

SLDS Governing Board
Virtual Meeting
WebEx

MINUTES
June 24, 2020

In Attendance:

Dr. Andrea Mayfield, Executive Director, Mississippi Community College Board
Dr. Carey Wright, State Superintendent of Education, Mississippi Department of Education
Mr. Bob Anderson, Executive Director, Mississippi Department of Human Services
Ms. Jackie Turner, Executive Director, Mississippi Department of Employment Security
Dr. Thomas Dobbs, State Health Officer, Mississippi Department of Health
Ms. Andrea Sanders, SECAC Representative
Mr. Chris Howard, Executive Director, Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services
Mr. Patrick Sullivan, Chairman, State Workforce Investment Board
Ms. Audrey McAfee, Management Information Systems Director, Mississippi Department of Corrections
Mr. Bill Ashley, Mississippi Development Authority Representative
Dr. Adam Swanson, MGCCC Representative
Dr. Jim Hood, Assistant Commissioner for Strategic Research, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning
Ms. Holly Spivey, Director, Mississippi Head Start Collaboration Office, Office of the Governor
Mr. John Kraman, Chief Information Officer, Mississippi Department of Education
Ms. Avery Lee, Board Attorney, State Workforce Investment Board

Call to Order: Chair Andrea Mayfield called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Introductions.

Board reviewed minutes from the last meeting. John Kraman submitted one change to the minutes. Jackie Turner motioned to approve the minutes with correction. Audrey McAfee seconded the motion.

Carey Wright asked about agenda items requested by MDE not listed in the agenda. Chair Mayfield noted the items would be discussed under Item 4 of the agenda.

Chair Mayfield called on Dr. Steven Grice and Dr. Michael Taquino to discuss the history of the SLDS to help provide background to new board members. Taquino discussed how the idea came to be, which agencies joined, the creation of the online portal, establishment of the SLDS Governing Board, and the framework (governance, data integrity, and data security). He also explained that the SLDS and LifeTracks were interchangeable names. The name LifeTracks was developed as part of branding during the first SLDS grant. Kraman asked about RRSC's (Research Review and Standards Committee) involvement and why the MDE RRSC committee member, Dr. Yan Li, had not been invited to attend the meetings or review reports and methodologies. Taquino explained there has only been ad hoc requests made and these are not sent to all members of the RRSC but a subset of members. Bob Anderson asked if generated reports could be found on the web. Taquino confirmed. Wright asked if there was a change to the process of reviewing reports before they were finalized. Grice confirmed there have been no changes to the process. Chair Mayfield commented that capacity had declined due to lack of funding to maintain the volume of work. Dr. Steven Grice explained that the reason the board hasn't seen the reports is because of the type of reports being requested.

Wright noted her concern for the underutilization of SLDS unlike other systems across the nation. Chair Mayfield explained some misconceptions about the board. Wright discussed the site audits that were

conducted. She said the auditor's reports cited violations to the SLDS rules and regulations, including minutes not being posted online.

Chair Mayfield called on Avery Lee to discuss the procurement issue. Lee commented that ITS approved the contract without procurement for services by NSPARC, and it is currently in compliance. She also discussed that two statutes (37.154.1 and 37.154.3) do not dictate the number of meetings and found no required number in the rules and regulations. Wright commented that in the auditor's report (Article 3, Section 3), the board is required to hold at least three meetings per fiscal year. Lee said the information may need to be filed with the Secretary of State's office as she did not see the information in the filings. Kraman provided a federal perspective that when funds are provided, the government expects assurances to be fulfilled and by virtue of taking and spending the dollars there is an obligation to the federal government that is in perpetuity. Chair Mayfield said she attended a meeting at MDE with the federal onsite team where they discussed that the SLDS Governing Board had never been involved in the grant application process. Mayfield stated this information could be discussed at another meeting of the board.

Chair Mayfield opened the floor to discuss scheduling a strategic planning meeting to map out the vision, create the plan, and review existing documents. She asked the board to submit dates and topics to cover between June and September. Kraman proposed bringing in a third party to facilitate the conversation to help drive the board toward consensus on the vision. He commented MDE is willing to help bring in the neutral party.

Turner commented that it is clear all board members have the same goals of having a robust SLDS, but things have gotten off track. She supported a strategic planning meeting with a facilitator, but she wanted to ensure the facilitator would be neutral to all parties.

Chair Mayfield commented the SLDS retreat would be one or one and a half days. Patrick Sullivan commented on the urgency of having the retreat sooner as issues, like underutilization of SLDS and fading funding, need to be addressed right away. He also proposed gathering for a couple of hours in the afternoon for two to three days in a row in July. Chair Mayfield agreed and asked for dates. Kraman said the type of retreat (virtual, two hours, four hours, or 8 hours) should be defined. Chair Mayfield suggested eight hours.

The board discussed location and meeting space options for the retreat. Sullivan mentioned being conscious of individuals located in Starkville. Grice clarified that NSPARC serves as the state data clearinghouse and is not on the board. The board decided on having an in-person and virtual option. Anderson and Wright both commented they had meeting space that accommodates social distancing at their offices. Kraman commented that it may not be feasible to find and invite a third-party facilitator by July. He suggested having a presentation/proposal by a potential third-party vendor presented to the Board. Hood suggested inviting Charles McGrew or the current federal contact to discuss best practices in other states and ways to move forward as the plan is formed. Wright asked that all board members' names and contact information be sent to the board. Andrea Sanders suggested that requested agenda items also be emailed so the board can start with a consolidated agenda at the next meeting.

Chair Mayfield opened the floor for other concerns or items for business. Sanders mentioned that the board is comprised of members from entities that all contribute data, but she noticed there was no representative from Head Start. Chair Mayfield mentioned this topic was discussed in 2019, but they could vote on it in the current meeting. Sanders motioned. Wright seconded. The board unanimously approved. Holly Spivey said Nita Norphlet-Thompson would be the contact for Head Start.

Anderson motioned to adjourn. Sanders seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned.