



Meeting Minutes



Meeting	State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC)	
Date/Time	April 10, 2026 / 10:00 a.m.	
Location	This meeting was held in person and virtually on Zoom.	
Members	Members in attendance: 20 attendees, 13 voting members. A quorum was reached. Members Present: Dr. Chad Allgood, Eileen Beazley, Kara Butler, Dr. Susan Buttross, Dr. Barbara Coatney, Ashton Hotard, Julianna Lieb, Sarah Myers, Nita Norphlet-Thompson, LaTonya Pittman, Keith Vuncannon, Jennifer Wentworth, and Monica Wimberly Members not present: Ryan Blakeney, Shanda Boarden, Nicole Boyd, Brittany Carter, Karonica Crumbley-Mikell, Dr. Jillian Harper-Peavy, Leslie Junkin, LaDewayne Harris, Sandra Kelly, Dr. Julie Parker, Sarah Pendleton, Olivia Richardson, Kamme Riddle, Tina Routh, Anitra Townsend, Barbara Saunders, Missy Saxton, Martha Anna Welch, and Kimberly Wheaton	
Additional Attendees	Mary Helen Abel, Rebecca Abney, Dr. Shelia Anthony, Robert Besinger, Lisa Bonds, Dr. Tami Brooks, Melissa Cox, Sara Cuzick-Shira, Krista Guynes, Biz Harris, Toni Hollinsworth, Luci Leffler, Monika Lorinczova, Susanna McDonald, Miranda Richardson, Haley Rishel, Tonya Rogillio, Perry Taylor, Will Wellborn, and Heather Witten	
Agenda	Notes	Action Items
Welcome, Roll Call, and Introductions	Sarah Myers opened the meeting at 9:32 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.	
Review and Approval of the Agenda	The agenda for the meeting on April 10, 2026 was reviewed and approved. Motion: Dr. Barbara Coatney Second: Dr. Chad Allgood Passed	



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Review and Approval of Minutes	Minutes from the meeting on January 9, 2026 were reviewed and approved with no corrections. Motion: Dr. Susan Buttross Second: Keith Vuncannon Passed	
BDO Presentation	BDO presented on the following items: BDO Scope of Work A. Program Assessment and Situational Analysis B. Strategic Framework and Redesign C. Capacity Building and Workforce Development D. Systems Strengthening and Coordination E. Monitoring, Evaluation and Quality Assurance F. Family and Community Engagement Discussion: 1. What BDO has done so far ✚ Understand the Landscape, including Task Force Recommendations and Corrective Action Report and Conditions on the Ground and in the Field a. Challenges b. Bottlenecks c. Priority Areas ✚ Conduct Preliminary SWOT Analysis, looking for what is working well, where there are gaps, where opportunities exist, and where there are risks to be aware of a. Strengths b. Weaknesses c. Opportunities d. Threats ✚ Prioritize Focus Areas, working together to identify what matters most and where efforts should be concentrated first a. Vote on Top Priority Areas	



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	Identified Priorities: Nine categories that represent major system-level areas where challenges have been identified. In <u>BOLD</u> was scored by the team for initial action. ➤ Access to Services ➤ Workforce Capacity ➤ Provider Reimbursement ➤ Provider Enrollment ➤ Referral & Eligibility Workflows ➤ Data Systems ➤ Compliance and Timeliness ➤ Family Engagement ➤ Interagency Coordination Each priority is evaluated across two dimensions, and each dimension consists of its own standardized criteria: Strategic Importance (60%, 5 Criteria) and Operational Feasibility (40%, 7 Criteria). Scoring used a consistent 1-5 scale. Comments from SICC Voting Members: Susan Buttross stated that access to services has been a huge issue in some parts of the state. 2. Where BDO is in this process – Action Items ➤ Creation of Intake Teams (Public Health Program Specialist 1) ➤ Training Implementation (MITI) ➤ Training Implementation (1 comprehensive training manual) ➤ Role Updates (Program Coordinators and the Regionals) This information will get fed into a priority matrix of Low-IMPACT-High and Low-EFFORT-High 3. What EI and SICC see as our role in this process 4. How we move forward together A brief discussion was held between SICC members and BDO regarding being available to provide BDO with as much feedback, data, structure, and policy as needed, and to provide SICC with an executive summary of updates and progress.	
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	A motion was made for BDO to provide SICC with an executive summary of updates, progress, and feedback to the general SICC. Motion: Jennifer Wentworth Second: Keith Vuncannon Passed	
MSDH Updates	No report was given.	
Early Intervention Updates	Melissa Cox provided a brief update for Early Intervention. Many service coordinators carry extremely high caseloads. The goals are to promote current staff to increase pay to the national average, hire new staff to reduce high caseloads among current staff, to help alleviate issues in services coordination. Intake teams will be created. Trainings will be conducted with service providers and to mend relationships between providers and staff. Regional Coordinators will be meeting regularly with NICUs to build positive relationships.	
Committee Updates	Public Awareness Chad Allgood provided a brief update for the Public Awareness Committee. Public Awareness met February 13, 2026 meeting. The committee discussed utilizing the staff of Early Childhood Inclusion Center, and Resource and Referral to help promote public awareness. The Health Disparity Conference will be held June 17-18, 2026. There was great discussion around support. Training opportunities for staff around family support. Personnel Preparation Monica Wimberley provided a brief update for the Personnel Preparation Committee. Personnel Preparation has met twice. The committee has begun to work with the Community College Board regarding pathways for recruitment of more service providers and discussing with students about their futures in working with early intervention. The committee has been collecting preliminary information about getting more provider input and collecting data on how First Steps can	



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	communicate better with the providers. The committee is working on a digital newsletter. There is a lot of preliminary work currently being done. Transitions Julianna Lieb provided a brief update for the Transitions Committee. Transitions have met a few times in between the last SICC meeting. Their latest discussion is a joint document for agency leads at MDE, Headstart, DHS, etc. to communicate a little faster with each other when there is pertinent information to share or questions to ask. There were eight trainings conducted statewide with Monica Wimberley. The committee found barriers between Part C and Part B when it comes to either pushing or inclusive services when it comes to childcare, so the committee has been brainstorming ideas to address those barriers. Implementation No report was given for Implementation Committee.	
Announcement/ Public Comments	No announcements or public comments were shared.	
Action Items for Next Meeting	No action items were discussed.	
Adjourn	Sarah Myers adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m. Motion: Dr. Chad Allgood Second: Jennifer Wentworth Passed The next SICC meeting is scheduled for July 10, 2026 at MSDH.	