

SLDS GOVERNING BOARD

**NSPARC
600 Russell St.
Starkville, MS**

**MINUTES
September 14, 2017**

In Attendance:

Mr. Mark Henry, Chair, Executive Director, Mississippi Department of Employment Security
Mr. John Davis, Executive Director, Mississippi Department of Human Services
Dr. Andrea Mayfield, Executive Director, Mississippi Community College Board via phone
Ms. Audrey McAfee, Management Information Systems Director, Mississippi Department of Corrections
Dr. Jim Hood, Asst. Commissioner for Strategic Research, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning
Dr. Mary Currier, State Health Officer, Mississippi State Department of Health via phone
Dr. Laurie Smith, Executive Director, State Early Childhood Advisory Council
Mr. Chris Howard, Executive Director, Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services
Ms. Jennifer Sledge, Human Resources Director, Mississippi Development Authority

A list of others present who signed the attendance roster is on file.

Call to Order: Chair Mark Henry called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

Chair Henry asked the board to review the minutes from the previous three SLDS Governing Board meetings. John Davis motioned to accept the three sets of minutes. Audrey McAfee seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the motion.

Chair Henry asked Dr. Mike Taquino to share updates on the State Data Clearinghouse. Taquino noted the process for getting partner data into the LifeTracks system has been seamless and 2017 data are now being incorporated. Taquino moved to the subject of ad hoc reports, stating that three new requests had just been received. He said there has been a lot of activity over the last year with ad hoc reports. And workforce profiles have been a major type of ad hoc report. Chair Henry said one can read the end-of-the-year LifeTracks report for more information.

Dr. Jim Hood asked if the clearinghouse is able to respond to all report requests. Parisi said yes. The subject of a potential data-sharing agreement about including financial aid data in the SLDS was then raised. Dr. Andrea Mayfield said the Mississippi Community College Board, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, and NSPARC have discussed an MOU about financial aid data. Dr. Steve Grice said a draft of such an MOU has been sent out.

Parisi gave an update on the national State Workforce and Education Alignment Project (SWEAP). He said SWEAP called for developing new data tools. He said Mississippi has developed prototypes of three tools that could be incorporated in LifeTracks. Zack Krampf of NSPARC presented on the SWEAP data tool prototypes.

Krampf said the first tool that SWEAP called for is a supply and demand report. This report shows the demand for a particular sector or occupation versus the supply of qualified workers to meet that demand, effectively demonstrating any skill gap in the labor market. He then showed how different sectors can be analyzed and broken down by top occupations with such a tool.

Chair Henry said this kind of information could be broken down by the four local workforce regions. Chair Henry asked Krampf if information could be broken down further by this tool. Krampf said potentially at the county and metropolitan area levels. Chair Henry said such data can give one an idea of where community college training can be delivered and concentrated. Mayfield agreed.

Krampf moved on to the second SWEAP tool: workforce training reports. He said noncredit workforce training data can make LifeTracks reporting more comprehensive and that these reports would focus on the funding streams that provide money for noncredit workforce training. He said these reports can be used to compare the outcomes of those who have completed such training versus those who have not.

Krampf covered the third and final SWEAP tool: career pathway evaluators. He said such tools allow users to view the steps involved in different career pathways and can answer questions like “What is the most successful pathway for getting individuals into welding?” Using data, the tool can show the quickest path to employment, the highest-paying pathways, and so on. Krampf said you can input starting and exit conditions for individuals who have been on certain career pathways, and these data can provide information that can be used to help the state better serve people who want to get into a particular career. Parisi said this kind of tool can also help make cases for economic development in that the state can show companies the best pathways for training.

Mayfield motioned to incorporate the SWEAP tools into LifeTracks. Smith seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the motion.

