

# Maryland SICC

STATE INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL

Maryland State Department of Education  
Division of Early Intervention & Special Education Services  
200 W. Baltimore Street, 9th floor, Baltimore, MD 21201  
(410) 767-0261  
*Brenda Hussey-Gardner, PhD, MPH, Chair*  
*Kristen Paul, Vice-Chair*

## SICC General Meeting—Virtual November 7, 2024 1:00-3:30pm Minutes

**Location:** This was a virtual meeting

**In attendance:** Cindy Bouchard, Molly Conner, Beth Fagan, Megan Fleury, Tyrinda Griffin-Jackson, (for Denise Parker-Shields), Elizabeth Hall, MaryJo Harris, Marny Helfrich, Nancy Hillibrand, Carrie Holaus (for Tatiana Owens), Brenda Hussey-Gardner, Lisa Jarboe, Susan Johnson, Vanessa Jones, Cecilia Leger, Amy Lindley, Rachel London, Marie Marino, Nick Miller, Jeni Murphy, Kristen Paul, Jamie Perry, Andrew Pollock, Lisa Shanty, Cassie Simons-Gerson, FloJean Speck, Jeni Stepanek, Denise Tillery, Christy Tirrell-Corbin, Elizabeth Tussing, Mary Weston, Annamieke Wilms-Floet

- I. Welcome, Remarks & Introductions: Brenda Hussey-Gardner (1:00-1:05)
- II. Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes: Brenda Hussey-Gardner (1:05-1:10)  
Minutes from 09/12/14 unanimously approved as written
- III. Announcements & Public Comment (1:10-1:15)  
N/A
- IV. Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services (DEI/SES) Early Childhood Update: Marny Helfrich (1:15-1:25)
  - A. General Updates
    - Mary Weston – regions 4, 5 technical support (Eastern Shore and Southern Maryland)
    - Marny is the technical support person for all other regions
    - Based on SICC recommendation high-probability condition for low birthweight now below 1,500 grams
    - Now tracking w/in IFSP when eligible for McKinney-Vento program – definition of homelessness is broad (more than just families in shelters, unstable housing (campgrounds, etc.), staying temporarily with friend/relative, etc.)
    - Revised COS training – adjustments to the way new staff are trained
    - Ongoing conversation re: Blueprint and making children w/disabilities fully included in all aspects of early childhood
    - Question: Family surveys are going out now. Will there be an extension?
      - M. Helfrich: Has been extended from 11/22 to 12/06 until Dec 6 (was 11/22); typically higher response rate for Part C than B.
  - B. Department of Health cross-agency work (newborns w/addiction) – how to follow up
    - Before pandemic, Department of Health and DSS collaborated on training w/families w/exposed newborns. UMBC put together the training. Regional sessions were held; Part C/DoH/DSS; planned collaboration and implementation re: support for the families.
      - These families can be hardest to engage – often the highest number
      - Eastern Shore training resumed last month

V. Division of Early Childhood Update: Nicholas Miller/Vanessa Jones (1:25-1:35)

A. General Updates

- Working with DEISES and other divisions to ensure Blueprint implementation. Recommendations from SICC, other community organizations re: increasing and expanding services being provided.
- Family Support Services/Head Start Collaboration: Projects directly touching children/families
- IECMH grant – 10 grant recipients at present to provide these services
- 7 therapeutic childcare grant recipients
- Home Visiting Program – supports children prenatally to 3, located throughout state, managed by LMB and MICHV
- Judy Centers: Currently 86 Centers, blueprint will expand 18 this FY, then more every FY under Blueprint – prenatal through age 5. Assistance with transition to public school. Playgroups, family support services.
- Patty Centers: Funding to MFN to operate – 19 subrecipients throughout the state.
  - Western MD, lower Shore do not have PCs
- Childcare scholarships
- CCRC network (MFN manages) – direct services to CC providers, assist w/consumer education, help family childcares get started
- Tuesday Tidbits – initiative for outdoor childcare/nature-based childcare programming

VI. SICC Report

- A. Legislative Updates: Eric Ebersole (1:35-1:55) – not present to provide updates
- B. SICC Updates: Brenda Hussey-Gardner (1:55-2:00) – SICC members can join Executive Committee, which meets virtually. Reach out to Dr. Hussey-Gardner if interested.
- C. Technology Task Force Updates: FloJean Speck (2:00-2:05) – Met in October – going to survey directors to find out what they are doing using technology (where are we from a starting point – tablets, cellphones, etc.). Questions for survey being submitted, will choose in Dec. and send out survey.
- D. Recruitment & Onboarding Task Force Update: Kristen Paul (2:05-2:10)
- Challenge of coordinating meetings; please reach out to Kristen if interested in joining
    - Question: Should we send out survey to see where everyone is in the process?
- E. PIE Task Force Update: Megan Fleury (2:10-2:15)
- Megan now co-chairing task force (pediatricians, interventionists, educators)
  - Brochure on better understanding ITP
  - Brochure for families of children in NICU, deaf/hard of hearing, genetic conditions)
  - Task force meetings: Second F of month from 12-1pm
  - Dr. Hussey-Gardner is helping compile list of medical directors of NICU to make aware of new criteria for LBW
    - Transport team from Hopkins, UMD working w/each of the level 3 NICUs to identify
  - Dr. Badawi (PIE): best way to make pediatricians aware of the change (2-year-olds, etc. may be eligible)
  - Mary Jo H. – Please send an email when fliers/links ready. Currently have 2 ways to notify providers; will have new mechanism to push out soon (database) – provider manual has resources, they have website.
  - Additional conversation
    - Dr. Hussey-Gardner: Referral website name now mditp.org instead of the prior name (parents previously thought it was for pediatricians)
      - Marny: Working w CTE on new look for the online referral website – survey request for users of the online referral system (improving using interface, etc.)
    - Pinwheel being actively piloted – 32 families from 12 jurisdictions (all 24 jurisdictions asked to identify ONE provider, ONE family)

