

# 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

JHU Center for Technology in Education  
Columbia, Maryland  
1:00 – 3:00 PM  
**November 3, 2011**

### Minutes

- Attendance:** Brenda Hussey-Gardner, Brenda Wilson, Amy Sargent, Cascelia Burgess, Paula Boykin, Margaret Berman, Linda Ramsey, Rachel London, Debora Badawi, Rosemary King Johnston, Elizabeth Kelley
- Excused:** Curtisha Hopkins, Erin Stauder, William Cohee, Delegate Guy Guzzone
- Guests:** Barbara Davis (University of Maryland Baltimore County–UMBC), Amber Smith (UMBC), Amber Smith (UMBC), Jacqueline Reyner (UMBC), Amy Hahn (UMBC), Michelle Frank-Crawford (UMBC), Abigail Flohr (Maryland School for the Blind), Sharon Leyden (Prince George’s County Infants and Toddlers Program), Nicol Elliott (Harford County Infants and Toddlers Program), Carolyn Fiume (The Arc), Charles Baugh (Baltimore City Infants and Toddlers Program), Chris Swason (JHU/CTE)
- Staff:** Tom Stengel, Nancy Vorobey, Pam Miller, Sandy Smothers, Sheréa Makle, Dan Szczepaniak
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Dr. Hussey-Gardner called the meet at 1:05 p.m.

#### **I. Welcome and Introductions**

- a. Participants introduced themselves.
- b. Several of Dr. Hussey-Gardner’s graduate students from UMBC were in attendance.
- c. Mr. Stengel shared apologies from Marcella Franczkowski, Assistant State Superintendent, who was absent to attend the funeral of a staff member’s parent and to present before the Developmental Disabilities Council.

#### **II. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting**

- a. SICC members were given an opportunity to review the minutes.
- b. Per Ms. King-Johnston, page 2, letter G should read: “...will hold a briefing on Evidence-Based Home Visiting...”
- c. The minutes were approved with the usual 48-hour hiatus to recommend edits.

#### **III. Announcement and Public Comment**

##### *Announcements*

- a. Ms. Ramsey announced that the Maryland Family Network would honor Congressman Steny Hoyer with its first Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick recognition award.

- b. Dr. Hussey-Gardner recognized the tremendous advocacy legacy left by SICC parent member Amy Tetteh Griffin who passed away unexpectedly on October 29, 2011. On behalf of the SICC, Dr. Hussey-Gardner expressed condolences to the family.

*Public Comment*

- c. No public comments were offered.

#### **IV. Chairperson's Report**

*Membership Recruitment*

- a. Dr. Hussey-Gardner provided a copy of the SICC membership grid (see *Commission Membership, Infants and Toddlers, State Interagency Coordinating Council-SICC*).
- b. 9 vacancies exist on the SICC, including 5 parent vacancies (6 parent vacancies with the recent passing of Amy Tetteh Griffin), and 4 State representative vacancies.
- c. Dr. Hussey-Gardner opened the floor for nominations.
- d. Ms. Boykin nominated Ms. Carolyn Fiume (Anne Arundel County parent and Director of Education Advocacy for the Arc, Central Chesapeake Region) for application as a parent member. Ms. Fiume accepted the nomination and will complete a Governor's Appointment application (to be provided by Ms. Makle).

*Legislative Needs and Updates*

- e. Dr. Hussey-Gardner announced that the SICC Legislative Action Committee (LAC) would be co-chaired by Ms. London and Dr. Sargent.
- f. Dr. Hussey-Gardner invited participants (SICC members and non-SICC participants) to participate on the LAC.
- g. Carolyn Fiume and Sharon Leyden offered to participate on the LAC.
- h. Ms. Boykin agreed to continue as a member of the LAC.

#### **V. Director's Report**

As Interim Branch Chief for the Early Childhood Intervention and Education Branch, Mr. Stengel provided the following information and updates.

*Policy Implications in a Birth-5 Model: New Part C Regulations*

- a. Mr. Stengel shared handouts from the 2011 Fall Leadership Conference presentation by Sharon Walsh, *Policy Consultant from Walsh Taylor, Inc.*
- b. Mr. Stengel emphasized changes to Child Find language, including the requirement of "rigorous standards" to appropriately identify children to reduce need for future services.
- c. Ms. King-Johnston asked for additional clarification on the language on "added programs for coordination of Child Find efforts." Ms. Boykin added that the language covers partnerships that already exist in Local Public Awareness Plans and Local Interagency Agreements. Ms. Ramsey stated that Maryland Family Network is the CAPTA agency for Maryland and will work with the State lead agency to extend public awareness efforts. The State Part C Interagency Agreement will be revisited (possibly using Part B as a model).
- d. Revised screening/evaluation requirements will require edits to State and local policies and procedures.
- e. Beginning December 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012, the age of children in the Extended Option is age 4. On their 4<sup>th</sup> birthday, the option will end for the child. After June 30, 2012, Maryland has to choose one of the options allowed for in the new Regulations. Mr. Stengel invited SICC and local program representatives to

contact him in regards to participating on a workgroup that will discuss the option and make recommendations. (See slide titled, "State Option Until Kindergarten.) Notice on the change in the option will be disseminated to local programs in the next few days.

