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
Johns Hopkins University/Center for Technology in Education
6740 Alexander Bell Drive, Columbia, MD 21046

Thursday, February 6, 2014 — 1:00 – 4:00 PM

<u>Minutes</u>

Attendance: Mike Berman, George Failla, Natasha Fields, Curtisha Hopkins, Brenda Hussey-Gardner, Karen Larenas, Mary Leppert, John McGinnis, Shannon McRae, Karen Mull, Amy Nicholas, Erin Stauder, and Nancy Vorobey (proxy)

Excused: Debbie Badawi, Laura Barbee-Matthews, Nancy Egan, Guy Guzzone, Elizabeth Kelley, Miji Kim, Rachel London, and Abila Tazanu-Legall

Guests: Debbie Crosby, Edward Feinberg, Sharon Holloway, Cecilia Leger, Sharon Leyden, Sandra Newcomb, Anna Reed, Elizabeth Snyder, Lori Tolen, and Brenda Wilson

Staff: Clara Coleman, Pam Miller, Brian Morrison, and Marjorie Shulbank

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Dr. Hussey-Gardner called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

I.   Welcome, Remarks, & Introductions: Brenda Hussey-Gardner

II. Review/Approval of meeting Minutes: Brenda Hussey-Gardner
     Minutes were approved with suggested corrections. Corrections were made on 2/6/14.

III. Announcements & Public Comment: Brenda Hussey-Gardner
     There were no announcements or public comments.

IV: SICC Report (Brenda Hussey-Gardner)
     A.   Upcoming <u>SICC General Meeting Dates:</u>
          1) April 3, 2014 - 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., CTE
          2) Joint SICC/LICC Meeting Date:
             o June 5, 2014, 12:00- 4:00 p.m., Montgomery County
     B.   <u>Upcoming SICC Executive Meeting Dates:</u>
          1) March 6, 2014 – 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., MSDE
          2) May 1, 2014 – 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., MSDE

     C.   <u>Executive Committee Updates</u>
          1) The Executive Committee has two new members:

        a. Erin Stauder
        b. Natasha Fields
   2) Two new members to SICC were unanimously nominated by the SICC and will be submitted to the Governor's office for approval:
        a. Cynthia Bouchard (provider member)
        b. Elizabeth Snyder (parent member)

B.   <u>Vice Chairperson's Report: (Karen Larenas)</u>
   1) Karen Larenas gave a brief report on the Scenario Focused ICC Meeting for new attendees.
   2) Brian Morrison reported out on the Anne Arundel LICC Subcommittee meeting in which members from the LICC are attempting to reduce the paperwork burden and tendency of being overwhelmed for many families who are involved with multiple agencies in the county. Brian serves on this committee as the State policy representative.
   3) The SICC asked that members from the Subcommittee report on their progress at the Joint SICC/LICC meeting on June 5, 2014.

C.   <u>Legislative Update: (Erin Stauder for Rachel London)</u>
   1) Erin Stauder gave a report on current legislation that may impact children with delays and disabilities and their families. Highlights included:
        a. Funding :
            i. The MITP is projected to be level funded at about $10.4 million.
            ii. Autism Waiver is projected to be level funded at $12 million.
        b. <u>SB 332/HB 297 – Prekindergarten Expansion Act of 2014</u>
            i. Created a competitive grant system to help counties expand public prekindergarten to eligible 4 year olds.
            ii. Focuses on children who are from economically disadvantaged backgrounds and changes the definition to a family whose income is no more that 300% of the federal poverty guidelines. This would impact children with disabilities who are from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.
            iii. Funded by a $4.3 million appropriation in the MSDE – Division of Early Childhood Development's budget.
        c. <u>HB 428 – Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program – Eligibility</u>
            i. This bill simply establishes the extended IFSP option in the state statute.
        d. <u>Due Process Hearings for Children with Disabilities – Burden of Proof</u>
            i. This bill doesn't have a number yet, but we know it is coming.
            ii. Requires school systems to bear the burden of proof in a special education due process hearing – regardless of who files for a hearing. Currently, if a family thinks the school system did not provide a free, appropriate public education

(FAPE) as required by law, they can file for a due process hearing. If the family files for a hearing, the family has the burden of proving that the school system did not provide a free, appropriate public education.

e. HB 413 – Special Education – Individualized Education Program Parental Notice Requirements and Service Models List
   i. Requires school systems to provide parents with a verbal and written explanation of the parental rights and responsibilities in the IEP process.
   ii. Also requires school systems to include on their websites, a list of all special education programs in the local system.

f. SB 418/HB 556 – Developmental Disabilities Administration – Low Intensity Support Services – Funding
   i. Changes the annual cap per individual from $3,000 to $2,000.
   ii. The DD Council convened a LISS Stakeholder Workgroup. This was one of the recommendations which DDA accepted.
   iii. Based on data from DDA, over 700 additional people could potentially be served each year by lowering the cap from $3,000 per year per person to $2,000.

g. HB 461 – State Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC)
   i. Establishes the ECAC in statute.
   ii. Requires statewide need assessments be completed concerning quality and availability of early childhood education and development programs and services, including low-income children and health-related barriers to school readiness.
   iii. A possible amendment (from the DD Council) is to add an assessment of the availability of high quality early childhood education and development programs that serve children with and without disabilities together.

h. SB 701 – Education – Children With Disabilities – Habilitative Services Information
   i. Requiring a local school system to provide to the parents of a child with disability verbal and written information about access to Habilitative services at specified times including at the child's Transition Planning Meeting, Initial IEP Meeting, and Annual IEP Meetings.

V. Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge Grant Update (Brenda Hussey-Gardner for Liz Kelley)
   1) A brief summary of each of the RTT-ELCG 10 Projects was given:
      a. Project 1 – Early Childhood Councils - All twenty-four (24) Maryland jurisdictions submitted implementation grant applications with action plans to improve school readiness.

     b. Project 2 – Maryland Excels - 1,889 early learning and development programs are participating in Maryland EXCELS Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System as of January 30, 2014.

     c. Project 3 – Coaching and Mentoring – Breakthrough center work continues with a focus on outreach for Maryland EXCELS, training staff and coordination of services with the resource and referral centers.

     d. Project 4 – Early Learning Standards – *The Guide to Early Childhood Pedagogy* is being finalized. The videographer and photographer are visiting Maryland early childhood programs to gather images of developmentally appropriate instructional practices to augment the text of the Guide.

     e. Project 5 – MMSR – 16 MMSR trainings are in session with an average of 170 childcare providers attending, 17 MMSR training sessions are complete with 248 trained.

     f. Project 6 – Comprehensive Assessment System (CAS) – The testing window for the Field Test in Maryland ended on Friday, December 20th.

     g. Project 7 – Child Development Innovations – To date, 188 early childhood referral resources have been gathered from 23 counties across Maryland.

     h. Project 8 – Family Engagement and Support – Fifteen counties and Baltimore City selected Reach Out and Read as their grant literacy component in their local early childhood council action plans.

     i. Project 9 – Workforce Competency and Leadership – Planning continues for the 4 regional one day academies to be held during the summer of 2014.

     j. Project 10 – Early Learning Data System--The Maryland EXCELS (QRIS) dashboard has completed development. It will be pushed to the MSDE public portal by the end of December. The confirmed complaints dashboard needs to have a data model adjustment; it is expected that this will be completed by the end of the first week in January.

2) For more information – http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/child_care/challenge.

VI.   <u>MSDE Birth Though Five Updates (Nancy Vorobey and Brian Morrison)</u>
       Birth through five updates included:

1) Federal Application: The FFY 2014 federal application was posted today for public comment and will be posted for 60 days. The application must be submitted to OSEP on/by April 27, 2014 and public comment will be accepted until March 7, 2014.

2) Child Count: MSDE is changing its child count data from the last Friday in October to October 1 each year. This results in better alignment with the general education child count date.

3) SPP/APR – The FFY 2012 State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report was submitted prior to the OSEP's February 1st deadline. In FFY 2013, each state must begin to develop a State Strategic Improvement Plan (SSIP), the purpose of which is to create a comprehensive, multi-year plan focused on improving results for infants and toddlers with delays and disabilities. The SSIP is submitted in three phases:

     a. Phase 1 (due February 1, 2015) – Includes data analysis, identification of the focus for improvement, infrastructure to support improvement, and a theory of action.

      b. Phase 2 (due February 1, 2016) – Includes infrastructure development, support for early intervention program implementation of evidence-based practices, and an evaluation plan.

      c. Phase 3 (due February 1, 2017) - Includes results of ongoing evaluation strategies, progress towards goals, and revisions to SSIP in response to the evaluation.

4) Anne Arundel County Ad Hoc LICC Group - Brian attends the group discussions to serve as a policy resource. During the January 24th meeting, the agencies involved developed a universal intake form and database that could be used by each agency.

VII.   <u>Prematurity and Atypical Development Professional Learning Modules: A Brief Overview (Pam Miller and Amy Nicholas)</u>

1. Amy Nicholas and Pam Miller presented an overview of the Modules. These include:
   a. The ABCs and 123s of Prematurity
   b. Diagnoses Associated with Prematurity and Developmental Implications
   c. Understanding and Using Adjusted Age With Infants Born Prematurely
   d. A Potpourri of Interventions for After the NICU
   e. Atypical Development-Increasing Awareness
2. The Modules are available on Maryland Leaning Links at www.marylandlearninglinks.org or http://marylandlearninglinks.org/3548 (for direct access)

VIII.   <u>Presentation: Cortical Visual Impairment (Sandra Newcomb)</u>

- Connections Beyond Sight and Sound is a project designed to meet the unique needs of children and youth with both vision and hearing impairments, or children and youth diagnosed with cortical visual impairments.
- Connections Beyond Sight and Sound serves any parent, family member, or care provider of a child with both vision and hearing impairments or with cortical visual impairment, age birth-21, or any school personnel involved in providing services to such a child.
- Connections Beyond Sight and Sound plans activities and assistance based on student, family, and service provider needs.
- Connections Beyond Sight and Sound University of Maryland, Department of Special Education, 1308 Benjamin Building, College Park, MD 20742. Contact person is Donna Riccobono, Project Director, 301-405-0482 or email donnaric@umd.edu.

IX.   Adjournment (4:00)

SICC General Meeting Dates:	**Joint SICC/LICC Meeting Date:**
April 3, 2014	June 5, 2014