



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) Meeting

April 22, 2022
9:30 am-1:30 pm

Table with 4 columns: Present, SICC Members, Affiliation, Role. Lists attendees such as Ronjanette Taylor, Alberstein Pickett, Anitra Townsend, etc.

Additional Attendees:

- Aggie Sikora, MS Thrive, Project Manager
Anissa Pace, MSDH, EI Region 3 Coordinator
Bradley Long, MSU, MS Thrive & Kids Count Project
Cathy Grace, Univ of MS, The Graduate Center for Study of Early Learning
Connie Clay, MS State University, Education & Training Specialist
Coreona Price, Parent
Danielle Seale, MCH Workforce Development Director
Debra Mullins, Children's Center @ USM, Speech Therapist
Dominic DeLeo, Families As Allies, Communications Dir
Donna Sorensen, MSDH, EI Quality Technical Assistant

## MISSISSIPPI FIRST STEPS EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM (MSFSEIP)

Gay Logan, *EI Central Regional Coordinator*  
Gina Smith, *MSDH, Coastal Plains LEIP Coordinator*  
Henry Moore, *Families as Allies, Director of Family Driven Practice*  
Jim Lesko, *ECPC, Technical Assistant Specialist*  
Lakeshia Unger, *MSDH, Hearing Follow Up Coordinator*  
Lauren Elliott, *MS Thrive, Nurse Practitioner*  
Laurie Craig, *TK Martin*  
Linda West, *MS Families for Kids, Executive Director*  
Lisa Bonds, *MSDH, SW LEIP Coordinator*  
Marty Chunn, *Hearing LTF/D Consultant*  
Melissa Cox, *MSDH, EI Northern Region Coordinator*  
Miranda Richardson, *MSDH, EI Operations Director*  
Natasha James, *MSDH, Program Specialist*  
Paulita Childs, *MSDH, CW LEIP Coordinator*  
Renetha Faust-Robinson, *MSDH, EI Southeast LEIP Coordinator*  
Sara Jenkins, *MSDH, Public Health Program Specialist*  
Sara Withrow, *MS Thrive, Nurse Practitioner*  
Stacy Callender, *MSDH, Part C Coordinator*  
Stephanie Eatmon, *MSDH, Social Specialist II*  
Tamiela Ramsey, *MSDH, NW LEIP Coordinator*  
Valecia Davis, *MSDH, Health Services Operations Director*  
Viola Jones, *MSDH, Public Health Program Specialist*

### MINUTES

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

R. Taylor opened the meeting at 9:30 am. She welcomed all SICC members and attendees. All participants provided brief introductions.

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

Minutes from the January 28, 2022, meeting was reviewed. Minutes were approved as written (motion by T. Routh, second by G. Woodard).

#### **SICC Business**

The following business items were discussed:

##### **Elect Officers: Chair and Vice Chair/ Elect 2 Executive Committee Members**

R. Taylor was elected to Chair, and C. Herrington was elected to Vice Chair.

T. Routh and A. Townsend was elected to serve on the Executive Committee (motion by J. Parker, second by C. Allgood).

##### **Establish any Ad Hoc Committees (e.g. Bylaws)**

No updates or changes to the Bylaws

#### **SICC Committee Reports**

The following updates were provided on the work of the SICC Committees:

- **Personnel Preparation Committee:** J. Parker, Chair, reported the Committee has grown significantly. The Committee continues to talk about what they want to accomplish. We recognize that moving forward with our inquiry about competency preparation within pre-service programs is still really high on our list and that's what we want to accomplish. We attempted to do that over the last year in the middle of the pandemic and our survey did not

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go over very well at that point for a lot of reasons but mainly because of the pandemic and second the survey was not in a good space to provide clarity. We always use the same jargon that we do in Part C programming so we are back at the drawing board and have a lot of interest on how to design that and what it should look like. We had a good discussion about ECPC, academic programs, and transitioning over to in-service as well. We also set some timelines with what to do in regard to working on a survey this summer and having it ready to go out in the Fall. We will be using many of the ECPC resources. Another goal of the committee is to push out those resources to pre-service programs so that not only are we training with the same goal in mind, but also with the same material as well. When our students come together in the field with actual children and families, they have this foundation of knowledge that they have already built on that. The second component is trying to figure out how we can fill some of those gaps.

