



# **Mississippi State Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting**

*November 4, 2021*

# Meeting Agreements

- Everyone contributes
- Only one person speaks at a time
- Listen to each other
- Respect each others' opinions, even/especially if you don't agree with them
- Mobile phones on silent/vibrate to minimize disruptions
- Meeting livestreamed and recorded
- All members join Zoom with video, if possible, so people can see who is speaking
- All members welcome to use chat function; chat content will be included as part of the public meeting record.
- The public may comment in person or virtually during the public comment period.
- The past is not a veto of the future
- Have fun

# Meeting Agenda

## **I. Welcome**

## **II. Introductions/Roll Call & Approval of Meeting Minutes**

## **III. SECAC Committees**

- a. Discuss proposed committee structure, clarify proposed focus areas**
- b. Discuss committee membership and accept committee chair nominations**
- c. Provide guidance on running committee meetings**

## **IV. Asset Mapping Update**

## **V. Public Comments**

## **VI. Closing Remarks and Adjournment**



# MS SECAC Website:

[mssecac.org](https://mssecac.org)

*Full website built out and live. Please share widely within your networks!*



# Introductions/Roll Call

*Please state your name, title, and the agency or organization where you work.*



# Approval of Meeting Minutes

*The meeting minutes were distributed. Are there any proposed corrections?*

A reminder...

# The Functions of SECAC

Per Federal Statute, Public Law 110-134, Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007:

- Periodically conduct a **statewide needs assessment** concerning the quality and availability of early childhood education and development programs and services for children from birth to school entry, including assessing the availability of high-quality pre- kindergarten services for low-income children in Mississippi;
- Identify opportunities for, and barriers to, **collaboration and coordination** among Federally-funded and State-funded child development, child care, and early childhood education programs and services, including collaboration and coordination among State agencies responsible for administering such programs;
- Develop recommendations for **increasing the overall participation of children** in existing Federal, State, and local child care and early childhood education programs, including outreach to underrepresented and special populations;
- Develop recommendations regarding the **establishment of a unified data collection system** for early childhood education and development programs and services throughout Mississippi;
- Develop recommendations regarding **statewide professional development and career advancement plans** for early childhood educators in Mississippi;

# The Functions of SECAC continued...

- Assess the capacity and effectiveness of **2- and 4-year public and private institutions of higher education in Mississippi** toward supporting the development of early childhood educators, including the extent to which such institutions have in place articulation agreements, professional development and career advancement plans, and practice or internships for students to spend time in a Head Start or prekindergarten program
- Make recommendations for improvements in the **State Early Learning Guidelines** and undertake efforts to develop high quality comprehensive early learning standards, as appropriate

Per State Statute, Mississippi Code § 37-21-53:

- Assist the State Department of Education with the **implementation of the Early Learning Collaborative Act of 2013**
- Ensure **coordination among the various agencies and programs** serving preschool children in order to support school district's efforts to **achieve the goal of readiness to start school**
- Facilitate **communication, cooperation, and maximum use of resources and to promote high standards** for all programs serving preschool children and their families in Mississippi
- Carry out any **responsibilities assigned to SECAC by the Governor** and/or by applicable federal law.





# SECAC Committees

# Proposed SECAC Committees

- 1) Workforce Development and Retention
- 2) Early Intervention
- 3) Policy, Accountability, and Data
- 4) Family Support and Access
- 5) Bylaws

# Proposed Timeline for Committees

- 1) Allow time for public comment on committee priorities today and through MS SECAC website
- 2) Launch Bylaws Committee first to work on drafting amendments to the Bylaws in November/December 2021 to increase transparency, examine and improve how decisions are made.
- 3) Present and vote on proposed amendments to the Bylaws at the SECAC meeting in January 2022
- 4) Launch committees in January under the new Bylaws

# Committee Priorities

Today, we will discuss and clarify the identified issues for each committee to investigate and make recommendations. Are the issues:

- Clear and specific?
- Distinct across committees (not overlapping)?
- Being addressed by other entities in MS? If so, what's SECAC's role?

In the new year, informed by public comment, each committee will:

- Determine if any essential issues are missing
- Determine what issues are the highest priorities to address in the next 1-2 years, if addressing them all is not feasible.

# Workforce Development and Retention Committee

Proposed- specific issues this committee will investigate and make recommendations about:

- Increasing the number of well-trained individuals across all sectors of early childhood system
- Increasing compensation and retention (in child care, early intervention and other EC sectors)
- Improving the preservice/credential programs for general and special education to include more practical application of the knowledge base
- Increasing provider access to professional learning for supporting children with special needs
- Adopting professional standards
- Strategies to address gaps in workforce development

# Workforce Development and Retention Committee

## Clarified-

- Priority: Adopting professional standards for a range of EC professionals.
- Priority: Increasing compensation and retention in child care, early intervention and other EC sectors.
- Increasing the number of well-trained individuals across all sectors of early childhood system, including opportunities for job-embedded professional development in real-world classrooms.
- Improving the preservice/credential programs for general and special education to include more practical application of the knowledge base.