F. SICC Member Spotlight: Rachel London (2:15-2:25)  
Done as part of VII (below)

VII. Disability Justice as a Component of DEI (2:25-3:25)

A. Member Organization Spotlight: Rachel London, (Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council)

- SICC ex officio member for 16 years
- MDDC:
  - Make change for people w disabilities to live the lives they want to live (birth to death)
  - Create change by leading, partnering, advising, advocating, informing, empowering
  - 100% federally-funded
  - 1971 exec order in MD
  - Late 60s: DD Act established (that is what it is called now)
  - Led by people with DD and families
  - Partners in DD Act: DRM, MCDD (at KKI, JHU)
  - 28 members of the Council
  - Must be 60%+ w/disabilities and their families
  - Create state plan every 5 years
  - 4 staff AND they are a grant-funding institution (500K per year)
  - Non-interference clause: fed, state law says state gov cannot tell what to spend money on, policy and advocacy efforts, etc.
  - 5-year plan 2022-2026
  - Only grant-funded entity in MD that gives grants ONLY for those improving the lives of those with DD
  - Diversity work team
    - Concentrated poverty, Latinx, Asian, black – significantly less information/resources going to those groups
    - Expert/consultant: RFP “cultural brokers in MD” (2: PG Spanish, Ethiopian in DC metro MoCo/PG), diversity statement
  - Equity and Disability Justice
    - Nothing about us without us
    - Plain language
  - Broader coalitions/groups of people (partnerships)
  - Providing information in as many ways as they can
    - 10 fact sheets related to covid
      - Translated into FIFTEEN languages
  - Working on 5-year state plan 2027-2032
  - Focus on: Intersectionality (the lives of people are shaped by a lot of different things), when we think about justice and the way people are treated (a lot of that comes to the intersectionality) – nothing about us without us – cross-disability work/collective access
    - Marny: Ableism/underlying assumption of “normal” (speaking/walking/etc)
  - Expectations Matter campaign
  - Focusing work on high expectations

B. Recap of September SICC Evidence-Based Practices: 9 Action Steps to Forward to MSDE DEI/SES for Consideration (Kristen Paul)

- During the prior SICC meetings, we created a list of 9 Action Steps related to Reflective Coaching, Pyramid Model, and Routines-Based Interviews
- We then took a poll in which we (individually) ranked the 9 Action Steps by priority type

(highest, medium, lowest)

- From this poll, we collectively ranked the 9 Action Steps in from 1 (rated as highest priority by members) to 9 (rated as lowest priority by members):\
  1. Coaching: MSDE-led, recorded training for new staff w/follow-up TAB as needed
  2. RBI: Request McWilliams PD on cultural responsiveness, especially on EcoMap
  3. Pyramid: Discuss use of screening of social-emotional needs of children; from there, trauma screen families
  4. Coaching: Video for parents/caregivers that highlights the benefits of caregiver coaching (parent testimonials, lived experiences included)
  5. Pyramid: Workforce reflective of the community; funding for mental health providers and/or certifications
  6. Coaching: Ongoing training related to cultural diversity and sensitivity
  7. Pyramid: Establish separate PM team (monthly meetings) or integrate into Local Implementation Team and utilize BOQ to support fidelity
  8. RBI: Get data to learn when RBI is being used and pros/cons/frequency
  9. RBI: Get data to find out process for auto-eligible transfers

#### C. Breakout groups

1. Icebreaker: 5 Things (15 minutes)
2. Conversation: What are your organizations doing? Does the disability justice lens impact our 9 EBP Action Steps? If so, how?
  - a. Considerations: Idea of intersectionality (what are the various elements that contribute to a person's life and personality), "Nothing about us without us", recognizing cross-disability and how that impacts families, collective access (people should be included in creating change in ways that work for them – similar to meaningful opportunity and access), ableism ("normal" is better – that our goal as interventionists should is to help a child be as "normal" as possible)
3. Reporting out
  - a. The various organizations/agencies that we represent are all invested in DEI work
  - b. Time is a big factor in our ability to do the work we want to do the way we want to do it
  - c. Money/funding/staff is also a big factor
  - d. We often do what we think families want/need, without including them in the conversation; families and providers need to be aware of rights (access to all without "gatekeeping"); if you know better, you do better (but if you don't know, how do you ever do?); how do we move from awareness to action and change

#### VIII. Wrap-Up & Adjournment (3:30)

#### **SICC UPCOMING MEETINGS**

December 5, 2024: Executive meeting, 1-2pm

**January 9, 2025: General meeting (SPP/APR presentation), 1-3:30pm**

February 6, 2025: Executive meeting, 1-2pm

**March 3, 2025 (Monday to accommodate legislative session): General meeting, 1-3:30pm**

April 3, 2025: Executive meeting, 1-2pm

May 1, 2025: Executive meeting, 1-2pm

**June 5, 2025: Joint SICC/LICC Meeting, 10am-2pm**