- **Public Awareness Committee:** K. Driver, Chair, reported that the Committee has been working on our newsletter. The Committee has gotten with M. Richardson to help revamp the website. That's the Committee latest project.
- **Transition Committee:** C. Henington, Chair, reported that the Committee is a critical component because it has direct links to indicators for both Part C as well as Part B. Part B functions totally different relative to Part C. There are differences in eligibility and for some parents may find themselves without services just because their child no longer meets eligibility. There is an IEP instead of an IFSP. Parents really do need assistance in understanding what the transition process is as well as knowing what to expect. The transition committee is really a service for those families that are transitioning. The committee will discuss a new time to meet for their monthly meeting.
- **Recruitment/Retention Ad Hoc Committee:** S. Callender reported that the Ad Hoc Committee will end unless the Council agree to add it back. This committee looked at things including looking at reimbursement rates which the agency is still working on and hoping to get approved by the Health Board. The Committee also developed an enrollment packet that is now on our website. The enrollment packet describes the program, talks about our links to things like our regulations, and also have the forms that some people would fill out to become an Early Intervention provider and other links. We were able to get new pins abdicated to us and get the tiered levels. We have one position for service coordinators and a higher one for service coordinator coaches. With the flexibility that the personnel board has it will give us the ability to increase pay when people get an early intervention credential. Some of the things we are doing to help with retention is new training. We are providing early intervention credentials free for staff members to be able to earn those. The fee for participating is twelve hundred dollars but we are paying for the staff to do that. The Council agreed to keep the Ad Hoc Committee, but the name will be changed to Provider Participation Committee.

### **MS First Steps EI Program Updates**

The following updates were provided by the Program personnel:

**Annual Performance Report (APR):** M. Richardson reported on the APR results for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2020 (covering the dates of July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021, unless noted otherwise).

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Indicators	2020
1: Timely Services ( <i>January 2021 – March 2021</i> )	85.5%
2: Natural Environments ( <i>December 1, 2020</i> )	79.5%
3-A1: Child Outcomes: Social-emotional growth	74.2%
3-A2: Child Outcomes: Social-emotional on track	52.0%
3-B1: Child Outcomes: Knowledge & Skills growth	76.7%
3-B2: Child Outcomes: Knowledge & Skills on track	47.1%
3-C1: Child Outcomes: Action to meet needs growth	75.1%
3-C2: Child Outcomes: Action to meet needs on track	50.1%
4A: Family Outcomes: Family Rights	95.2%
4B: Family Outcomes: Communication Needs	94.3%
4C: Family Outcomes: Help Children Learn	93.5%
5: Child Find 0-1: Number of infants & toddlers with IFSPS who received the early intervention services	237
6: Child Find 0-3: Number of infants & toddlers with IFSPS who received the early intervention services	1621
7: 45-Day Timeline ( <i>January 2021-March 2021</i> )	91.8%
8A: Transition Steps and Services ( <i>January 2021-March 2021</i> )	91.6%
8B: Transition Notification to SEA & LEA ( <i>January 2021-March 2021</i> )	95.8%
8C: Transition Conference Meeting ( <i>January 2021-March 2021</i> )	91.6%

### **Staffing Updates**

Early Intervention Open Positions:

- 20 Service Coordinators (All Programs) – Public Health Program Specialist I or II
- 4 Service Coordinator/Evidence-Based Coaches (NW, SE, CP) – Public Health Specialist III
- 2 Program Coordinators (NC, CC) – Public Health Program Specialist Team Lead
- 2 State Office Personnel – Public Health Program Specialist Team Lead

### **Public Comments/Announcements**

S. Callender stated that she got information from the National Division for Early Childhood, which is a division of the CEC, which stands for Council for Exceptional Children, it is the professional association for Early Interventionists and for Early Childhood Special Educators. She contacted some of the current members of the CEC and DEC at the national level about interest in forming a State Professional Association. They will be providing guidance to us on getting that and there will be more information forthcoming.

DEC (Division for Early Childhood) & ISEI (International Society for Early Intervention) conference will be held September 27- 30, 2022 in Chicago, IL.

The Office of Head Start has made another automatic eligibility which is any family is automatically eligible for Head Start if they are receiving SNAP.

The Next SICC meeting will be held July 8, 2022.

### **SICC Committee Meetings**

Breakout rooms were opened for each Committee to have a quick meeting.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.