

## SICC General Meeting September 1, 2016 Minutes

- Attendance:** Valerie Ashton-Thomas, Mike Berman, Anne Blackfield, Brenda Hussey-Gardner, Elizabeth Kelley, Miji Kim, Mary LaCasse, Karen Larenas, Cecilia Leger, Mary Leppert, Rachel London, Shannon McRae, Karen Mull, Natasha Ramberg, Elizabeth Snyder, and Nancy Vorobey.
- Excused:** Laura Barbee-Matthews, Cynthia Bouchard, Nancy Egan, Marcella Franczkowski, Curtisha Hopkins, Sarah Nativ, and Abila Tazanu-Legall.
- Guests:** Michele Baisey, Wes Campbell, Jenn Dorsey, Alyson Felder, Susie Fowler, Robin Fox, Karen Frank, Jen Harwood, Jessica Henkin, Lisa Jarboe, Joyce Mastrilli, Steve Rohde.
- Staff:** Janette Guerra, Pam Miller, Brian Morrison, and Jen Parker.

- 
- I. Welcome, Remarks & Introductions: Brenda Hussey-Gardner  
Brenda called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. Introductions were made in person and on the phone.
- II. Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes: Brenda Hussey-Gardner  
April 7, 2016 minutes were reviewed. Natasha Ramberg noted that she was in attendance although minutes reflect her as being excused. Motion to approve with the noted correction was voted and approved. Correction to April 7, 2016 meeting minutes completed.
- June 2, 2016 minutes were reviewed, moved to accept, voted on, and approved as written. Any additional corrections can be sent to Brenda Hussey-Gardner.
- III. Announcements & Public Comment  
Cecilia Leger asked if anyone had received any requests to translate IFSPs yet. She was in Prince George's County the day before and they had just received their first request and were looking for guidance about the process to address. Natasha Ramberg said that Montgomery County has written procedures in place and Prince George's County could contact them.

#### IV. SICC Report

##### A. Membership Update: Brenda Hussey-Gardner

Brenda presented background information on Flo Jean Speck for a Provider spot on the SICC from Maryland Family Network. A nomination came from the floor, was voted on, and approved for membership. Her application will be forwarded to the Governor's office for appointment.

#### V. Division of Early Childhood Development: Liz Kelley

- Race To the Top funds continue to wind down; data system enhancements will be worked on through the end of the year.
- Developmental Screening is still "on track" for July 2017.
- Rolf has retired, Liz is acting Asst. State Superintendent for DECD.
- Kellogg Grant for Family Engagement includes work on a "toolkit."
- Legislative hearings are next week around child care issues, specifically on regulations/licensing, accreditation, subsidies, and funding streams.
- DECD is working with the Federal Head Start Office to transition HS services in Prince George's County since the recent announcement of loss of funding. A transition team will be in place through the year.
- Renee Williams is the new Branch Chief for Child Care Subsidy.
- A member of the audience asked about the KRA sampling and what jurisdictions are doing. Currently, 15 are doing census testing and 9 are doing random sampling. Many counties still need to upload their kindergarten rosters to identify the samples, which cuts in to the testing window. Will have to see how the late school start (after Labor Day) announcement by the Governor will effect next year's processes.

#### VI. Approval of SICC Bylaws: Brenda Hussey-Gardner

Brenda thanked Valerie, Miji, and Jennifer for compiling a draft, with the "track changes" version provided to the group. Brenda reviewed the highlighted changes. She shared that it's been 6 years since the last review and one of the changes is proposing that bylaws be reviewed at least every 5 years. A question was posed about posting of the minutes. Brenda explained that by keeping the language as it is puts minimal requirements in place although they can always go above and beyond the minimal requirements in practice. Another point of discussion about the

Legislative Committee: it is in the Bylaws as a standing committee, which would indicate it always needs to be active and in place. It was suggested that it be removed as a standing committee and could be formed as needed/wanted. A motion was made to accept the Bylaws with the recommended changes, including removal of the Legislative Committee as a standing committee, it was voted on, and passed with noted changes.

