

Approved 11/3/11

SICC General Meeting

JHU Center for Technology in Education

Columbia, Maryland

1:00 – 3:00 PM

September 8, 2011

Minutes

Attendance: Kelli Nelson, Brenda Hussey-Gardner, Brenda Wilson, Amy Sargent, Cascelia Burgess, Paula Boykin, Margaret Berman, Curtisha Hopkins, Erin Stauder, Linda Ramsey, Rachel London, Debora Badawi, Rosemary King Johnston, Delegate Guy Guzzone

Excused: Miji Kim, Amy Tetteh Griffin

Guests: Patricia Saynuk, Abigail Flohr (MSB), Linda Budd (MSDE), Sharon Holloway (PACT), Edward Feinberg (Anne Arundel County Infants and Toddlers Program), Sharon Leyden (Prince George's County Infants and Toddlers Program)

Staff: Marcella Franczkowski, Tom Stengel, Nancy Vorobey, Pam Miller, Sheréa Makle, Brian Morrison, Dan Szczepaniak, Sandy Smothers

Ms. Nelson convened the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

I. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Members introduced themselves
- b. Participants introduced themselves

II. Announcements and Public Comment

Announcements

- a. Ms. Nelson announced that she would step down effective September 30, 2011 to pursue education opportunities and to fully serve as Executive Director of a newly developed nonprofit Birth to Five Collaborative Fund in Baltimore County.
- b. Ms. Ramsey announced the 14th Annual Maryland Respite Awareness Conference (flyers provided) and the Caring Communities World of Possibilities Disabilities Expo (leaflets provided).
- c. Ms. Vorobey announced the 4th annual Statewide Conference for Home Visiting. Ms. Ramsey agreed to email the conference flyer for SICC members to view and disseminate.
- d. Mr. Cohee announced that two one-day workshops on statewide agency collaboration around the McKinney Vento Act will take place this fall; and asked that attendees wanting to participate in efforts contact the Homeless or Title I-A

- coordinator in the local jurisdictions. Rosemary King Johnston will be the keynote speaker at each.
- e. Maryland Child Care Office shared the Division of Early Childhood Partners newsletter and Healthy Beginnings events calendar.
 - f. Ms. London announced that the DD Council Survey is available at www.MD-Council.org.
 - g. Ms. King Johnston announced that the Children's Cabinet will hold a briefing on Evidence-Based Home Visiting, September 21, 10-12, at the Ways and Means Lowe House Building, Annapolis, MD.
 - h. Ms. Vorobey announced the School Readiness Symposium on November 21, which as Ms. Franczkowski shared, will help provide information regarding leadership planning for the Extended Option.
 - i. Ms. VonBehren announced the Oct 5 Ready at Five SEFEL symposium in Columbia, and the Oct 14 Maryland Child Care provider conference on SEFEL in Columbia.
 - j. Ms. Nelson recognized the retirement of Dr. Carol Ann Heath and shared a certificate in Dr. Heath's honor.
 - k. Ms. Nelson recognized the appointment of Ms. Marcella Franczkowski as the Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services.
 - l. Ms. Franczkowski recognized Kelli Nelson's tireless advocacy on behalf of infants and toddlers and their families. A plaque was provided to Ms. Nelson on behalf of the SICC and the Early Childhood Intervention and Education Branch. Participants shared in a cake in appreciation. Ms. Nelson thanked the membership and the ECIE branch for mentoring and support

Public Comment

- m. No public comments were offered.

III. SICC Overview and Orientation Manual

- a. Ms. Nelson and Dr. Hussey-Gardner provided an overview of the NEW membership orientation manual. A PowerPoint accompanied the orientation. Members were provided a copy of the manual.
- b. Members and participants are STRONGLY encouraged to make recommendations for vacant slots. Currently the SICC is out of compliance in terms of the percentages of parent members. It is advised that the recommended person have experience on a Local ICC, if possible.
- c. Ms. Nelson suggests that the 20% parent membership requirement be fulfilled prior to SICC election of a parent as vice chair, unless one of the current parent members is interested in the nomination.
- d. Ms. Nelson stated that all members are able to educate legislators on behalf of programs; however, individual members and participants must be careful in terms of advocacy and lobbying.
- e. Regarding public comment, Ms. Nelson strongly encouraged the SICC to continue providing feedback of Part C regulations and the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR).
- f. A historical list of activities in which the SICC has been instrumental was provided.
- g. A *How To Be An Effective Advocate* presentation, developed by Ms. Nelson, was also provided.

