



Meeting Minutes



Meeting	
Meeting	State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC)
Date/Time	July 14, 2023; 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Location	JSU E-Conference Center
Members	<p>Members Present: Carlen Hennington (C), Barbara Coatney, Chad Allgood, Eileen Beazley, Jillian Harper Peavy, Janet Slaughter, Kara Butler, Karonica Crumedy, Kaye Carr, Keith Vuncannon, Linda Shivers, Nita Thompson, Sarah Myers</p> <p>Members not present: Alberstein Pickett, Candace Taylor, Casey Prestwood, Doug Williams, Jenifer Tasma, Jennifer Wentworth, Julie Parker, Karen “Kamme” Riddle, LaDewayne Harris, Leigh Campbell, Leslie Junkin, Nicole Boyd, Ryan Blakeney, Tina Routh</p>
Additional Attendees	Amy Franklin, Alice Dodds, Alisa Jackson, Angela Pinkston, Anissa Pace, Ashten Yost, Belvin Glass, Callie Poole, Claudia Shedd, Elizabeth Dezell, Gina Smith, Jennifer Pace, Kasee Stratton-Gadke, Katie Cassady, Lakeshia Unger, Latonya Lewis, Lauren Elliot, Lisa Bonds, Marty Chunn, Melissa Cox, Miranda Richardson, Monika Lorinczova, Nakii Kincaid, Natasha Roberts, Renetha Faust – Robinson, Rolanda Mohead, Stacy Callender, Tamiela Ramsey, Valecia Davis

Agenda	Notes	Action Items
Welcome and Introductions	C. Henington (C) opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. All SICC members and attendees were welcomed and participants provided brief introductions.	
Review and Approval of the Agenda and Minutes	<p>Minutes from the April 14, 2023, meeting was reviewed. Minutes were approved as written. Agenda for the July 14, 2023, SICC meeting was amended. The agenda was then motioned and approved with the updated changes included in New Business by the SICC members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Motion: V. Davis; Second: E. Beazley ○ Motion passed 	
Public Comments	No public comments were shared.	
SICC Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bylaws (C. Henington) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of bylaws was put on hold to give SICC members additional time to review the bylaws changes. Bylaws will be emailed back out to SICC members to review, and the committee will entertain a discussion and a vote on the bylaws in October. • El Task Force Update, (Task force members: S. Buttross (C), J. Parker, C. Henington, S. Myers, L. Junkin) 	



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- S. Myers reported that they have had introductions and have been sharing some information with S. Buttross (C). The next meeting will be on July 24, 2023, and the plan at the meeting is to have several of the members briefly present some updated information that we feel could be relevant with possible recommendations.
- There is a portal to voice concerns, feedback for providers, caretakers, professional and for families: earlyintervention@peer.ms.gov

New Business – Timely Services and the challenges that we face (S. Callender)

- We have doctors who refer children to Early Intervention and then will not provide medical records even with release from parents. All our providers when they go to use the system of payments that we have which can involve private insurance and Medicaid providers are required for their documentation to provide a Certificate of Medical Necessity (CMN). There are some professions like Speech Pathologists who take the CMN and go right ahead and service the child, but there are other professions that have said no can't do it or we will lose our license. Either we need to address that with our practice law or need to educate people around that process because it's really part of the barrier to what's getting Timely Services that children need and that's part of the hurdle that's being encountered.
- The SICC has a concern around Timely Services specifically around Certificate of Medical Necessity (CMN) and billing of Medicaid and private insurance. These are all factors that are contributing to Timely Services. The SICC would like to assign this issue to The Ad Hoc Committee on Provider Concerns to make recommendations for the SICC, in addition to that maybe something that someone would like to forward to the Early Intervention Task Force.
- Recommended that K. Vuncannon and J. Slaughter be added to Ad Hoc Committee on Provider Concerns.
- Motion L. Shivers; Second V. Davis
- Motion passed



