



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**MISSISSIPPI FIRST STEPS EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM**

**State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) Meeting  
May 13, 2016 ● 9:00 am – 3:30 pm**

Present	SICC Board Members	Affiliation	Role
X	Shirley Miller (Chair)	<i>MDMH (Retired)</i>	Parent
	Margaret Buttross-Brinegar	<i>USM, Children's Ctr. for Com/Dev</i>	Public Service Provider
		<i>MDE, Office of Spec Educ.</i>	State Education Agency
X	Carlen Henington	<i>MSU, School Psychology</i>	Personnel Preparation
	Brittany Herrington	<i>MDE</i>	State Education Agency
X	Linda Shivers	<i>Independent Provider</i>	Independent Provider
X	Babbette Skipper	<i>Independent Provider</i>	Independent Provider
	Holly Spivey	<i>Head Start Collaboration Office</i>	Head Start
X	Ronjanett Taylor	<i>IHL, Academic and Student Affairs</i>	Institute of Higher Learning
	Hollia Thompson	<i>The ARC</i>	Advocate
	Nita Thompson	<i>MS Head Start Association</i>	Head Start
	Mary K. Ulmer	<i>DOM, Medical Services</i>	Medicaid/Insurance
	David Wickens	<i>Parent</i>	Parent
	Dorothy Young	<i>Division of Medicaid</i>	Medicaid/Insurance

**Additional Attendees:**

Early Intervention Staff	Additional Participants
Stacy Callender, <i>Part C Coordinator</i>	Karen Price, <i>Independent Provider</i>
Valecia Davis, <i>MSDH, EI, Division Director</i>	Kara Butler, <i>UMC Early Interventionist</i>
Becky Abney, <i>MSDH, EI, Training Coordinator</i>	Danielle Leverett, <i>UMC Service Coordinator</i>
Miranda Richardson, <i>MSDH, EI Data Manager</i>	Ryan Blakeney, <i>MS Insurance Division</i>
Pamela Kendrick, <i>MSDH, EI Quality Monitor</i>	Gwen Woodward, <i>Division of Medicaid</i>
Dinah Bell, <i>MSDH Quality Technical Assistant</i>	Jennifer Curtis, <i>UMC</i>
Tanya Churchill, <i>Quality Technical Assistant</i>	Steven Cole, <i>Independent Provider</i>
Debra Koonce, <i>Quality Technical Assistant</i>	Elizabeth Pell, <i>Independent Provider</i>
Michele Masterson, <i>District I Coordinator</i>	Laura Smith, <i>Families as Allies</i>
Paulita Edwards-Child, <i>District II Coordinator</i>	Pam Dollar, <i>MS PTI</i>
Angela Lackey, <i>District II Service Coordinator</i>	Geraldine Bethley, <i>Division of Medicaid</i>
Valerie Smith-Silas, <i>District III Coordinator</i>	
Kimberly Chancelor, <i>District VI Coordinator</i>	
Jacqueline Carrena, <i>District VII Service Coordinator</i>	
Jeff Kresege, <i>District VIII Coordinator</i>	
Anissa Pace, <i>District IX Coordinator</i>	
Genevieve Youngblood, <i>District IX Service Coord</i>	
Meagan Hicks, <i>District IX Service Coordinator</i>	

# MISSISSIPPI FIRST STEPS EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

## MINUTES

### **Welcome/Introductions (Shirley Miller)**

Ms. Miller, SICC Chair, opened the meeting at 9:20 a.m. and asked all attendees to introduce themselves.

### **Review and Approval of Minutes (Shirley Miller)**

The minutes from the February 26, 2016 meeting were reviewed and approved as written. [Carlen Henington (motion) and Ronjanett Taylor (second)]

### **Program Updates (Stacy Callender and Valecia Davis)**

Ms. Callender introduced Valecia Davis as the new Early Intervention Division Director. Ms. Davis shared about her background and discussed changes being implemented in the MSFSEIP. Ms. Davis described a new Training Calendar being made available for District Staff and Service Providers. Ms. Davis also explained new monitoring procedures which were updated to align with the federal Uniform Guidance (which replaced OMB Circular A-87), including a new monitoring protocol with the following elements: internal controls, procurement, personnel, equipment, professional development, and parental involvement. Ms. Davis noted the monitoring tool would be used for monitoring District FSEIPs during triannual onsite monitoring visits and annual self-assessments. Ms. Callender described additional assistance related to financial management to be provided to District FSEIPs including reassignment of staff to enable Joyce McClenty (Central Office) to serve as a District financial liaison. [See *presentation slides attached.*]

