Acher, Doug Williams, Anitra Townsend. R. Taylor welcomed G. Woodard as the newest board member.

### **SICC Committee Reports (R.Taylor)**

The following updates were provided on the work of the committees:

- **Personnel Preparation Committee:** J. Parker, Chair, reported that they have intermediately met on and off over the last several months. We are preparing now for our big relaunch for our ECPC meeting which will be held May 5, 2021. We have been working really hard to get the e-mails out for that and some of you will be joining us for that meeting. It will be around thirty-five individuals who are coming together. We are revisiting our mission with ECPC, being able to revisit where we are on our strategic plan and what kind of progress we have made. We are excited about the opportunity to reconnect with ECPC to make sure that we are still making progress and to really re-examine what our goals are and how we are moving forward.

## MISSISSIPPI FIRST STEPS EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM (MSFSEIP)

- **Public Awareness Committee:** L. Rolison, Chair, reported that the committee have been meeting once a month on the first Monday of every month to put together our newsletter. We are still missing a couple of pieces, but it is just about finished. Once finished it will be sent out to the Communications department at MSDH.
- **Transition Committee:** C. Henington, Chair, reported that the committee has assigned itself a task of trying to pull together resources for parents in response to COVID-19. They want to make sure they stay on top of things monthly. They are waiting on final approval from S. Callender on the first step to next step document. Stacy C. asked C. Herrington to resend the document for approval.
- **Recruitment/Retention Ad Hoc Committee:** R. Blakeney, Chair, was not available. S. Callender reported that the committee have been looking at a few things. We have done provider enrollment packets which have helped streamline our process. We have been talking about scholarships for our credentials but this is still being worked out but that is another thing we are looking to add to encourage both recruitment and retention. One of the things we have been working on mostly is trying to figure out how we are going to identify rates. S. Callender has gotten the agency's beginning steps approval to index our rates off of the Medicaid rates. She has had meetings with officials of Medicaid – (approximately fifteen of them) on the call. They ran into issues trying to figure out what the rates were for private insurance, but with Medicaid being that it is public they have their rates. We are in the process of generating all of the procedure codes that we are looking for service provision. We have that information from some other states and have reached out to them to get examples of their procedural codes. Some of the procedural codes may or may not be used in this state. S. Callender is requesting information on any providers that we have including PT, OT, and ST, in addition to that we are also looking at nurses, social workers, nutritionists all of the audiologists, and all of the type of services that we would like to send procedural codes. Medicaid said that they would work with us by providing what their rate is for that procedural code, and any qualifiers or anything that requires prior approval. We are compiling that document right now so that we can share with them essentially a table that they can fill in and share back with us. We are hoping to get that in as quickly as possible so that we can then share that with the agency and request those changes as soon as possible.

### Program Updates

The following updates were provided by the Program personnel:

- **Annual Performance Report:** Miranda Richardson, Data Manager, reviewed Local Early Intervention Program (LEIP) performance on the FFY2019 APR indicators with a comparison to the State results. She stated that in January she shared with everyone all our statewide APR for February 1, 2021. Today it is going to be about our local programs – Compliance Indicators that we have to be at 100%. Because of COVID-19 we decided to do as a state on a quarterly basis (three-month time frame) and submit this to the federal government.

## MISSISSIPPI FIRST STEPS EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM (MSFSEIP)

Indicator	LP1	LP2	LP4	LP5	LP6	LP7	LP8	LP9	STATE
1: Timely Services (January 2021 – March 2021)	89.2%	91.1%	86.7%	89.2%	84.6%	88.9%	70.6%	89.2%	86.8%
7: 45-Day Timeline January 2021- March 2021	96.1%	96.2%	81.8%	81.1%	84.2%	85.7%	91.4%	84.4%	88.8%
8A: Transition Steps and Services January 2021- March 2021	96.9%	93.0%	81.8%	70.8%	81.8%	100%	82.4%	96.2%	90.0%
8B: Transition Notification to SEA & LEA January 2021- March 2021	100%	94.7%	100%	91.7%	100%	100%	100%	98.1%	97.2%
8C: Transition Conference Meeting January 2021- March 2021	97.0%	93.0%	80.0%	70.8%	81.8%	100%	82.4%	96.2%	90.2%