- f. Clarification on items, including language on service coordination will be sought at the Federal meeting on the Part C regulations on November 16.
- g. Ms. Boykin stated that in regards to "service coordination" many jurisdictions do not have a dedicated service coordinator model, which can have huge implications on local programs.

#### *Review of State Complaints*

- h. Part C has adopted most of Part B's policies and procedures.
- i. Due Process Hearings are held through the Office of Administrative hearing (not MSDE). There is a requirement that a resolution session be held prior.
- j. Dr. Burgess shared her experience in attending/participating in a resolution session.
- k. State Complaints for procedural violations (e.g., parent not receiving sufficient notice of proposed changes): Complaints are investigated by the complaint investigation unit at MSDE (comprised mostly of attorneys); MSDE produces a letter of finding (if any) and what the local program must do to remedy the findings.
- l. Parent Complaint: Parent not satisfied or in agreement with the amount of services, can file a complaint with the Office of Administrative Hearings. When this is done, there can be legal representation on both sides. An administrative law judge hears from both sides and makes a decision.
- m. When a parent files a complaint, the parent may select any or all of the procedures in which they are interested.
- n. Mr. Szczepaniak provided an overview of the document "Table 4: Report of Dispute Resolution Under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2010-2011." In summary, two written, signed complaints were filed; 2 mediation requests were received; and 1 due process complaint was filed (for all States) but was later withdrawn or dismissed.
- o. Mr. Stengel stated that if there is a finding, monitoring is required and if necessary (if other similarly situated children are affected by the same issue) the local system is required to make corrective action.
- p. The SICCC requested a quarterly report on Part B and Part C due process numbers. Dr. Hussey-Gardner will add this update to the SICCC agenda as a regularly reported item (data quarterly or analysis of trends annually).

#### *Position Vacancies*

- q. The ECIE branch has two vacancies: 1 Branch Chief: 1 Management Associate. Paperwork for both positions was presented for approval to the Department of Budget Management (DBM).
- r. Mr. Stengel will contact DBM for status information on the approval to move forward with recruitment for both positions.

#### *Other Updates*

- s. The 2011 Fall Leadership Conference, held October 12-14, 2011, in Ocean City was a successful gathering of leaders in early intervention and special education from around the State. Preliminary feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

## **VI. Presentation: Maryland Learning Links**

Christopher Swanson introduced the Maryland Learning Links website.

- a. [www.MarylandLearningLinks.org](http://www.MarylandLearningLinks.org) is designed as a comprehensive early intervention/special education website for anyone interested in the topics.
- b. Is a partnership of the MSDE DSE/EIS and the JHU-CTE.
- c. Built upon a model created by the George Lucas Foundation–EDUTOPIA.org.
- d. The MLL trailer was previewed (a marketing video set to the tune of “ABC” by the Jackson 5).
- e. Developed over the past 5 years through the MSIIG grant. Launched at the 2011 Fall Leadership Conference, October 12, 2011.
- f. Features include:
  - Media rich, dynamic, active web site
  - Closed-captioned videos; Section 508 accessibility-compliant; accessible to individuals with blindness and other visual impairments
  - Opportunities for users to not only view content but to contribute content via blogs, polls, surveys, and etc.
  - Resources and events
  - Blogs (read and join in the discussions) – Must be “linked” as an account holder in order to contribute to the blogs!
  - Discussions
  - Events
  - Featured comments, key events
  - Connected to iTunes and YouTube (providing and sharing content)
  - Six Channels: Birth-Five; Teaching All Students; Professional Practice; Leadership: Family and Community, and Policy
- g. MSIIG was funded with an emphasis on 6-12. However, the Birth-5 component is incorporated and includes content that complements the Maryland Early Childhood (EC) Gateway. Plans are underway for the Birth-5 component to be incorporated throughout all channels of the site.
- h. To date, the site has users in 13 countries and dozens of states. A star-rating and comments section will be added in January. The goal is 10,000 initial users!
- i. Ms. Fiume asked about monitoring and filtering of comments on the site. Mr. Swanson indicated that the site is moderated and facilitated and a disclaimer is provided on the site.
- j. Mr. Swanson encouraged participants to “Get Linked” as registered Learning Links users and to provide content and engage in online discussions, receive the e-newsletter and participate in communities. And to keep the site robust, a byline procedure is available for users to contribute content. Follow the “Contact Us” for Terms of Use Policy and instructions.
- k. Participants responded with excitement to Maryland Learning Links and asked for routine updates.
- l. Maryland EC Gateway is still alive and well currently, until the Birth-Five content can be fully embedded in the Maryland Learning Links.

**Dr. Hussey-Gardner adjourned the meeting at 3:43 p.m.**