**MISSISSIPPI SECAC MEETING MINUTES**

**May 5, 2022**

9:30 am-12:00 pm

Two Museums

222 North Street, Jackson, MS

Recording of meeting available at: [MS SECAC 05-05-2022](https://os5.mycloud.com/action/share/70249009-35e0-4791-bf41-f14cbe128714)

1. **Welcome**

* Reminder there will be a public comment period towards the end of the meeting
* Reviewed meeting agreements
* Provided notice that this meeting is being livestreamed and recorded

1. **Introductions/Roll Call & Approval of Minutes**

* Council Members Present: Chad Allgood, Kelly Butler, Dr. Susan Buttross, Holly Spivey, Vicki Lowery, Julie Parker, Dr. Angela Rutherford, Andrea Sanders, Linda Southward, Tamara Smith, Lynda Stewart, Candice Taylor, Dr. Linda Southward
* Council Members Absent: Dean Bobo, Dr, Stephanie Davidson, Travonda Morris, Lori Rolison (Gloyd), Tina Routh, Nita Thompson, Dr. Carey Wright, Dr. McCormick, Jill Dent
* Correction to meeting minutes was made by Dr. Linda Southward: Dr. Linda Southward was not present for the March 3rd meeting
* Also in Attendance: Aisha Carson, Renard Elliot, Rebecca Klein, Katie Fischer, Karissa Logan, Halle Coleman
* Meeting Minutes from the March 3, 2022, meeting was shared. Tamara Smith made a motion to approve the minutes. Julie Parker seconded. All voted to approve the minutes.

**Updates on Continuing Topics: Child Support Enforcement Requirement for the Child Care Payment Program**

* Andrea Sanders introduced Holly and stated that she will provide an update on the child support enforcement requirement, a topic that has been discussed and raised by the public in each of the previous SECAC meetings.
* Holly Spivey shared her update, recognizing that SECAC did formally vote at the last meeting to recommend to the governor that the child support enforcement requirement be removed from the Child Care Payment Program.
* SECAC’s recommendation to remove the Child Support Enforcement Requirement is being moved forward and will be taken to Governor Reeves.