- Monitoring Update:** Miranda Richardson, Data Manager, reported that statewide monitoring was scheduled for next week but had to be postponed due to the staff at the central office cannot undertake that service right now. It will be postponed until May 2021. S. Callender reported that we are in the process of revamping our monitoring system due to having a new data system which went live for service coordinators on July 1, 2020. We have been trying to get all of our providers in and active around 500 providers. Starting January 1, 2021 all services were to be entered into the data system, but we are still working on that. It has changed the way we can do monitoring. In the past the monitoring consisted of program coordinators pulling paper records and analyzing them with a checklist and going through them. We will still have the same type of monitoring tool to do a record review, however it will be related to what is in the data system itself. As part of that we will also be adding a place where all of the fields that were supposed to be filled in , how many of them were complete and correct out of the total that should have been

## MISSISSIPPI FIRST STEPS EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM (MSFSEIP)

filled in so that we can get an actual calculated estimate of percentage of completeness. We will be using this as part of performance rating and accountability within programs. Our data system also provides number of hand reports which allows the local programs and the regional offices to pull reports on these indicators. In the past we got indicator data once a year when M. Richardson could get all the info from the back end of the data system from the child registry and do a bunch of data cleaning and a bunch of analysis. The programs only really got a good sense of where they were once a year and not in a way that would help them improve their program. With the new data system these hand reports )those timely service reports can be pulled at any point in time and for any time periods.

- **Staff Changes:** S. Callender reported that we are looking at a new regional structure to be implemented in July 2021. She shared what the new regional map structure will look like with everyone. We have had some changes in staff at the state level. P. Kendrick who was with our program for many years has left us in March 2021. We are looking for a monitoring coordinator. V. Davis has a new role as operations in Health Services. She is still partially with us, but she also has new roles. We are looking for a new director in EI. We are also looking for people to help us with training and technical assistance. There have been some postings but there also will be additional job postings as well.

### **Public Comments**

H. Ricketts was introduced by V. Davis and S. Callender. His current position is with the MS Association of Infant Mental Health. He stated that he was at the Alliance meeting on yesterday and with all of the pandemic issues we really have been blessed with these bittersweet experiences. We have realized the gaps and realized the things that we need to do. We will be able to use both technologies when the pandemic is over. He has appreciated the collaborative efforts with the SICC and ECPC. One of the things that the MS Association of Infant Mental Health has been doing is going through a capacity building piece with MS Association of Infant Mental Health and the Alliance to build up our infrastructure so we can do the kind of things we need to do. He was pleased to collaborate with SICC and ECPC in this respect. He thinks now that we are able to integrate services and work collaboratively, we are going to go a long way. He has been missioned to find pathways to endorsements for all of the different sectors of the early childhood sectors. He has been doing that for some time. He was hoping to present this at the May 5 meeting, talking about how to align all of our efforts to the infant mental health and to early childhood standards. If we work towards endorsement, we can do it together. One of the things that the association will do is, we will be able to help get the people indoors and to be a value-added commodity. He has included a pathway for Part C and all of its related partners with regarding to its endorsements. He will reveal it in the May 5 meeting.

S. Callender stated that she is excited about having this ability to do credentials in infant mental health and getting the knowledge and skills within our workforce. Any person within the workforce at any level on that endorsement process. There are levels for childcare, headstart endorsement levels. There are levels for people who do coordination of care for those who actually provide the mental health services directly with children and family and there are levels for researchers at universities, for policy makers and those who do reflective practice at clinical levels. Our goal is that all of our service coordinators will obtain at least two certifications and that others in the more administrative roles depending on their particular role will either be at a level two or a level four policy maker helping to build the system out. We have involved other

## MISSISSIPPI FIRST STEPS EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM (MSFSEIP)

programs that do case management care coordination at the Department of Health, so broadly within CAH ensuring that we have personnel that can have this additional training expertise in infant mental health.