# Early Intervention Committee

Proposed- the specific issues this committee will investigate and make recommendations about:

- Increasing developmental screenings and access to related services
- Improving the funding structure of early intervention and early childhood special education
- Increasing the capacity of the workforce to provide quality services to children with special needs and their families.

# Early Intervention Committee

## Clarified-

- Improving the funding structure of early intervention and early childhood special education to increase recruitment and retention of providers.
- Increasing the capacity of the workforce to provide quality services to children with special needs and their families.
- Increasing developmental screenings and access to related services.



# Policy, Accountability, and Data Committee

Proposed- the specific issues this committee will investigate and make recommendations about:

- Process and support for ongoing quality improvements for all settings
- Policy to practice feedback loops
- Accountability for programs and services to maintain quality and impact outcomes for children and families
- Longitudinal data system

# Policy, Accountability, and Data Committee

## Clarified-

- Assess current state of State Longitudinal Data System and create a plan/make recommendations to improve/enhance the State Longitudinal Data System.
- Consider potential financing mechanisms for the SLDS.

# Family Support and Access Committee

Proposed- the specific issues this committee will investigate and make recommendations about:

- Increase access to CCPP for all families, removing burdensome requirements not federally mandated
- Improve access to information and resources for families and providers
- Supporting families in understanding all the programs and services that are available to them

# Family Support and Access Committee

## Clarified-

- Increase access to CCPP for all families, removing burdensome requirements not federally mandated
- Improve coordination of compiling and sharing information and resources for families and providers.

# Committee Membership and Chair Nominations

- Review committee membership
- Request any changes to your own committee assignment
- Volunteer/Nominate candidates to chair each committee
  - 1) Workforce Development and Retention:
  - 2) Early Intervention:
  - 3) Policy, Accountability, and Data:
  - 4) Family Support and Access:
  - 5) Bylaws:

# Committee Meeting Requirements and Guidelines

- Notice of Meetings
- Access to Meetings
- Executive Session
- Facilitation
- Documentation
- ❖ *Note this guidance may change slightly if Bylaws are amended*
  
- Questions?
- Tips or suggestions for running effective committees?



# Asset Mapping Update

# Purpose of Asset Map & Strategic Vision

## Questions the Asset Map Will Answer

- How are the children, families and the early childhood workforce involved with the MS early childhood system currently faring?
- What early childhood programs and services are available to children and families in MS?
- What funding exists for early childhood programs and services?
- What supports are available to make early childhood programs high-quality and effective?
- Are access, experiences and outcomes equitable?



The asset map will inform the creation of a **strategic vision**, which articulates a path for improvements towards a comprehensive, aligned, high-quality system of early childhood development and care.



# Scope of Asset Map & Strategic Vision

***Age Range:*** Prenatal to 8

***Early Care and Education System Sectors:***

- Head Start, Early Head Start, Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships
- Subsidized child care
- State-funded preschool (Early Learning Collaboratives)
- Locally funded preschool
- Home visiting
- IDEA Part B & Part C
- Title I
- University-based programs
- K-3 elementary education

***Other Key Sectors:***

- Health (Medicaid)
- Housing
- Subsidized basic family needs (SNAP, TANF)
- Child welfare
- Nutrition (WIC)