1. **SECAC Committee Updates**

* Workforce Development & Retention Committee: Kelly Butler reported that the workforce development and retention committee had a meeting on April 13, 2022. Three primary topics were discussed.
  + Regarding teacher preparation development for childcare workers and early childhood professionals, there is an ongoing effort to collect information through MDE to get the syllabi for all the programs. Dr. Davidson is helping to pull it together with the assistance of Tamara Smith. They hope to have a more finite report on what they found during the investigation by the time we meet again.
  + This committee is building a repository of existing professional developmental resources as well as public health resources. Dr. Susan Buttross is spearheading the efforts to make this information more accessible. Dr. Buttross and Dr. Julie Parker posed these questions to the committee:
    - Standards are updated every five years. What is the process for revising these standards? The process doesn’t seem to be on the books
      * Chad Allgood: Dr. Dent is not present; we will pose this question when she returns.
    - Dr. Julie Parker: Would you be interested in introducing our programs to Human Development and Family Science, which has the undergraduate child development and graduate early prevention program in your syllabi review?
      * Kelly Butler: Yes, I think we would be because we are interested in anyone who is providing any type of contribution to the professional development.
      * Dr. Julie Parker stated that she would reach out to Dr. Davidson but was unsure on what syllabi was being referred to. Kelly Butler made clarifications and they agreed to move forward with the next steps.
      * Dr. Susan Buttross asked Dr. Julie Parker: If you look at our standards for early intervention and the way the services are rendered, how are changes made? Would it be legislative change, the governor’s office?
      * Chad Allgood asserted that we will not receive comment on Dr. Buttross questions because the committee is currently doing updates.
  + Dr. Julie Parker asked Dr. Susan Buttross if she would look at the early childhood standards as they are addressed in professional development. She stated the third piece of the committee charge was to look at what those standards are comprised of and decide rather or not they are sufficient.
    - A question was raised about the charge and Kelly Butler communicated with Jill Dent (who is not a member of the Workplace committee but is overseeing the work of those standards) that there is usually an update every five years, and they are not required to update them just yet.
* Early Intervention Committee: Dr. Julie Parker reported that the committee met on April 14, 2022. This was their second committee meeting. They focused on the needs of providers in Mississippi that serve those with disabilities. During this meeting, the following questions were posed, and topics were discussed:
  + Are there any opportunities for collaboration? How do we identify these resources?
  + Providers are seeking resources, information, and collaboration
  + We have opportunities for individuals who are interested in connection. What does that look like? What is the mission of the subcommittee?
  + We could potentially bring these charges to the advisory board. Would developing that committee be more programming or resource allocation?
  + Chad Allgood requested that Julie Parker go deeper into what the community of practice would be doing.
    - Dr. Julie Parker explained that in her discussions with providers she gathered that having a resource that would provide opportunities for either real time discussions or even a Facebook subgroup where they could join, and things could be posted on the page such as resources would suffice. Julie explains that they are just exploring what that platform might look like and what would be the most accessible for community providers.
    - Chad Allgood clarified that this is an advisory council and not an administrative body. However, it is in our authority to determine where this would be housed and how it would function. Julie Parker opened the floor again for additional conversation and comments.
    - Andrea Sanders asked if it would be a possibility for us to use the SECAC website to post resources and Chad Allgood thought this would be a good idea.
    - Dr. Julie Parker responded and said that she felt that it was a feasible first step and as it continues to grow, we can keep it on our radar.
    - Chad Allgood stated that these efforts will and must drive the work in the sense of the need.
* Policy Accountability & Data Committee: Holley Spivey stated that she did not have much to add, however, she added that during the last meeting in February, the committee spoke with a representative from INSPARK at Mississippi State University about data and who can access said data. She added that this data is current. The committee has created a list of questions. SECAC Members are welcome to email questions. The committee is still nailing down a date to address the questions with US council members.
  + Dr. Linda Southward posed: To speak to the questions, it is important to raise[the questions], what are the gaps and how are we using that data?
  + Holley Spivey added: There’s been changes and appropriations. There is more transparency with more resources and questions. Let’s use that resource to direct our decisions
* Family Support and Access Committee: Dr. Angela Rutherford stated that this committee has not met but they have tried to schedule a meeting and are planning to meet before the next SECAC meeting. The committee is doing preliminary research on systems for families to access resources in other states. Vicki Lowery will provide an update.
* Chad Allgood added: Thank you for dedicating time to these committees. It doesn’t go unnoticed.

