



# Meeting Minutes



| Meeting                     | State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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| <b>Date/Time</b>            | October 27, 2023; 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Location</b>             | JSU E-Conference Center                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Members</b>              | <p><b>Members Present:</b> Carlen Hennington (C), Chad Allgood, Gwen Woodard, Janet Slaughter, Julie Parker, Kara Butler, Karonica Crumedy, Kaye Carr, Leslie Junkin, Linda Shivers, Nicole Boyd, Nita Thompson, Sara Myers, Valecia Davis</p> <p><b>Members not present:</b> Alberstein Pickett, Barbara Coatney, Candace Taylor, Casey Prestwood, Doug Williams, Eileen Beazley, Jenifer Tasma, Jennifer Wentworth, Jillian Harper Peavy, Karen “Kamme” Riddle, Keith Vuncannon, LaDewayne Harris, Leigh Campbell, Ryan Blakeney, Tina Routh</p> |
| <b>Additional Attendees</b> | Alice Dodds, Alisa Jackson, Anissa Pace, April Carter-Till, Ashten Yost, Belvin Glass, Beryl Polk, Brittany Coward, Callie Poole, Chelsea Panse Baron, Daniel Edney, Danielle Seale, Debra Halbert, Elizabeth Dezell, Gina Smith, Jennifer Alford, Jennifer Pace, Kris Adcock, Laquette McRoy, Latonya Lewis, Lauren Elliot, Laurie Craig, Melissa Cox, Miranda Richardson, Nakii Kincaid, Natasha Roberts, Renetha Faust – Robinson, Sandra Kelly, Sara Whitrow, Sebrana Weathersby, Shonda Boarden, Tamara May                                   |

| Agenda                                               | Notes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Action Items |
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| <b>Welcome and Introductions</b>                     | C. Henington (C) opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. All SICC members and attendees were welcomed, and participants provided brief introductions.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |              |
| <b>Review and Approval of the Agenda and Minutes</b> | <p>The Agenda for October 27, 2023 was reviewed. The agenda was approved as written.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Motion: V. Davis; Second: L. Shivers</li> <li>○ Motion passed</li> </ul> <p>Minutes from the July 14, 2023, meeting was reviewed. Minutes were approved as written.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Motion: G. Woodard; Second: V. Davis</li> <li>○ Motion passed</li> </ul>                              |              |
| <b>Speaker</b>                                       | <p><b>Dr. Daniel Edney, State Health Officer</b></p> <p>Dr. Edna introduced himself to everyone. He stated that the health of our children is critically important.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Made Leadership Adjustments, Kris Adcock, Senior Deputy.</li> <li>• To get the program into compliance with our federal grant – currently working with our federal partners to do what is necessary to come into compliance.</li> </ul> |              |



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|                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stabilizing things in preparation for transition to a new model based on the recommendations of the taskforce and appropriate legislative input.</li><li>• To take some of the buildup we had through COVID and deploy that into providing a twenty percent provider rate increase which significantly increased our number of providers.</li><li>• Early Intervention is a federal program that is set up as a partnership between the Department of Education and the individual states.</li><li>• Pledging that the work of the agency will be robust, and federally compliant and will provide the resources and the leadership that it will need.</li><li>• There are some really innovative plans that are coming out from the work of the taskforce – it will revolutionize EIP in terms of provider satisfaction, financial sustainability, and access to all our excellent providers statewide both for our academic partners and our private partners.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  |
| <b>SICC Business</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Taskforce Updates</b> (J. Parker, K. Carr, S. Myers, L. Junkin and C. Henington)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ J. Parker reported that they heard from several different states, mainly AL, TN, and some information from IN. She found that to be very informative information to help this taskforce think about moving forward with a recommendation in regard to a new framework. There have been a lot of discussions focusing on Medicaid and opportunities for providers to be able to engage with more ease with Medicaid. The taskforce members ranked objectives from strengthening the referral process and making it easier and more accessible to a different framework to how to increase work development.</li><li>○ S. Myers reported that the taskforce is looking at opportunities for us to support providers with the billing and working closely with our state Medicaid to make sure that we are recouping the funds that our state dollars are investing in.</li><li>○ C. Henington reported that the taskforce discussed the pay and chase model - where Early Intervention will provide pay to the service providers and then go directly to the insurance companies and other payers as appropriate to obtain that money whether than waiting for those</li></ul></li></ul> |  |



