

SICC MEETING MINUTES

Truman Building, Room 400

November 21, 2014

Members Present:

Pam Thomas
Steve Cramer (rep. for DHSS)
Lisa Nothaus (rep. for DMH)
Jennifer Bax (rep. for DSS)

Donna Cash
Christy Collins
Stacey Owsley Wright
Wendy Witcig

Jovanna Rohs (rep. for
UMKC)
Dr. Tracy Stroud
Lesley Bickel

Members Not Present:

Melinda Sanders
Molly White
Julie LePage

Kathy Fuger
Sherri Bramhall
Kayla Kapica

Carlotta Kimble

DESE Staff Present:

Pam Schroeder
Sara Massman
Sarah Camp

Heather Crosby
Tina Lawson
Marcy Morrison

Michele Schall
Judy Goans

To review copies of handouts referenced in the minutes below, go to the following website: <http://dese.mo.gov/special-education/advisory-panels/state-interagency-coordinating-council-sicc/meeting-dates> and click on "Handouts" for the November 21, 2014 meeting.

Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions – Wendy Witcig brought the meeting to order at 10:00. Introductions were made by the group at the Truman building and those participating via conference call.

Approval of the SICC Minutes from September 2014 - Wendy asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 2014 SICC meeting. Donna Cash made a motion to approve the September 2014 SICC meeting minutes and Lesley Bickel seconded the motion. All were in favor with no one opposed. Motion passed.

Mission Moment – Lesley Bickel – Lesley Bickel presented the mission moment with a PowerPoint of her daughter. She explained the many ways that First Steps has enhanced the life of her daughter and their family.

Update from SICC Members:

- Steve Cramer, Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), stated their office has been disseminating information to the public on the Ebola Virus. The Strengthening Families Conference for parents of children and youth with special health care needs and early childhood leaders will be held on March 27-28, 2015 at the Holiday Inn Executive Center in Columbia, MO.

- Christy Collins, Department of Social Services (DSS), reported that the Children’s Division is seeking funding for a new program. The program would help Missouri children in foster care deal with the trauma of being removed from their family and provide support for the children, foster parents and the biological parents. The plan of DSS is to train their staff and contractors and then train foster parents and juvenile centers.
- Donna Cash, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) stated that the National Homeless conference was held recently in Kansas City, Missouri and was very well attended. The conference was coordinated by the state homeless coordinators from Missouri and Kansas. Grants were awarded to eight schools for the 2013-2014 school year. Schools must use the McKinney-Vento funds to assist homeless children and youth with enrolling, attending and succeeding in school. A list of schools that were awarded grants can be found at the following link: <https://dese.mo.gov/quality-schools/federal-programs/homeless-children-youth/homeless-children-youth-recommended-funding>.
- Lori Williams, MPACT, stated that MPACT recently hired a new Executive Director, Carissa Rupp. Carissa is a former First Steps parent and served on the SICC. MPACT recently completed recording Steps to Success trainings and they are all available online at the following link: <http://ptimpact.org/Training/OnlineTraining/OnlineTraining.aspx>.

Special Reports:

- **Missouri Coordinating Board for Early Childhood (CBEC) - Stacey Owsley Wright** – Stacey stated that the CBEC is waiting for an announcement in December from the federal government regarding the 2014 Preschool Developmental Grants. These competitive grants will be used to expand quality learning activities for infants and toddlers in Missouri. Stacey also reported that the 2014 Homeless Awareness Conference was being held November 19-20, 2014 in Columbia, MO. Dr. Louis Manfra presented an opening session on the *Effects of Homelessness on Early Childhood Education* which was videotaped and will be available online soon. The CBEC met in early October via conference call. The Early Childhood Mental Health Workgroup of the CBEC has proposed a mental health consultation definition for CBEC approval. Ultimately, the purpose of this definition is to help mental health providers receive payment for different levels of care they provide. The board members will be reviewing the proposal and voting on it at their January 2015 meeting.
- **McKinney-Vento Act – Donna Cash, Homeless State Coordinator** – Donna presented the PowerPoint presentation *The Educational Rights and Needs of Homeless Children*. The McKinney-Vento Act ensures certain rights as it pertains to educational and related needs of homeless children and youth. The PowerPoint is available on the SICC handout site at the following link: <http://dese.mo.gov/special-education/advisory-panels/state-interagency-coordinating-council-sicc/sicc-meeting-handouts>.

DESE Report – Working Lunch

- **Financial Report FY15** – Pam Thomas reviewed the FY15 First Steps Monthly Expenditure/Revenue Tracking report. The expenses for October were greater due to three check runs in the month. The interpreting expenses were higher in July due to new forms that came out in June that needed translating. Another large expenditure in July was for the week long SPOE contractor training held in June. New SICC member orientation accounted for the increase in SICC expenses for September. The Medicaid line increased in revenue in October as this was the first month the Office of Special Education (the Office) billed Medicaid for expanded services. Medicaid previously paid for occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech

therapy. The Medicaid expanded services include audiology, assistive technology, nutrition, counseling, social and nursing. Pam noted private insurance revenue has declined slightly due to an increase in parent decline private insurance to help pay for First Steps services. A change in policy went into effect July 1, 2013 to align with federal regulations that do not allow an increased fee to be charged to families who decline use of their private insurance. Within the first few months after this change, the number of parent declining insurance went from about 40 to about 200. A question was asked about the status of the private insurance legislation. Pam noted there was a proposed revision to the law last year, but it did not go anywhere. The council requested that Pam Thomas bring additional information on private insurance to an upcoming SICC meeting.

- **Program Presentation – First Steps Improvement Activities** – Pam Thomas shared a PowerPoint presentation on the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP), which included a recap of information that was shared at previous SICC meetings and new information about improvement strategies. This plan must be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) by April 1, 2015. Only SPOEs in the Early Childhood Outcomes (ECO) pilot program will be included in the data for this indicator. Currently there are three SPOE regions in the pilot. The Office will be able to submit a draft of the plan to OSEP and receive feedback in December/January, before submitting the final plan. Wendy requested the draft also be sent to SICC members before submitting to OSEP.

Task Force/Committee Reports

- **SICC Membership Update** - Pam Thomas sent a request for an update to Boards and Commissions on open positions on the council. At this time, no response had been received back from Boards and Commissions on the status of appointments. State agency personnel have submitted the information needed to Boards and Commissions to fill their vacant positions.
- **Parent Committee update** – Lesley Bickel reported that the parent committee met via conference call on October 21, 2014. Lesley and Tina Lawson, First Steps Area Director, were the only members able to participate in the call. They discussed the SICC/RICC informational brochure and reviewed the content. Lesley will provide the parent testimony for the SICC brochure and Tina is working on a parent testimony for the RICC brochure. Their next call will include a review of the rough draft of the brochures.

Old Business – No old business

New Business – Wendy would like each council member to plan a short presentation during the face to face meetings on a topic or initiative from their department that relates to early intervention. Christy Collins, DSS, will present at the April 2015 SICC meeting.

Wendy asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Donna Cash made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Christy Collins seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 1:10.

Upcoming SICC meeting dates:

- Friday, January 9, 2015 (videoconference/conference call)
- Friday, April 10, 2015 (Jefferson City, Truman Building Room, 750)
- *Friday, September 11, 2015 (Jefferson City, Truman Building, Room 400 - tentative)*
- Friday, November 6, 2015 (Jefferson City, Truman Building, Room 400)