

Maryland SICC

STATE INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL

Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)
Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services
Early Childhood Intervention & Education Branch
200 W. Baltimore Street, 9th floor, Baltimore, MD 21201
(410) 767-0261
Brenda Hussey-Gardner, Ph.D., M.P.H., Chair

SICC General Meeting

Johns Hopkins University/Center for Technology in Education
6740 Alexander Bell Drive, Columbia, MD 21046

Thursday, October 2, 2014 — 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Minutes

Attendance: Debbie Badawi, Cynthia Bouchard, Laura Barbee-Matthews, Mike Berman, Nancy Egan, George Failla, Curtisha Hopkins, Elizabeth Kelley, Miji Kim, Karen Larenas, Mary Leppert, Rachel London, Shannon McRae, Karen Mull, Elizabeth Snyder, Abila Tazanu-Legall.

Excused: Brenda Hussey-Gardner, Amy Nicholas, Erin Stauder, and Natasha Ramberg.

Guests: Valerie Ashton-Thomas, Alyson Felder, Sharon Holloway, and Sandy Newcomb.

Staff: Brian Morrison, Nancy Vorobey, Pam Miller, and Clara Coleman.

I. Welcome Remarks and Introductions

Karen Larenas called the meeting to order at 1:00p.m. The SICC chairperson, Brenda Hussey-Gardner, was excused. Introductions were given.

II. Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes

The Committee voted to approve minutes with no revisions.

III. Announcements & Public Comment (Karen Larenas):

There were no announcements or public comment.

IV: SICC Co-Chair's Reports (Karen Larenas)

A. Member Nomination (Karen Larenas)

- Mrs. Valerie Ashton-Thomas was nominated by the SICC to replace John McGinnis as the State Representative for Homeless Education. Mrs. Valerie Ashton-Thomas has 25 years of professional experience in the field of Early Childhood, Family Literacy and Parent/Family Involvement. She has extensive knowledge in the areas of program administration, supervision, training and technical assistance, program monitoring and evaluation of education programs for families with children, birth through school age. Mrs. Ashton-Thomas has served in many leadership roles with federal, state, and local government and private/non-profit agencies. She is married, has two children and one grandson. She enjoys spending time with her family, participating in various community service activities and traveling.

Currently, Mrs. Ashton-Thomas is employed with the Maryland State Department of Education as an Education Program Specialist II.

- The recommendation of Mrs. Ashton-Thomas to fill this slot on the Council will be forwarded to the Governor's Office for final approval.

V: RTT-ELCG & Preschool Expansion (Liz Kelley)

The Preschool Expansion is in the 3rd year of our 4th year project for Race-to-Top. There were 3,294 Childcare Programs that have sign-up for participating in Maryland EXCELS.

- 924 programs have published ratings on the Maryland EXCELS website.
- 59% programs receiving Child Care Subsidy reimbursements were participating in the Maryland EXCELS as of April, 2014, a two percentage point increase from March 2014.
- The following information is the percentage of programs participating:
 - 32% Childcare through the State Childcare Program;
 - 48% Childcare Centers are participating;
 - 62% Before and After School Programs; and
 - 27% Family Home Childcare.

Additional information concerning this Maryland EXCELS can be found at the website listed below:

http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/child_care/challenge.htm.

VI: MSDE Birth through Five Updates (Nancy Vorobey, Brian Morrison, and Pam Miller)

A. Professional Learning Institute (PLI)

This year's Institute will be from November 12-14 at the Princess Royale Hotel in Ocean City Maryland. The theme of the Institute is a "Spotlight on Results." Local programs using effective evidence-based practices will be highlighted. There will also be presentations from programs who have begun implementing new promising practices. The Early Childhood portion will once again have Robin McWilliams as the national expert and facilitator.

B. Quality IFSP/IEP Documents

- Components of High Quality, Standards Based IEPs Reflection Tool. The purpose of this reflection tool is to assist local education agencies and schools to ensure high-quality, standards-based Individualized Education Programs and for students with disabilities.
- Components of High Quality, Functional Routines-Based IFSPs Reflection Tool. The purpose of this reflection tool is to assist local lead agencies and early care and education professionals to ensure high-quality, functional routines-based, Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs) for young children with disabilities and their families.
- These documents are not intended to be used as evaluation tools. Each tool with accompanying training modules will be rolled out during the last day of the PLI.

C. Child Outcome Summary (COS) Integration

The next Online IEP Preschool committee meetings are scheduled for October 31, November 21, and December 16, 2014. The committee is tasked with integrating the COS into the Preschool portion of the IEP. The Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program already uses the COS process and there is excitement about creating a consistent Birth through Five approach to examining development.

D. Public Service Announcements (PSAs)

Both new PSAs were shown to the committee. Various stakeholders have asked for access to these PSA's so that they can use them in their Child Find initiatives. The Attorneys General Office has been sent the request for permission to share these videos. Mauria Uhlik has contacted CTE about the possibility of providing the closed captioning for these. The MSDE will also explore the possibility of having the videos interpreted in different languages.

E. Suitable Qualifications/Comprehensive System of Personnel Development

- The state has a requirement that each Early Intervention service provider that works greater than 15% of their time with the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program must have 120 Contact Hours specific to 9 competency domains. These requirements are called Suitable Qualifications.
- Recently, a work group was formed to examine the current Suitable Qualifications requirements. Currently, a service provider only needs to meet Suitable Qualifications once and there are no follow-up requirements. The work group discussed the possibility of implementing a second tier of Suitable Qualifications. After discussion, the work group recommend an examination of the Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) to ensure a continuation of training for Early Intervention providers. This approach would allow local directors to have more influence on local trainings, thus ensuring training is consistent with program needs.

F. Making Access Happen (MAH)

The focus is on increasing opportunities to children between 3-4 years receiving services on an ISFP or IEP. The goal is to have all local jurisdictions on board by the close of calendar year 2014. The MAH initiative uses experts from Johns Hopkins and other national providers and focuses on building reflective coaching skills. Upcoming meetings include:

- October 22, 2014: Cecil, Queen Anne, Calvert, Caroline, Maryland School for the Blind, and Maryland School for the Deaf.
- October 23, 2014: Lower Shore - Dorchester, and Somerset.
- October 28, 2014: Montgomery, Baltimore City, and Baltimore County.
- October 30, 2014: Prince George's County and Howard County.

VII. DSE/EIS Updates (Brian Morrison)

Brian Morrison, with the assistance of Rachel London, lead the SICC in Infrastructure Analysis related to the State Strategic Improvement Plan (SSIP). The SICC reviewed the SWOT (Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities, and Threats) Analysis that was completed at

the September 19, 2014 SSIP Stakeholder Meeting and provided their own SWOT Analysis for the 7 components identified by the OSEP (Accountability, Data, Fiscal, Governance, Professional Learning, Quality Standards, Technical Assistance). The following meetings were announced: November 19, 2014 and December 10, 2014.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.