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|  | <p>individuals to pay and then reimbursing the service providers. It should clear up some of the delays that are experienced while insurance companies have that time to process paperwork. In order to go to that model, it will require financial resources up front in reserve to take care of this but once it's started it should flow relatively easily, but the initial investment to pay up front has to come from a fund somewhere. We don't have a fund for that right now and that obviously needs to be approved and then put into place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Set 2024 Meeting Schedule</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ January 12 (26<sup>th</sup> Backup)</li><li>○ April 12 (26<sup>th</sup> Backup)</li><li>○ July 12 (26<sup>th</sup> Backup)</li><li>○ October 11 (25<sup>th</sup> Backup)</li><li>○ There will always be virtual options</li><li>○ The Locations to TBD</li><li>○ Approval of the meeting schedule</li></ul>(motion by V. Davis, second G. Woodard)</li><li>• <b>SICC Appointments for 2024</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ We are recruiting parents for membership on the SICC, please reach out to Miranda to give her their contact information and she will then send out the packet and requirements so that can understand what they are getting themselves into.</li><li>○ The Early Intervention staff will develop a recruitment flyer with a list of requirements to be posted. We will send out the flyer to everyone to share across all platforms.</li><li>○ We need current members to confirm with the Early Intervention staff that they will continue to be on the committee by sending an e-mail to Miranda.</li><li>○ For all state agency appointments – if you are appointed by your agency, we will send out that to you to see if you are still going to stay in those positions or you can recommend someone within your agency to do it.</li></ul></li></ul> |  |
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|                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Bylaws</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The committee revised the bylaws by adding new wording to D1 in the bylaws regarding the attendance. The following rule was added: If a member of the SICC does not attend or send an alternate for two or more consecutive meetings within a calendar year the member will meet with the executive committee to determine membership status. The Executive Committee is comprised of the current chair, the Early Intervention Director, the vice chair, and an appointed person (usually a provider or parent-which we try to have both).</li><li>○ The bylaws revision was approved as written and accepted – we now have a revised set of bylaws. (motion by V. Davis, second by J. Parker)</li><li>○ The finished bylaws will be emailed to everyone within the next two weeks, and it will also be on the Early Intervention website.</li></ul></li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  |
| <b>SICC Committee Reports</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Personnel Preparation</b> (J. Parker, chair)<br/>J. Parker reported things the committee is still working on for 2023-2024:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Creating a professional development framework to be used to align competency criteria for all professionals working within Part C.</li><li>○ Applying for CEU approval from health-related disciplines (PT, OT, SLP, MDE) to maximize the benefit of the EI credential training.</li><li>○ Re-establishing the framework for professional development opportunities and monitoring that was developed in 2019.</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Public Awareness Committee</b> (S. Myers, chair)<br/>S. Myers reported things our committee accomplished in 2023:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Provided language, thematic support, and resources for the updated website development, including meeting with MSDH communications department.</li><li>○ Developed, distributed, and analyzed statewide EI provider survey for EI team to glean insights into providers desires, needs, and ideas for improvement. Ultimately, the</li></ul></li></ul> |  |



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|  | <p>goal was to support and retain current providers while looking at strategies to help recruit more.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Virtual Office Hours for providers came out of this (great idea from EI team leaders!) suggestion was made in our meeting to add SC to these as well to allow for more cross communication.</li></ul> <p>Things we are still working on for 2023-2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Creating and disseminating a printout resource for Pediatricians regarding how to refer to EI program with plans to present directly "why" to refer (started with UWSEMS Ed. Adv. Council for our local MDs but was requested as a resource for other areas in the state).</li><li>○ Help with providing training support for medical and health providers in EI best practices (i.e., MD residents, PT, SLP, SI and OT).</li><li>○ Support EI team with recruiting and maintaining high quality SC.</li><li>○ Currently the Department of Health is looking at a referral online portal and that would be a wonderful addition.</li></ul> <p>● <b>Transition Committee</b> (L. Junkin, chair)<br/>L. Junkin reported goals and priorities accomplished in 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ From First Steps to Next Steps guide was used in multiple trainings by MSPTI.</li><li>○ Transition resources were shared with EI staff and families.</li><li>○ Developed greater knowledge of early childhood resources and service providers.</li></ul> <p>In progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Continued work on parent/professional education, resources sharing and how to improve the transition process for children and families.</li></ul> <p>Plans for 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Create and/or establish communication with school districts to improve the transition process and link parents to education and support.</li></ul> |  |
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|                                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Provider Concerns Committee</b> (B. Coatney, chair)<br/>B. Coatney was not present, but the committee report was already submitted.<br/>Accomplished in 2023:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Assisted with the development of the scope of work for MDE 153 license.</li></ul>In progress:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ ID Badges for EI Providers that provider services in the Natural Environment</li></ul>Plans for 2024:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The committee feels that training for providers should be a continuation and made convent and required for providers to provide services to families. The number of hours and topic should be discussed and approved by the full committee.</li></ul></li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  |
| <b>Program Updates (First Step Personnel)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>EI Policies</b> (M. Richardson)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ M. Richardson reported that policies have been updated and revised and is in the process of going through approval for the Secretary of State Office. Hopefully, once it goes through that process, we'll start public commenting and our goal is to submit it for next years grant application. We will have more info on this in January 2024 on how far we've gotten.</li><li>○ OSEP Differentiated Monitoring &amp; Support(DMS)</li><li>○ Begin Discovery May 2024</li><li>○ Onsite Monitoring October 2024</li><li>○ TA for Monitoring, Dispute Resolution, Data, and Fiscal. These are the four major components. We are currently in Cohort II for monitoring.</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Personnel Needs</b> (M. Richardson)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ We are always on the lookout for more providers and service coordinators (mainly the Northwestern area, Desoto, Bolivar, Hinds, Rankin, Leake County, and other areas across the state.</li></ul></li></ul> |  |



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| <b>Announcements<br/>/Public<br/>Comments</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The next SICC meeting will be January 12, 2024 and the alternate date for that meeting will be January 26, 2024</li><li>• Look for the updates in a packet that will come out right before the next meeting. It will include the agenda and minutes, also look for the bylaws and the recruitment for families flyer to come out as well.</li></ul> |  |
| <b>Adjourn</b>                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Motion to adjourn (motion by L. Shivers, second G. Woodard).</li><li>• .The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |