

SICC MEETING MINUTES

Truman Building, Room 400

September 11, 2015

Members Present:

Pam Thomas
Julie LePage
Molly White
Christy Collins
Stacey Owsley Wright

Dr. Carlotta Kimble
Dr. Tracy Stroud
Wendy Witcig
Sherri Bramhall

Jennifer Bax (rep. for DSS)
Melinda Sanders
Jovanna Rohs (rep. for
Personnel Preparation)

Members Not Present:

Donna Cash

Kayla Kapica

Lesley Bickel

DESE Staff Present:

Marcy Morrison
Michele Utt
Tina Lawson

Sarah Camp
Heather Crosby
Pam Schroeder

Sara Massman
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 September 11, 2015 meeting.

Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions – Wendy Witcig was unable to attend the meeting in person to chair the meeting. Pam Thomas chaired the meeting in her absence and called the meeting to order at 10:10. Introductions were made by those attending at the Truman building and via conference call.

Approval of the SICC Minutes from April 2015 – Pam asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 2015 SICC meeting. Julie LePage made a motion to approve the minutes and Dr. Tracy Stroud seconded the motion. All were in favor with no one opposed. Motion carried.

Mission Moment - Amey McAllister – Amey McAllister presented the mission moment. Amey was a parent in First Steps and also currently works for Missouri’s Parent Training and Information Center (MPACT). Amey shared her family’s story and how First Steps has impacted their child’s development in a positive way.

Update from SICC members:

- Christy Collins, Department of Social Services Children’s Division, said their agency has been working on changing how families view their agency. They are trying to make it more engaging and working with families to make resources more accessible. Their agency is also working on a new child protection framework pilot in Kansas City. The agency is trying to make it more family friendly and help build rapport with the family.

- Julie LePage, Department of Mental Health, noted their agency has a new director, Mark Stringer. Julie shared that the United Cerebral Palsy report ranks Missouri third in the nation for providing quality services that improve the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.
- Stacey Owsley Wright, Missouri Head Start, stated that Head Start law requires the collaborative office, along with the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC), conduct a needs assessment of all Head Start and Early Head Start programs in Missouri. The needs assessment content has been revamped to mirror federal priorities. The Missouri Head Start Collaborative office is working to improve partnerships with local agencies.
- Dr. Tracy Stroud shared that the Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders is now offering new pediatric and autism neuropsychology services for children and young adults. Dr. Michael Mohrland will be the primary clinician for these services. Dr. Susan Risi will be conducting an infant program for autism assessments. Dr. Stroud will share more information on the MOCARE program at the November SICC meeting.
- Wendy Witcig shared information on a presentation in Kansas City on October 7 by Aaron Likens. Additional information on the presentation will be emailed to the SICC members.
- Melinda Sanders, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), noted that their agency recently hired four Family Partners. In the past these positions were contracted through UMKC. Family Partners are parents of individuals with special health care needs. The Family Partners will go out and create relationships with parents of individuals with special health care needs and provide support.

Task Force/Committee Reports

- **SICC Membership update** – Pam Thomas reported that Kathy Fuger, UMKC, submitted her letter of resignation from the SICC to the governor’s office and recommended that Jovanna Rohs be appointed to her position. Jovanna has submitted all the necessary paperwork to the governor’s office. If someone knows of an individual who would be interested in a position on the council they would need to contact Boards and Commissions directly. The Office of Special Education (the Office) no longer facilitates nominations. Information on Boards and Commissions can be found at their website: <http://boards.mo.gov/UserPages/Home.aspx>. Wendy did reach out to the governor’s office to ask for updates on appointments, but she did not receive a response back prior to today’s meeting.
- **Parent Committee update – Parent brochure** – Tina Lawson shared that the parent subcommittee was charged with the task of creating a new informational Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) brochure. This brochure will be used to share with individuals interested in serving on a council at a regional or state level. Tina requested input from the council regarding any comments or edits. Suggestions were made by council members and those suggestions will be incorporated into a final copy, which will be shared in the November SICC meeting.

Special Reports:

Missouri Coordinating Board for Early Childhood (CBEC) – Stacey Owsley Wright reported that the U.S. Department of Education and Health and Human Services released a joint policy statement on inclusion in early childhood programs. The policy statement will include recommendations for increasing inclusion of infants, toddlers, and preschool children with disabilities in high-quality early childhood programs. Please see the following link to the statement: <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/earlylearning/joint-statement-full-text.pdf>.

The CBEC has been asked to assist in furthering inclusion in Missouri. Stacey also mentioned the Raise Your Hand for Kids campaign that proposes raising the Missouri tobacco tax 50 cents to fund the Early Childhood Health and Education Trust Fund. More information on this campaign can be found at the following website: <http://www.raiseyourhandforkids.org/>. If passed it would have CBEC responsible for overseeing and distributing funds through grants to public and private providers.

Communication from Guests – None

DESE Report

- **State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)** – Pam Thomas shared that the Phase 1 SSIP was submitted to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) in March and the Office received notification in June that the plan met OSEP requirements for a systemic plan. Pam said the Office is currently working on the next Phase 2 plan. The Office received notification that OSEP has extended the due date for Phase 2 until April of 2016. Pam distributed a handout with the four levels of improvement strategies outlined. To help in the next round of improvement activities the Missouri has been selected to join a national collaborative in Chicago at the end of September. The collaborative will include 10-12 other states who will discuss challenges across states. This group will meet in person and virtually with webinars and conference calls.
- **Family Survey Results** – The results from the First Steps (Active) Family Survey and the First Steps (Exit) Survey were shared with the group. The exit survey was sent out for the first time to families exiting the program. Both surveys were made available online for families to complete or they could complete the survey in writing and mail it in. The group discussed ways to improve the response rate from families.
- **FY15 First Steps Monthly Expenditure/Revenue Tracking** – Pam Thomas shared the FY15 First Steps Monthly Expenditure/Revenue Tracking handout. There was a slight increase in the direct service cost this past FY, but the child count also increased. The cost for translation/interpreting has increased. There was a provider training on early childhood outcomes, which accounts for the training costs. On the revenue side the family fees revenue has increased, but the private insurance revenue fell short of the expected amounts and the program is receiving less revenue from the private insurance.
- **Fiscal Study** – Pam Thomas presented a PowerPoint on Service Cost Analysis for Fiscal Years 2009-2014. This service cost analysis was conducted by Philips & Associates, Inc. The presentation is available at the following link: <http://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/se-fs-sicc-first-steps-fiscal-study-sicc-meeting-9.2015.pdf>.
- Old business - None
- New business – None

Pam asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Christy Collins made a motion to adjourn with all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 2:00.

Upcoming Meetings

- Friday, November 6, 2015 – Truman Building, Room 400
- Friday, January 8, 2016 – **conference call only**
- Friday, April 8, 2016 – Truman Building, Room 400
- Friday, September 9, 2016 – Truman Building, Room 400
- Friday, November 4, 2016 – Truman Building, Room 400