

# State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) Meeting Minutes November 20, 2020

## Member Present:

Kelly Dudley (DMH rep.)  
Hallie Malone (DSS rep.)

Stacey Wright

Dr. Carlotta Kimble

## Members Not Present:

Kayla White  
Lesley Bickel

Sherri Bramhall

Dr. Tracy Stroud

## DESE Staff Present:

Beth Loethen  
Tina Lawson  
Marcy Morrison-Voss

Sarah Camp  
Brittany Montoya  
Sara Ruediger

Jodeen Maness  
Jeannie Lahman  
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 20, 2020 meeting.

**Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions** – Beth Loethen temporarily filled the role of chair for the meeting in the absence of a co-chair. The meeting was brought to order at 8:30. Beth 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 September 2020** – Beth asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 18, 2020 SICC meeting. Stacey Wright made a motion to approve the minutes and Dr. Carlotta Kimble seconded the motion. All were in favor with no one opposed. Motion carried.

**Financial Report Fiscal Year 2021** – Shelley Woods shared the *FY21 First Steps Monthly Expenditure/Revenue Tracking* handout for July through October 2020 with the council. The expenditures through October totaled \$17 million dollars and the revenue amount was \$28 million. A new spreadsheet was also shared that compared revenue and expenditures for the current fiscal year and previous fiscal years. For FY21 the program expenditures are about \$1.5 million less compared to FY20 for direct services due to COVID-19. The program did have an increase to the SPOE contract so that helped offset that increase. Total expenditures for the first quarter of the FY21 are down about \$871,000. The last handout shared was the *TPL Carriers CY 2021*. There was one new carrier under the percentage elections, National Casualty Company, and one new carrier under Direct Claims Elections, Coventry Health Care of Missouri Inc. Shelley noted that Freedom Life Insurance moved from direct to Not Applicable.

## Task Force/Committee Reports

- **SICC Membership** – Beth thanked the members for their participation during the meeting and indicated that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) continues to look to increase membership on the council.

- **Parent Committee** – Tina Lawson said the committee had nothing new to report.

**Mission Moment – The Boston family** – Tina Lawson shared that ten years ago the council requested to hear stories from Missouri families who were impacted by First Steps. The stories shared highlight the importance of the First Steps program. Families are contacted by DESE after responding on the yearly family survey that they would be willing to share their story. The families that share their stories during SICC meetings and are then featured in the annual First Steps Year at a Glance.

Tina introduced Kelli Hamm, First Steps SPOE Director, who read a letter from Samantha Boston. Samantha shared in her story that they found First Steps after her son received his autism diagnosis. She said initially she was nervous about meeting the providers and having them come in their home, but soon found that her son was much more comfortable receiving the services in their home setting. With the help of their providers her son has progressed by leaps and bounds. She thanked everyone in the program for giving her son the opportunity to get the help he needed.

### **DESE Updates**

- **Preschool Development Grant (PDG) Update** – Beth Loethen shared that DESE is continuing to work with other state agencies on the many activities supported by the PDG. Currently, the group is identifying the hubs that will help bring consolidated early childhood services across the state to help families reach all available resources. DESE is also taking nominations for community leaders to support the Regional Hub model. More information can be found on the Early Connections website found at the following link: <https://earlyconnections.mo.gov/get-connected/parent-advisory-council>. Two media campaigns will be launching the first of 2021 on milestones for children and the impact that milestones have on children and school readiness.
- **Family Survey Results and draft of 2021** - The family survey results are in and posted on the First Steps website at the following link: <https://dese.mo.gov/special-education/first-steps/data-budgets-reports#Surveys>. DESE is currently preparing for the next family survey that will go out in the spring of 2021. The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) has asked that DESE increase the demographic data that is collected. Beth shared the proposed survey for 2021 that includes two demographic questions. DESE staff are also having conversations about increasing data analysis in the family survey. Currently, DESE can pull data about how old a child is and where a family resides because the survey asks for the current age of the child and what county they live in. A question was asked if an option could be added if the family would prefer not to specify their child's race. DESE will explore the option for a family to choose not to answer question 4 on the survey. DESE would then be able to pull data that shows the family chose not to answer that question.

**New Business** – Dates have been set for the 2021 meetings as follows: January 15, March 26, September 17 and November 19. The January 2021 call will be a WebEx call only. The location of the other meetings will be determined at a later date, but no in-person meetings will probably be held until at least the fall of 2021.

Beth asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 a.m. Stacey Wright made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Dr. Kimble seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.