### **Scheduling of Monthly Committee Meetings**

All meetings will use the SICC Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/522213847> online. Individuals may also participate by phone: 1-646-876-9923 with Meeting ID 522-213-847.

- **The SICC meeting schedule for 2021:** January 22, 2021; April 9, 2021; July 23, 2021; October 22, 2021. Backup dates are the following: January 29, 2021; April 30, 2021; July 30, 2021 and October 29, 2021.
- **SICC Personnel Preparation Committee** meets third Thursdays at 1:00 pm
- **SICC Public Awareness Committee** meets first Mondays at 3:00 p.m.
- **SICC Transition Committee** meets first Tuesdays at 9:00-9:30 am
- **SICC Recruitment/Retention Committee** meets third Thursdays at 9:00 am.

S. Callender advised everyone to have a quick meeting with each of their designated committees and she created a breakout room for each committee. The Breakout room meetings ended, and each committee reported out:

**Transition Committee:** C. Henington, Chair, reported that there is a need for better communication with the local communities. We would like to see better coordination. In the past, we had local ICC's that brought together various resources in the county together. The committee would like to see more of that. We are going to try and figure out if we can do some of that. We will try to focus on the two- to four-year-old services. The committee do not want to replicate anything or do anything anybody else is doing. If you go to a school district and you cannot determine who is the person you suppose to reach out to either because the website does not give that personnel anymore or it has not been updated and there has been a turnover. There is this huge breakdown in communication. C. Allgood stated that until we hold individual communities accountable for the work that is going on at the community level, he does not think you are going to see any real sustained change. The whole idea that we have here is the school district is doing their thing, childcare providers are doing their thing. We are talking about transitioning when we are going from Part C to Part B. A lot of children in the childcare community are getting left out. We could start some meetings at the community level bringing childcare providers and school districts to the table talking about how they can collaborate to make the passing of the torch a smooth transition. Making that happen a little easier. They are planning to start with two counties areas and facilitate meetings to get these people to start talking about the transition process.

**Personnel Preparation Committee:** V. Davis, reported that we need people from different entities in the personnel prep committee. We are missing parents in these conversations on the committees because we are making decisions that are impacting them. We do not have early childhood professionals. We need to reach out and do a better job at recruiting people to be in these conversations.

## MISSISSIPPI FIRST STEPS EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM (MSFSEIP)

**Recruitment/Retention Ad Hoc Committee:** S. Callender reported that they are working on the rate study. They are going to continue sharing that and sharing resources. She stated that we are trying to figure out who all the professionals are in our state, what is the process and how they would get on our rates.

**Public Awareness Committee:** M. Richardson reported that they talked about things missing from the newsletter. She stated that we need some more family statements and also, we have thought about adding provider statements into the newsletter as well. They would like a statement from providers stating why they are still working with EI.

### **Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

# MISSISSIPPI FIRST STEPS EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM (MSFSEIP)

## Committee Members

### Personnel Preparations: (meets third Thursdays at 1:00 pm)

J. Parker, V. Davis, C. Bates, R. Taylor, K. Smith, J. Slaughter, K. Riddle,  
P. Childs, G. Smith, L. Jenkins

### Public Awareness: (meets first Mondays at 3:00 p.m.)

L. Rolison, K. Driver, K. Butler, S. Miller, A. Pickett, S. Bailey,  
J. McCarty, M. Masterson, L. Bonds

### Transition: (meets first Tuesdays at 9:00-9:30 am.)

C. Herrington, M. Richardson, C. Allgood, H. Spivey, N. Thompson, C. Taylor,  
L. Shivers, C. Shedd

### Recruitment/Retention: (meets third Thursdays at 9:00 am.)

B. Herrington, R. Blakeney, G. Woodard, S. Callender, N. Bennett, A. Pace