- VII. ESSA Update: Marcella Franczkowski  
Marcella unable to attend. This update will be provided at a later meeting.
- VIII. MSDE Birth to Kindergarten Updates
- A. Preschool Updates: Nancy Vorobey
- Effective 7/1/16, the Field Test year of the ELA began. Implementation of the ELA is still “ramping up” slowly, with some counties still doing training. The focus is on Social Foundations, which aligns nicely with the Part C SSIP and national focus on social emotional development. A webinar the day before highlighted Field Test year expectations, technology capabilities, and the professional development site. During the Field Test, the ELA will be administered to newly identified preschoolers (with a new IEP on or after 7/1/16), ages 3-4, in an early childhood program.
  - A question was asked about the status of the Preschool Legislative Report and Nancy reported it is on track and due 11/1/16.
- B. Part C Updates: Brian Morrison
- The Governor’s recent announcement about schools starting after Labor Day has a potential to affect ITPs because many jurisdictions still do not have 12-month employees. This may require 2 additional weeks of contracted personnel to meet the year-round services requirement.
  - The Transition Technical Assistance Bulletin has been developed and has gone to the AG for review. Brian shared the history of the extended IFSP and guidance from OSEP. Advocates keep requesting the previous guidance in writing, so OSEP recently put in writing that what MD was doing was satisfactory. A workgroup was established to look at transition practices and the TA Bulletin is a product of the workgroup.

Once back from the AG, the SICC will review the document for feedback.

- OSEP provided positive feedback on the SSIP report.
- In August, the 2<sup>nd</sup> MD RBI Institute was held. Howard County provided feedback saying it was a positive experience and appreciated the shift to more internal support and developing individual competencies before focusing on training others.
- The Family Survey will be distributed in the next few weeks. An online option has been added.
- Data-sharing with Judy Centers issue: reports have been coming in that ITPs are not sharing info with Judy Centers. Brian reminded the group that it is acceptable to share with them since they are in the educational system. There is a TA Bulletin that addresses this and is available through Brian.
- “Double Eligibility” issue: Reminder that children are made eligible for the early intervention program, not specific services. When children are eligible due to high probability conditions, it is important that the family’s concern is noted and needs to be addressed functionally.

## IX. SSIP Jurisdictions Rollout Panel Discussion

Frederick County – Lisa Jarboe

Howard County – Jen Harwood

Montgomery County – Natasha Ramberg

1. *Which (implementation) stage are you in with each of the Evidence-Based Practices?*

### **Frederick**

- Coaching: Recently completed a year-long training on coaching that began about 18 months ago with M’Lisa & Dathan. Coaching is fully implemented and staff no longer bring toy bags. Challenges have been with supporting new staff and the various levels of all staff. A coaching committee was formed to address issues.
- RBI: 4 staff members attended last year’s RBI Institute, 1 is certified, 3 still in the process. It’s been a tough road to complete but they will be developing a plan with Pam next week to move forward. Their Local Implementation Team consists of 19 providers. They began meeting several months ago and will pick up again in October after a summer break.

- SEFEL: Staff will attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> module on 9/27 and will participate in monthly coaching sessions with UMD coaches. They are moving forward with finding a SE tool.

## Montgomery

- RBI: In installation stage. Had 4 participate in RBI Institute last year and had 3 attend national training prior to that. This year they ran their own RBI “Boot Camp” and trained an additional 21 team leaders with Mary Hendricks. Next year they will train additional staff. They are beginning to see differences in IFSPs.
- SEFEL: Staff attended MITP training in April and May, all staff had been trained in preschool SEFEL prior to that. ITP SEFEL was very helpful in training their 25 SEFEL coaches.
- Coaching: They are having Rush and Shelden as their keynote speakers for their PD event looking at Past, Present, Future.

