



Meeting Minutes



Meeting	State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC)	
Date/Time	January 9, 2026 / 9:30 a.m.	
Location	This meeting was held virtually on Zoom due to inclement weather.	
Members	Members in attendance: 22 attendees, 18 voting members. A quorum was reached. Members Present: Dr. Chad Allgood, Eileen Beazley, Shanda Boarden, Kara Butler, Dr. Susan Buttross, Dr. Barbara Coatney, Karonica Crumbley-Mikell, Dr. Jillian Harper-Peavy, Leslie Junkin, Julianna Lieb, Sarah Myers, Nita Norphlet-Thompson, LaTonya Pittman, Tina Routh, Anitra Townsend, Keith Vuncannon, Jennifer Wentworth, and Monica Wimberly Members not present: Ryan Blakeney, Nicole Boyd, Brittany Carter, Ashton Hotard, LaDewayne Harris, Sandra Kelly, Dr. Julie Parker, Sarah Pendleton, Olivia Richardson, Kamme Riddle, Barbara Saunders, Missy Saxton, Martha Anna Welch, and Kimberly Wheaton	
Additional Attendees	Erica Allen, Dr. Shelia Anthony, Shanda Boarden, Lisa Bonds, Dr. Tami Brooks, Tracy Buchanan, Melissa Cox, Tanner DeYoung, Elizabeth Dezell, Renetha Faust-Robinson, Jasmine Green, Krista Guynes, Toni Hollinsworth, Nakii Kincaid, Monika Lorinczova, Victoria Okonkwo, Tamiela Ramsey, Miranda Richardson, Tonya Rogillio, Claudia Shedd, Gina Smith, Kelly Stafford, Alicia Westbrook	
Agenda	Notes	Action Items
Welcome, Roll Call, and Introductions	Sarah Myers opened the meeting at 9:37 a.m. and the roll call was completed by each person acknowledging their attendance. All SICC members and attendees were welcomed, quorum identified, and additional attendees were introduced.	
Statewide Early Childhood & EI Partnerships	Dr. Alicia Westbrook with the Mississippi Early Childhood Inclusion Center at the University of Southern Mississippi presented information on early childhood and EI partnerships. A presentation of the information is attached. There was a	



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	brief discussion among attendees in response to the presentation.	
Review and Approval of the Agenda	The agenda for the meeting on January 9, 2026 was reviewed and approved. Motion: Dr. Susan Buttross Second: Anitra Townsend Passed	
Review and Approval of Minutes	Minutes from the meeting on October 10, 2025 were reviewed and approved with no corrections. Motion: Dr. Chad Allgood Second: Dr. Susan Buttross Passed	
Monthly Virtual Learning & Networking Hour Discussion	The Executive Committee had a discussion proposing a learning opportunity each month through Zoom on Thursday during lunch not to exceed one hour to share information and to ask questions from various resources. Each committee will alternate each month. Leslie Junkin will provide the Zoom link for each month's meetings, which would be the same link for each meeting each month. Each committee would address a combination of topics based on the committees' responsibilities. A motion was to move forward with the educational plan assigned to each committee. Motion: Dr. Susan Buttross Second: Kara Butler Passed	
Committee Updates	Dr. Julie Parker has retired and is no longer with SICC. Public Awareness Dr. Chad Allgood stated the committee met on December 12, 2025 to follow up on a few items including EI community event days with R&R.	



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	Personnel Preparation Monica Wimberley stated the committee has not met yet. Monica Wimberley gave a brief update on the two-day EI staff training held in December. Transitions Julianna Lieb stated that the committee met in November. The committee is currently working on a shared internal document for agency leads to assist in the transitions process. Implementation Dr. Susan Buttross has been doing collaborative work with the Children’s Foundation of Mississippi.	
Announcement/ Public Comments	Toni Hollingsworth shared that they were able to add a continuing education online offering for educators on the front page of MITI. Sarah Myers held a discussion on updates regarding the selection of a consulting firm for EI with questions concerning how SICC would be involved, where we are, what would the scope of work look like, and how SICC could be involved and support the process. Tonya Rogillio answered questions regarding the process of selection of a consulting firm. Horne Accounting Firm was selected who also consult with other state agencies. The ‘ask’ is to help meet the recommendations of the Task Force and the requirements of OSEP. Tonya Rogillio stated that SICC are the experts on Early Intervention so she did not see how we could meet our objectives without SICC’s involvement. How MSDH involves SICC would be a conversation with the consulting firm. Dr. Chad Allgood discussed prior involvement with Horne Accounting Firm and stated that in his experience Horne was wonderful to work with. Tonya Rogillio stated the length of the contract was for either one or two years. Dr. Tami Brooks gave a brief update regarding Dr. Edney’s support of the EI budget request and opportunities for EI through Rural Health grant funding. Tonya Rogillio gave a brief update on agency statutory requirement on maternal mortality reviews, maternal	

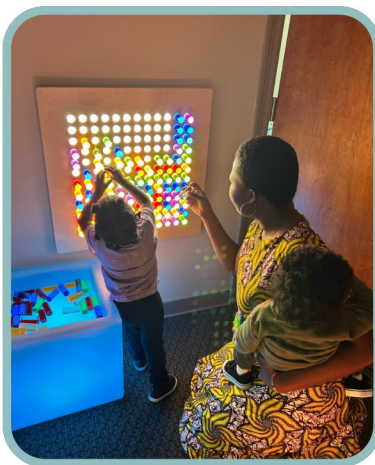
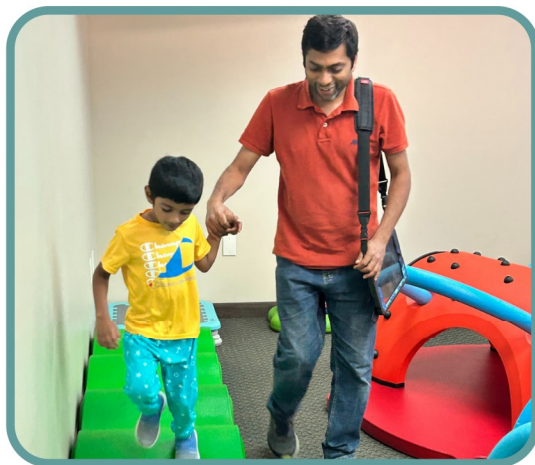