Ms. Callender reviewed the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) submitted April 1, 2016. Three infrastructure improvement efforts (quality standards, personnel development, and MSFSEIP data system) and three evidence based practices (Routines-Based Model, EBP promoting language and literacy development, and EBP for assessment and data-based decision-making) will be implemented between April 1, 2016 and April 1, 2019. [See *timeline of activities attached.*]

### **Business (Linda Shivers and Shirley Miller) 11:20 a.m.**

***Appointments and Orientation:*** The SICC is required by state statute to include: 20% families of children with disabilities ages 0-12 years, including at least one family member with a child with a disability ages 0-6 years; 20% public or private early intervention providers; and representatives of various State Agencies. The SICC members must be appointed by the Governor. The Governor's office has not yet appointed new SICC members. The MSFSEIP has requested biographical information from potential appointees, including families, providers, and agency representative to submit to the Governor's office for appointment. Once appointees have been approved by the Governor, the MSFSEIP will schedule an orientation meeting for all appointees. Ms. Callender reminded Service Coordinators and Providers of the importance of recruiting families to participate and to ensure they informed potential families of funds available to support travel and child care expenses. A potential parent nominee was recommended from District I.

**2016 SICC Meeting Dates:** The SICC meeting dates for the remainder of 2016 were tentatively set as: Friday, July 8<sup>th</sup> and Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup> [Note: *The October meeting date is tentatively scheduled to be held at the MsECA/MS DEC Conference in Natchez.*]

### **Standing & Ad Hoc Committee Reports**

No Committee Reports were made.

**State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) Minutes**  
**Approved: July 8, 2016**

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**Ongoing: Improving Access to Services:** Ms. Callender reported billing has been an issue; however, services should not stop as result of payment disputes. Ms. Callender reported two new Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care (PPEC) Facilities will soon open in Flowood and Tupelo to serve children 0-5 years of age with significant medical issues. Ms. Callender noted the PPECs are considered natural environments for early intervention.

**Ongoing: District Funding Formula Guidance:** Ms. Callender requested volunteers from payor sources (e.g., public and private insurance) to assist with developing a funding formula for District FSEIPs to account for number of children served, local contributions, local challenges, and rewards/sanctions for performance.

**NEW: IFSP Form Revisions:** Ms. Callender explained the need for revisions to the current IFSP form (e.g., lack of family outcomes, inadequate space for writing, and a separate Interim IFSP form) and requested volunteers from District FSEIPs, Service Providers, Agency Staff, Families, and Advocates to assist with revising the IFSP.

### **NEW: Closure of DMH Early Intervention Program**

Ms. Miller noted Ellisville State School's early intervention program will be closing due to budget cuts. This will impact 120 children who are enrolled in the ESS EI program.

### **Public Comments: 11:50 a.m.**

Karen Price, Ability LLC, will be providing training on June 10, 2016 at Woodlawn UPC, Hwy. 98 E, Columbia. CEU's and EI Units will be provided. Lunch will be served.

Steven Cole with Midsouth Rehab introduced himself and his company as a new possible early intervention service provider. Midsouth Rehab employs 50 providers across the state.

The Business meeting was concluded at 12:00 p.m. for lunch.

### **SSIP Workgroups**

The Data Workgroup did not meet. The Personnel/Workforce (CSPD Leadership Team) and Quality Standards (Program Standards Taskforce) Workgroups met and made future plans:

- The CSPD Leadership Team scheduled six meetings for the remainder of the year, including two face-to-face meetings and four online meetings.
- The Quality Standards Workgroup conducted an orientation for new members, set meeting dates for the remainder of the year, including monthly online meetings and one face-to-face joint meeting with the CSPD Leadership Team, and next steps for the next meeting.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.