- h. A history of State funding for the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program was provided.
- i. A draft of the SICC reimbursement policy was provided. Reimbursement is available for parents and others who have to forfeit their regular wages to attend SICC meetings. Ms. Nelson advised that parents receiving stipends would be required to complete the State Ethics Commission's financial disclosure.

IV. Presentation: Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant

- a. Dr. Graffwallner presented on the RTT/Early Learning Challenge Grant and provided a copy of the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge Application for Initial Funding (CFDA Number: 84.412).
- b. Maryland has declared legislatively that it will apply for the funds. The MSDE, Division of Early Childhood Development is taking the lead. Nine members round out the rest of the lead team for the proposal.
- c. Maryland is eligible for \$50 million for 4-years (2012-2015)
- d. Funding has to be dispersed by December 31, 2011.
- e. The grant is not intended for programs specifically, though programs may be written into the application to support the quality of the application. The grant is intended to strengthen the State's infrastructure for early childhood learning programs and services.
- f. There will be room for strategically supporting programs that meet the ultimate goal of the proposal, including the successful Maryland IFSP Extended Option through the MSDE ECIE Branch.
- g. There are five priorities. Children with disabilities will fall into Priority 1–*Promoting School Readiness for Children with High Needs*.
- h. Through this grant, there may be opportunities to leverage additional funding.
- i. Next Steps:
 - i. Application Draft to be presented to the Early Childhood Council on September 20 at 1:00 p.m. on the 8th floor at MSDE. A morning meeting will be held, by invitation only.
 - ii. Application to the Governor before October 12.
 - iii. October 19, the application must be submitted to the Federal government.
 - iv. The SICC is preparing a support letter to be included as part of the application.
 - v. Mr. Feinberg stated that a small population of students in PreK who have extremely challenging behaviors (not disability specific) and are asked to leave the school (and are not protected under IDEA). He considers this a high need group as these students are not prepared for schools and asked Dr. Graffwallner to comment. Dr. Graffwallner shared that Maryland should take a look at its policies and practices, so he will take the question back to staff in his Division. Discussion continued.
 - vi. Dr. Badawi asked whether screening for developmental training for primary care providers would be included in the application. Dr. Graffwallner answered that the Early Warning System is in place and is being strengthened through the grant.
 - vii. Ms. Nelson invited participants to email any additional questions or comments to Dr. Graffwallner, Valerie VonBehren or Ms. Franczkowski.

V. Early Childhood Initiatives and Updates

- a. Mr. Stengel provided an overview of proposed changes in Extended IFSP Option for Children Age 3 to Age 4. A summary of proposed changes was provided, as well as a copy of the proposed revised policies and procedures.
- b. An MSDE news release was included regarding public comment period and a public hearing regarding proposed revisions including: (1) the amended policies and procedures for the Extended IFSP Option; (2) a statewide template for local Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) policies and procedures; and (3) a Memorandum of Understanding between the Maryland State Department of Education and the Maryland Head Start Association.
- c. Mr. Feinberg commented on data in the policies and procedures. Ms. Franczkowski provided feedback regarding Dr. Feinberg's observation.
- d. Ms. Vorobey summarized the proposed revisions to the Pre-K Regulations-*Title 13A State Board of Education, Subtitle 06, Supporting Programs, Chapter 02 Prekindergarten Programs*, based on "the overall goal of providing learning experiences to help children develop and maintain school readiness skills necessary for successful school performance. Discussion among participants followed.
- e. The ECIE branch also provided three of the Parent Information Series documents and the Family Survey.

VI. SICC Business

- a. Ms. Nelson opened the floor to Recommendations for SICC Chairperson. The Governor appoints members to the SICC, and also appoints members to serve as Chair and Vice Chair, based on recommendations by the SICC. A motion was made to forward Dr. Hussey Gardner's name to the Governor to be appointed Chair of the SICC; Ms. Ramsey and Ms. King Johnston seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. Dr. Hussey Gardner's name will be presented to the Governor for consideration.
- b. Ms. Nelson asked that ECIE summarized primary differences between the new and proposed Part C regulations.
- c. Ms. Nelson stated that the SICC must provide comment on the application and proposed regulations. Therefore, a survey monkey will be developed and provided for SICC comment. Dr. Hussey Gardner suggested the survey also go out to LICC Chairpersons. Amy (CTE) will lead the survey monkey development.
- d. The Governor's Report format is being determined to best accommodate reporting needs for the SICC and the ECIE Branch.

Ms. Nelson adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.