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	mortality plans, child death reviews, and child death plans. There are legislative actions regarding the formulation of infant mortality in the state. Melissa Cox gave an update regarding working on Task Force recommendations and the progress towards those goals. A discussion was led by Keith Vuncannon regarding an update on providers numbers for special instruction billing. He contacted National Provider Identifier (NPI) and they sent him a list of all NPI numbers. All numbers denied the educational license. Members are still researching ways of billing for services that are currently not covered. Miranda Richardson gave an update on the July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 APR report. A copy of the report is attached.	
Action Items for Next Meeting	No actions were discussed.	
Adjourn	Sarah Myers adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m. The next SICC meeting is scheduled for April 10, 2026 at MSDH.	

MISSISSIPPI EARLY CHILDHOOD INCLUSION CENTER



Mission

MECIC collaborates with families, early childhood professionals, and communities to support the inclusion of young children with disabilities through professional development, classroom support, resource provision, and advocacy. MECIC is grounded in data driven decision making that promotes high-quality early childhood inclusion within Mississippi's Quality Support System.



Quality Early Childhood Settings for ALL Children



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- MECIC Credential Programs
 - Early Childhood Inclusion
 - Social-Emotional Development
- MECIC Endorsed Educator
 - Infant-Toddler
 - Preschool
 - Director
- 26-hour professional development program
 - Training
 - Practice Based Coaching
 - Pre-Post Assessments
 -
- On-site Assistance
 - Individualized
 - Challenging Behavior
 - Early Childhood Inclusion
 - Collaborative Teaming



Ready to increase your strategies? Follow the QR Code to complete the MECIC professional development application!

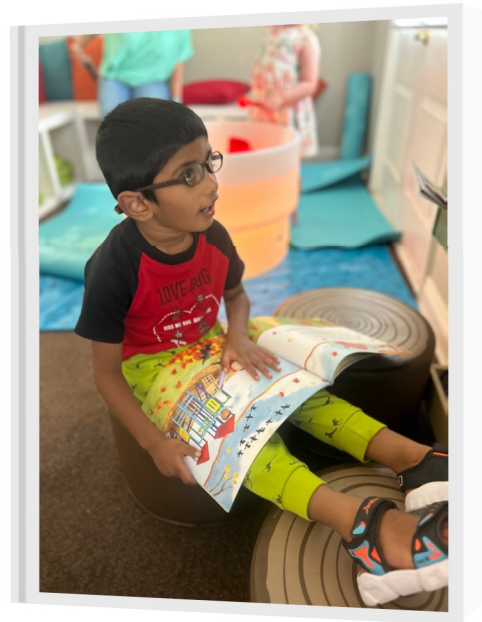


Need support? Follow the QR Code and answer a few questions!

Collaborative Teaming

The Kandula family are active in their community. They participate in MECIC Family Coalition meetings, they attend family engagement events at their local MS Lift Resource and Referral Center, and they can be seen out and about shopping and attending soccer games.

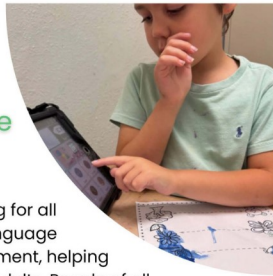
Their son Aditiya attends his local Head Start and participates in programs at The Children's Center for Communication and Development. His preschool teachers receive on-site support from MECIC.



Augmentative & Alternative Communication Devices

AAC enhances communication and learning for all users. AAC plays a vital role in enhancing language development and increasing social engagement, helping children make connections with peers and adults. People of all ages can use AAC to communicate!

-American Speech-Language-Hearing Association



Enhance communication & engagement!

Language Development

Social Interaction

Reduced Frustration

MECIC is available to help you navigate AAC devices.

- Overlay Picture Templates
- Programming
- On-site Support
- Consultation

Please call: 601-266-4745

Mississippi
EARLY CHILDHOOD
INCLUSION CENTER

A PROGRAM OF
MDHS
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Available AAC Devices for Check Out



Recordable Answer Buzzers are an effective tool to express needs & preferences through recorded messages.



The Twin-Talker is a great device to demonstrate opposites. Use the twin talker for playing games: stop-go, my turn-your turn, yes-no.



The Talker Buddy has a wide range of preinstalled words and phrases with easy to understand icons.

Put 'em Arounds can be used for a single message with a large, clear picture. This device encourages children to initiate communication and make requests.



The Little Step-by-Step is a multi-message communication device that provides the user with sequential messages for every day tasks.



The Go Talk 4+ is lightweight and easy to carry. Users can make choices, join in activities, and initiate communication with this device throughout the day.



The QuickTalker FT responds to the lightest touch and allows users to make requests, initiate communication, and share feelings!

Developmental Screener

To keep track of your child's development, scan the QR code to begin your child's screening.



Discover how your child plays, learns, speaks, and moves!

Complete an online screening for free.



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Social-Emotional Screener

To keep track of your child's social and emotional development, scan the QR code to begin your child's screening.

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mecic@usm.edu



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THANK YOU!

**Discover how your child plays, learns,
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**Let us know if you have
any questions.**