1. **Asset Map and Strategic Vision**

* Review Program Profiles: Chad Allgood
  + Chad Allgood stated:You [all] should have received draft versions of the program profiles in your email last week. As a reminder, these profiles will highlight the programs and services available to children and their family throughout the state. These profiles answer four overarching questions:
    - What is the program/service?
    - Who benefits? (Age eligibility, selection criteria, funded slots, enrollment, demographics of children served, percentage of eligible children served)
    - How much funding is there? (federal/state/local)
    - Who are the providers? (Type, number of programs, staff qualification requirements, workforce demographics)
  + Drafts also available on the SECAC website
  + We are working on some key programs, and you have until next week to review and provide feedback
  + There are some missing pieces from state agencies (SNAP, TANF)
  + There is also a section at the end on the infrastructure supporting the program, including workforce development, quality improvement supports, monitoring and accountability and data, and data systems. This section won’t be in the final program profiles as we are trying to keep them to two pages but will be included in the lengthier analysis report which will expand on all the programs and services.
  + Chad followed up with: We wanted to spend some time hearing your thoughts about the profiles. These have already been shared with the program leads for their review, but if you have any corrections, you can email Start Early [the email address was shared in the Zoom chat]. Otherwise, we more generally want to hear. We will be working on another draft in May.
* Chad posed the questions:
  + Do you have any feedback about the structure or what they include?
  + What did this spark for you?
  + How would these be helpful for decision-makers?
  + What are the implications for SECAC moving forward?
    - Dr. Linda Southward: Can we have more information regarding comments that state we are behind? Is this something we can share, or should we hold off? Can we get regional/local views of this data?
* Chad Allgood: If we do have questions or comments, how can we route those directly to Start Early. Deadline for questions and comments is May 13, 2022
* Rebecca Klein: It’s important to look at these against risk reports.
* Dr. Linda Southward: The Risk and Reach report will not be updated but factsheets will.
* Rebecca Klein: It’s important to think about funding.
* Chad Allgood: Is there a main contact person?
* Rebecca Klein: kfisher@startearly.com, epowers@startearly.com. Their emails are in the chat.
* Chad Allgood: We appreciate Start Early and everyone that contributed as this is not an easy task.
* Chad Allgood discussed the next steps: Your feedback along with any outstanding corrections will be incorporated into the program profiles. Next week, these drafts will be shared with the graphic designer to create a layout which will include some visuals and infographics. The final profiles are projected to be completed by end of May.
* Plan Strategic Vision
  + Chad Allgood: As we go into this work, this is an opportunity to be creative. This is a brainstorming process, nothing said today will be etched in stone. Purpose is to serve as a guide to us and inform what we need in the strategic vision. In terms of scope, we are talking about every program in the state. [We are] talking about all the services.
    - Timeline:
      * At the July meeting we plan to launch the visioning process and we will have the committee meeting surrounding the strategic vision.
      * In September we will have another meeting where we can review and report out.
      * [In] October we will have meetings to review/make any necessary changes and by November we need to be approving the content so we can be getting it to the graphic design person, so it can be packaged for December when it is completed.
    - Keep in mind what our timeframe is. This is a big ask. Will speak about July meeting before adjourning. (Timeline was presented and referenced from slide)
    - Take note that by November we need to have approved content
    - Strategic Vision: It’s time that we show that we are striving to make improvements in the state.
    - We are an advisory body, we as a council, how do we get this in the hands of changemakers?
    - What should the strategic vision achieve?
      * Dr. Angela Rutherford added: Cohesiveness to early childhood as well as a roadmap so that there is a strategic plan for now and forward thinking into the future. As committees are viewing recommendations, let’s consider how this change will be achieved? Who is it that we will be approaching?
      * Dr. Julie Parker: This is a big lift, and it is multidimensional. We are looking at designing a framework that can be interpreted on different levels. For example, how would this framework inform a childcare center? In addition, how do we allow professional orgs to provide to early childhood across the board?
      * Chad Allgood: I think that the asset map will be your best friend when identifying. Everyone is a stakeholder whether they realize it or not. Children are the future of our world, and we should want to invest in that. We must step in and remove barriers. We should help people realize that they are stakeholders
      * Dr. Angela Rutherford: It could help see where there is overlap so that we are more intentional in using our resources.
      * Dr. Julie Parker: Resources look different in different parts of our state. How can we promote that resource in that area or make the resources in those areas available in pockets that don’t have it?
      * Dr. Susan Buttross: I want to touch ROI and talking about kids being the future. If we really invest in children, what is the return? We have worked hard bringing people in the state. Pete has granted us access. I would like to invite anyone to email me if they would like to be in on these meetings.
      * Chad Allgood: This leads into who this is for. I was in a meeting three years ago and Karen Ponder and I were speaking about initiating change and the follow through. You must remember that you mustdrive the change down through communities. Let’s keep thinking in a way of community directions. How can we hear back from community members on what works?
