

State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) Meeting Minutes September 13, 2019

Members Present:

Pam Thomas	Tara Goins (rep. for DSS)	Sherri Bramhall
Matt McTeer (rep. for DSS)	Donna Cash	Dr. Tracy Stroud
Amber Stockreef (rep. for DMH)	Dr. Carlotta Kimble	Stacey Wright

Members Not Present:

Julie LePage	Christy Collins	Lesley Bickel
Molly White	Kayla White	

DESE Staff Present:

Tina Lawson	Beth Loethen	Sara Massman
Sarah Camp	Brittany Montoya	Jodeen Maness
Marcy Morrison		

Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions – Pam Thomas temporarily filled the role of chair for this meeting in the absence of a co-chair. The meeting was brought to order at 8:35. The meeting time was adjusted to start earlier and the length of the meeting was scheduled for 90 minutes. Pam facilitated a roll call of only SICC members to check for their attendance. All other guests were welcomed to the meeting.

Approval of the SICC Minutes from January 2019 – Pam Thomas asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 5, 2019, SICC meeting. Dr. Tracy Stroud made a motion to approve the minutes and Amber Stockreef seconded the motion. All were in favor with no one opposed. Motion carried.

Annual Report to the Governor's Office: 2018-19 Year at a Glance - Tina Lawson, DESE Area Director, reviewed the 2018-19 Year at a Glance. The Year at a Glance has been the annual report to the governor's office and the legislature for the past eight years. This year's report celebrated the 25th anniversary of the First Steps program with stories from past and present families and current providers. The report is posted on the SICC handouts page at the following link: <https://dese.mo.gov/special-education/advisory-panels/state-interagency-coordinating-council-sicc/sicc-meeting-handouts>.

Mission Moment – the Page Family – Tina Lawson introduced Debbie Page, First Steps parent, who participated via WebEx to share her story. Debbie shared that she expressed concern to her physician about her son, Jonah, at his two-year checkup that he wasn't talking or engaging with family members. The physician made an appointment for the family with a neurologist and also suggested contacting First Steps. The family started First Steps services and through the therapy that Jonah received at home, and at his daycare, he began to engage again with his family and friends. Debbie thanked her providers and the First Steps program for the work that they did with Jonah.

Task Force/Committee Reports

- **SICC Membership** – Pam Thomas reported no new information to share regarding SICC membership. Pam discussed how DESE has been trying to find a good fit for the SICC meetings to encourage participation. The meetings have been shortened and the time changed to increase involvement from council members. In the absence of a chair, Pam has continued to chair the SICC meetings. According to the bylaws, the council is only required to meet four times a year, but there is flexibility in determining the method or length of the meetings. Council members expressed that they felt the agency updates and family mission moments were beneficial to the meeting format. After discussion, the council decided to have in-person meetings for April and November and conference calls for the meetings in January and September. The conference call option will still be available for the in-person meetings as well. DESE will continue to provide updates on finance and the state improvement plan and each council meeting. Although an official vote to change the meeting format was not required, an unofficial poll showed that all members present agreed with having two meetings in person and two via conference call. Meetings will continue to begin at 8:30 a.m.
- **Parent Committee** – no updates

DESE Updates

- **Financial Report – Final Fiscal Year 2019** – Pam reviewed the final financial report for FY 2019. The shaded areas at the top of the report are direct services for children and families. Of the \$50 million dollars in expenditures, 97% is spent on services to children. On the revenue side the budget is what DESE anticipated. There will be a small amount of Part C dollars that will carry over to the next fiscal year. Family fees came in a little higher than anticipated and private insurance was the lowest amount that it has been in 12 years since we had private insurance. Medicaid went up a little more than anticipated and we hope it will go up more as we work to reconcile denials with Medicaid. The historical data tracks our fiscal year child counts and expenditure data. The December 1 child county increased again this fiscal year. The expenditure data services are individualized with some children seen more and others not as much. The new SPOE contracts went into effect July 1, 2019. Contracts were awarded to all current contractors. The new contract added thirty service coordinators across the state which increased the contract by \$3 million dollars.
- **2019 Family Survey Results** – The First Steps (Active) Family Survey – Historical Results (2011 through 2019) were shared with the council. This year's methodology for the 2019 survey will be maintained for the next five years. The response rate is higher this year than it has been for the past five years. The survey is sent to families that have been in the program at least six months with a child with an IFSP. The families that meet this criteria will be pulled in February of each year. The new SPOE contract includes an incentive to increase the parent response rate by 2% built into the contract to hopefully hear from more families.

Pam announced that she will be taking a new position within DESE as the chief of strategic initiatives and talent development working on strategic plans and continuous improvement plans. She will also be overseeing the HR department to work on policies, procedures and training of staff. Donna Cash has also taken on a new role at DESE as a counselor in Disability Determinations. They will no longer be members of the council.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50.

Upcoming meeting:
November 8, 2019