# Asset Map Elements

**Current State  
of Children &  
Families**

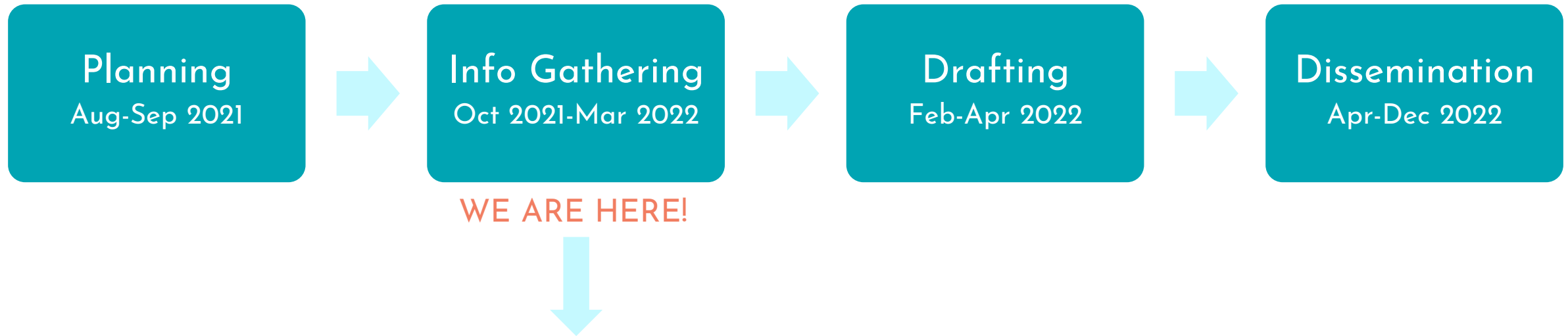
**Funding &  
Governance**

**Early  
Childhood  
Programs  
and Services**

**Early  
Childhood  
System  
Assets**

**Public &  
Political Will  
for Early  
Childhood**

# Asset Mapping Process



## Key Activities:

- Implement stakeholder engagement activities.
- Complete review of publicly available data, documents and reports. Request additional data from key agencies.
- Analyze quantitative and qualitative data, identifying themes through data dialogues with stakeholders and SECAC.

# Asset Map Process & SECAC Meetings

**January 3, 2022**

Presentation and discussion of asset mapping information gathered thus far through desk research and stakeholder engagement.

**March 3, 2022**

Presentation and discussion of asset map draft

**May 5, 2022**

Presentation of final asset map and posting to SECAC website.

*Between the full SECAC meetings, Start Early will also seek feedback on the development of the asset map during monthly SECAC committee meetings as needed.*

# Stakeholder Engagement Process Proposal

Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder Engagement Strategies
<p><b>FAMILIES</b></p>	<p><b>Survey:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal: Between 2000-2500 respondents</li> <li>• Review weekly for representation of racial/ethnic groups, geographic areas, involvement in EC programs/services; adjust dissemination strategies as needed</li> </ul> <p><b>Focus Groups:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal: 8-12 total focus groups with ~10 family members per group hosted by trusted local org or community member</li> <li>• Regional focus groups as well as targeted focus groups for specific families such as parents of children with disabilities</li> </ul> <p><b>Interviews:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal: 10-20 total family interviews</li> <li>• For combined participants in focus groups and interviews, aim for racial/ethnic, geographic and EC program/service representation</li> </ul>

# Stakeholder Engagement Process Proposal

Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder Engagement Strategies
<b>PROVIDERS</b>	<p><b>Survey:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal: Between 100-500 respondents</li> <li>• Review weekly for representation of racial/ethnic groups, geographic areas, involvement in EC programs/services; adjust dissemination strategies as needed</li> </ul> <p><b>Focus Groups:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal: 5-10 total focus groups with ~10 providers per group hosted by trusted local org or community member</li> <li>• Regional focus groups as well as issue-specific focus groups</li> </ul> <p><b>Interviews:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal: 10-20 total provider interviews</li> <li>• For combined participants in focus groups and interviews, aim for racial/ethnic, geographic and EC program/service representation</li> </ul>

# Stakeholder Engagement Process Proposal

Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder Engagement Strategies
<b>STATE AGENCY LEADERS</b>	Interviews with state agency leaders serving on SECAC as well as staff at each MS agency leading administration of key EC programs/services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Education</li> <li>• Department of Human Services</li> <li>• State Department of Health</li> <li>• Department of Mental Health</li> <li>• Division of Medicaid</li> <li>• Department of Child Protection Services</li> <li>• Head Start Collaboration Office</li> </ul>
<b>ADVOCATES</b>	Interviews with Executive Director or key staff member at each major early childhood advocacy organization in Mississippi. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mississippi Head Start Association</li> <li>• Mississippi Early Learning Alliance</li> <li>• Mississippi Low-Income Child Care Initiative</li> <li>• Mississippi First</li> <li>• Mississippi Early Childhood Association</li> </ul>
<b>RESEARCHERS/ HIGHER ED</b>	Interviews with SECAC members in research/higher ed.
<b>PHILANTHROPY</b>	Interviews with key staff member at each major philanthropic foundation/organization active in Mississippi.

# Discussion

- Are there any missing stakeholder groups or stakeholder engagement strategies that you would like to see in this plan?
- What local partners could we work with to assist with survey dissemination and recruitment for/implementation of focus groups and interviews?
- Other questions or suggestions?





# Public Comments

# Public Comment Guidance

- Members of the public may submit comments in writing on the advisory council website, in person at a meeting, and/or virtually at a meeting.
- If you are participating in person and would like to comment, please just raise your hand to signal the chair you would like to speak and wait for your turn to come to the microphone.
- If you are participating virtually and would like to comment, please put your name in the chat box and wait for your turn to be called on.
- If you decide to speak at a meeting, please identify yourself for the record prior to making your comment.
- Please keep your comments to 3 minutes or less to ensure everyone who wishes to comment has the opportunity.



# Closing Remarks & Adjourment