## Howard

- SEFEL: Same as other counties currently going to series of trainings. Will figure out how to support staff.
- RBI: Started RBI 8-9 years ago, 4 went through national training, 7 went to the MD Institute last year.
- Coaching: They are bringing in Rush & Shelden to begin a two-year training. It’s been challenging to find ways to pull it all together and make sense for staff. They’ve spent a lot of time trying to make it meaningful, including moving to a dedicated “assessment” team to support time to do RBI, yet many providers still rely on what report says vs what the family is saying. They have Cluster Coaches (4), each trained in RBI, leadership, doing SEFEL and Coaching training. The whole thing has driven how staff are supported and the evaluation process and helping administrators understand how they can help.

## 2. What challenges have you experienced?

**Frederick** – Separating evaluation from assessment

**Montgomery** – It’s all so big and so much to do. Administrative positions are with the Health Department. and staff are with county schools, so it’s been challenging to get all the work done and make the changes when you have a disconnect in staff. Started having conversations a year ago, supporting through the changes but not enough staff to do it. People are invested and they see changes happening. The impact of MA billing for Primary Providers has been challenging. Teams have received training

about what words to use in family visit notes and using descriptive words to indicate how the child is being impacted by what they say/do. They have also given providers flexibility in how much time is actually spent doing therapy and to bill for that specifically.

**Howard** – Only additional challenge is ensuring the community and other providers understand the shift. They created new documents last year trying to get doctors to understand and need to have more face-to-face opportunities to help others understand.

*Question from audience: How do you change families used to having providers bringing in a toy bag.* Frederick County answered: It was a gradual shift with new families. Staff did not change approaches with current families but slowly changed as new families came in and phased out toy bag practices.

3. *How have the SSIP and various EBPs been communicated with staff?*

**Frederick** – Monica and Lisa have been talking about SSIP with staff for a couple of years but at recent PD day, only about ½ the audience said they knew what the SSIP was.

**Howard** – Similar experiences. Jen has shared some info about SSIP but until she fully understood it she didn't share and explain in detail. Implementation Science has allowed staff to be heard and valued and she hopes will tie it all together with a "happy, yay, SSIP bow".

**Montgomery** – Natasha had told administrators and staff what SSIP was however when the letters from Marcella came, she got calls from her supervisors asking what had happened and from staff asking, "Did we do something wrong?" So even though it's been explained and not based on doing anything wrong, that is what people first think.

4. *How are staff taking these changes?*

**Howard** – They've been implementing longer so the pain of the initial shift is not as strong, it's been a process. She is recognizing that they're growing and shifting on an individual basis, and Jen tries to be more positive about the work they are doing.

**Frederick** – Robin McWilliam came a few years ago to talk about RBI and it didn't make sense to staff at the time. Recently after training with Rush & Shelden, they see how it ties together better.

**Montgomery** – Staff are at various levels. Each team has SEFEL & RBI coaches and the leadership team is now all on the same page to support. They recognize they are just experiencing "growing pains".

5. *What has the LICCs' responses been?*

# 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  
Karen Larenas, M.B.A., M.Ed., Vice Chair

**Montgomery** – Planning to share with their LICC next week and discuss how they can help.

**Frederick** – Information has been shared with the LICC and there's been some concern about the (COS) data. So they will have more conversations.

**Howard** – LICC was involved in helping to re-write their brochure for the community. The Judy Center social worker has been very interested in RBI. Jen shared she underestimated the ripple effect of the changes in the community.

## X. Adjournment

Before adjourning, Brenda asked group to think about topics for future meetings. The group suggested:

- More info/updates on ELA roll-out
- Preview of Community Compass at November SICC
- Ongoing appropriate Social Emotional services
  - Where do private child care providers fit in?
- Tying in the Access & Equity Focus Group and the Suspension & Expulsion Workgroup to address inclusion issues
- Child Care Resource & Referral Presentation by MD Family Network at the next Joint SICC/LICC meeting (May 2017)

Meeting adjourned at 3:08 p.m.

### *UPCOMING MEETINGS:*

Executive Meetings (1:00-3:00, MSDE)  
October 6, 2016  
December 1, 2016  
February 2, 2017  
April 6, 2017

General Meetings (1:00-4:00, CTE)  
November 10, 2016  
January 12, 2017  
March 2, 2017  
Joint Meeting (12:00-4:00, TBD)  
May 4, 2017