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SICC Committee Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Ad Hoc Committee on SB 2485<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ This is a combination of the Personnel Prep committee and the Provider Concerns committee. They were to provide feedback of their thoughts on the inclusion of the new professionals that were listed as qualified providers in state law.○ For people who have a degree in child development and families they would be considered the same as Special Instructors. They would be called Developmental Therapists and the scope of work would be the same as a Special Instructor.○ B. Coatney (C) of Provider Concerns and J. Parker (C) of the Personnel Prep will get together and follow-up with a report or recommendations.● Personnel Prep Committee (J. Parker, chair)<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ No report was shared.● Public Awareness Committee (S. Myers, chair)<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ S. Myers reported in the May meeting they shared some of the provider survey information that they are looking at and reviewing and hope to be able to share with everyone soon.○ In June, it was a discussion around issues that were provider specific issues, things that are working well and obviously having parent and families input about their experiences.○ She had a meeting where Part C and Part B was represented within our local region and talked through some of the issues that we are seeing specific to our area and from that meeting we hope to get a one page developed for pediatricians so they can share with parents about Early Intervention services. It's currently in draft form and she will get with S. Callender so she can provide us with input.○ There was some frustration from the medical providers around not getting information from First Steps when they make a referral to the state.○ S. Callender stated that if we do not obtain consent from families, we cannot share that information. Early Intervention records are educational records and they are not medical	
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	<p>records. They are covered by FERPA and not HIPAA and there are different rules around that. Parents can pick and choose exactly what they release and what they don't release.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition Committee (L. Junkin, chair) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ V. Davis reported that the committee has routinely meet and L. Junkin has been doing a lot of training around transition particular for our Part C and Part B and a lot of parent education about the differences in policies as it relates to Part C and Part B to help families understand those things which is a big component of the process. ○ V. Davis and C. Taylor have been doing a lot of Part C and Part B training across the state and have gotten wonderful feedback and been compiling a list of resources to share about the different things in the different areas that support families that relates to transition. • Provider Concerns Committee (B. Coatney, chair) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ B. Coatney reported besides working along with the Ad Hoc Committee on SB 2485 the committee have been working on getting ID Badges and S. Callender have been working with them on that. 	
<p>Program Updates (First Step Personnel)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotional Campaign (S. Callender) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ S. Callender reported that with a vendor we have been working on the website for about 2 years now. The website has been updated but not all updates are complete. A new logo has been created. The new home page is msdh.ms.gov/EI ○ New Banners and promotional material. ○ New 30 second Advertisement campaign on social media and television began in June 2023. • Personnel Needs (S. Callender) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Needing EI Services Providers ○ Program Personnel (Service Coordinators, Coaches, Program Coordinator) ○ State Personnel (Training Coordinator, Data Manager) 	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● State Determination (S. Callender) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ S. Callender shared the State Determination Results for FFY 2021 (07/01/2021 – 06/30/22) ● Monitoring Updates (M. Richardson) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ M. Richardson reported that Early Intervention is one of five states that will be in rotation for next year for federal monitoring of the program. We are going through a process of DMS and they have been giving us TA support. They will start requesting the information in May 2024 and onsite monitoring will begin October 2024. Currently in TA for monitoring and dispute resolution, data starts in August and Fiscal starts two months after that. ○ State Level Monitoring – We monitored our subgrantees in May and reports will be sent to them soon. We will only have two subgrantees this coming year and they are UMC NICU and EI Credential subgrant with MSU. ● Training Updates (M. Richardson) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ M. Richardson reported since our last meeting we have had 9 C to B transition trainings jointly with MDE and we had over 200 plus personnel from Part C and Part B to attend. ○ Had 4 MITI trainings for over 120 Early Invention Providers coming into the system. ○ Ongoing training for Service Coordinators and Coaches ○ New Trainings in HealthStream– MITI training and the new COS (Child Outcome Summary) training. We are also working on updating Family rights, IFSP, Assessment/Evolution, Early Learning Standards, Child Development – we will be pushing these trainings into HealthStream. ○ We are planning a Child Health Conference in October the week of October 23 – 27, 2023 in Biloxi, MS. 	
Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No announcements were shared. 	
Adjourn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m. 	