      * Dr. Linda Southward: We did a lot of thinking and heard from a lot of voices but it’s important to think about what is feasible for this state so that we ensure this isn’t just something on a shelf. Sustainable change is going to come up from the community. If it’s something that’s not sequenced, it’ll be overwhelming. We need to be very specific. I hope this report gets a lot of attention.
      * Chad Allgood: What do the feasible changes look like to engage? What are the things people say, “we can’t do that” to?
      * Dr. Linda Southward: MS Thrive is a result of this discussion and a great example of being specific.
      * Andrea Sanders: One error we make at this level is that we don’t really understand where we are in Mississippi. [This effort] needs to be strategic and not a conclusory model. I have been very encouraged by the will at the legislator. They are hungry for good solid advice. They got behind the mission of our agency this year. If we don’t embed it in policy and incentivize, it won’t happen. We can’t give an unfunded mandate to the community that doesn’t have a path. This would be a good soundwave to create lasting change. It does not happen all at once. It can be damaging to try to enact all at once.
      * Dr. Angela Rutherford: A vision is great, [but] if you don’t have action steps you won’t achieve what we envision the outcomes to be.
      * Andrea Sanders: 15 minutes of public comments is not enough time to gather feedback. We need to think about how we can create a better feedback loop that is grassroots.
      * Chad Allgood noted a comment in the chat:
        + “We are on the advisory, but we represent all the players, thus a body that can support cohesion.”
      * Chad Allgood: Who is the strategic vision for? We are all in agreement that it is everybody. And that’s a big audience but we must think about how we can make sure everyone can absorb it.
* Principles and Values
* Julie Parker: Transparency is in my opinion the top principles and value because we can gain trust with all our stakeholders, and with trust comes cohesion.
* Chad: I agree transparency is top [priority]. As we move forward with different committees, are there any thoughts on principles we would want to guide the work within and between committees?
* Tamera Smith: I think accountability is very key as well.
* Chad: We may not always agree on every element, but I believe that everyone on this council is here because they agree on bringing improvements to this state. [There are} a lot of smart people and great thinkers.
* Structure
  + Chad: We don’t want it to be impossible or overreaching. Let’s talk more about how we want the vision to be done. What will this look like?
  + Dr. Linda Southward: I really hope that we have a well-written executive summary, two pages, front and back and then include the links to the larger piece.
  + Dr. Susan Buttross: The majority will look at that summary and go to places they have more stake in and this will make it much more useful.
  + Kelly Butler: Should be a manifesto even if we can’t call it that.
  + Dr. Julie Parker: [This is] Incremental in design, something that stakeholders can look at and see the reality in it being successful. Making sure that as we plan, those voices are heard. [We should] set out a plan that is sustainable.
  + Holly Spivey: Make sure that it is written in a way with different ideas behind it. [This should be] General but still specific.
  + Andrea Sanders: [There] Could be a process created to review and revise this annually. Possibly setting a meeting to review the direction we are headed in.
  + Chad Allgood: We can write that into the bylaws.
  + Dr. Susan Buttross: Keep in mind visuals and have graphs and charts to provide a quick message.
  + Chad Allgood: Maybe think about other ways to roll this out. Videos are powerful.
  + Candice Taylor: At the community level, videos will make the people get what we are saying.
  + Dr. Angela Rutherford: [We should consider] Achievable targets thinking about what data we have and what data we need to collect if they are specific.
  + Chad Allgood: It’s important that we have something like that to identify targets and gaps
  + There is an animated illustration available
    - Everyone should go back to read the 2006 report, good for introduction
    - Who are the leaders?
  + Dr. Linda Southward: There are different levels.
  + Dr. Linda Southward: Who’s voices are we listening to?
  + Chad Allgood: There are theories of change out there that provide models for implementing change and we should look at those. It is important to look at Early Childhood owners and directors, as they are respected in their community.
  + Dr. Angela Rutherford: Looking to see what other states have and thinking about the structure, there may be some investigating we can do.
  + Rebecca Klein noted that the examples are hyperlinked in the slideshow
  + Reviewed examples (Georgia and Michigan)
  + Chad Allgood: A “what’s in it for me” section is brilliant. We need to think of something that does not have so much reading to do. It should still be detailed.
* Survey Reminder
  + Chad Allgood: Survey will be live for one more week. QR code [is} within [the] slide.
  + Flyers were emailed and there are hard copies available [here]. They are also available on the SECAC public website.

1. **Public Comments**

* Chad Allgood asked if there were any public comments.
* One person provided comments in-person and two people provided comments on Zoom.
  + Carol Burnett (via Zoom): I just want to thank SECAC for the recommendation to eliminate child support requirement. Mentioning it as a workforce issue was great. Removing this would allow single parents childcare for them to go to work. We can offer information or assistance if that would be helpful.

1. **Closing Remarks and Adjournment**

* Next meeting is July 7th
* Chad: Does this pose a problem for anyone? Virtual or in-person?
* Meeting date and time was agreed upon
* Chad: This has been a great productive meeting and I am excited to see everyone
* Dr. Susan Buttross motioned to close the meeting
* Dr. Linda Southward: Seconded the motion

1. **Appendix A. Zoom Meeting Chat Log**