Chair Henry moved the discussion to business concerning the Research Review and Standards Committee. The chair of the committee, Dr. Josh Gladden of the University of Mississippi, said he has served as chair for a year and that the chair rotates among members of the Mississippi Research Consortium. He said the chair is supposed to rotate to Jackson State University, as represented by Dr. Loretta Moore. However, Moore is leaving the university as chief research officer. Until this transition at Jackson State University is complete, Gladden recommends allowing the committee’s operations to stay at the University of Mississippi.

Davis motioned to leave the chair of the committee as is until Jackson State University has a new chief research officer. Sledge seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the motion.

Parisi presented another issue involving the Research Review and Standards Committee. He said a University of Mississippi doctoral student, LaTonya Dickson, submitted an SLDS research request for which the SLDS Governing Board rules and regulations do not cover. At issue is the fact that a dissertation committee already decides whether a research methodology for a dissertation study is appropriate. Parisi said since the student’s research has already been approved, it would not be fair to the student or the research colleagues who approved the research for another review to happen, as such a review might result in a direction that runs counter to what the student’s committee has approved. For this reason, Parisi suggested for the board to make an exception to the committee procedure of reviewing the methodology so the student can move forward smoothly with the dissertation. Gladden said the student’s request has already been vetted by a scientifically valid set of authorities, and there is documentation for the defense of the project. Parisi added that the State Data Clearinghouse has done a feasibility study, and the student can do the work in the clearinghouse’s clean room. Results will still go to the Research Review and Standards Committee and the data contributors. Gladden noted that presumably other situations like this could come up, so setting a precedent could be important. Parisi said a second motion could be to amend the rules and regulations to address this type of situation.

Board attorney Leigh Janous said the board might need to look at security issues for this situation. Grice said the only difference between this situation and others is that the Research Review and Standards

Committee would not be responsible for reviewing the methodology, as the methodology has already been reviewed by a scientifically knowledgeable group. He said there would be no other exceptions.

Chair Henry asked if the governing board rules and regulations had to go through the Administrative Procedure Act. Janous said she did not remember. Grice said they did go through the Administrative Procedure Act. Chair Henry said if the board grants this exception, he could foresee sending a draft of a new procedure to Janous to begin the process of updating the board's rules and regulations.

Dr. Mary Currier motioned to accept the exception for the student dissertation. Hood seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the motion.

Chair Henry asked Grice if he could send a draft of the procedure for this type of situation to Henry and Janous so that the board does not have to make a motion every time a situation of this kind comes up. Gladden said he is very comfortable with the new procedure.

Chair Henry moved to the next agenda item about a standing research request. He said there are federal performance reports regularly required for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. Jackie Turner started a presentation about this requirement. She said under WIOA, there are partner programs, including four core partners: Mississippi Department of Human Services, Mississippi Department of Employment Security, Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services, and Mississippi Community College Board. There are federal performance-reporting requirements for the programs covered under the WIOA Act. She said as the representative for the partner programs, she requests this federal requirement to fall under the category of a standing report. Turner added that the SLDS was part of the WIOA plan as the state's data entity. Chair Henry pointed out that without a standing report, the regular report would have to be reviewed by the Research Review and Standards Committee every time.

Smith motioned to make the WIOA federally mandated reporting a standing report. Chris Howard seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the motion.

Chair Henry moved the discussion to new data sources. Taquino said one of the limitations of the SLDS is that it only includes data on individuals in Mississippi; in other words, there is no way to track individuals who leave Mississippi. He said this gap could be partially filled by data from the National Student Clearinghouse. This clearinghouse allows one to see where individuals go when they leave the state. He said the Mississippi Department of Education and IHL have interest in this idea. Taquino suggested a motion could be made to start looking into the possibility of tapping into National Student Clearinghouse data and then coming back to the board with more information. Hood said having these data could make the state college graduation rate go up, as people can get lost once they leave the state.

Sledge motioned to authorize SLDS clearinghouse staff to examine the idea of using data from the National Student Clearinghouse. McAfee seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the motion.

Chair Henry moved to the agenda's last item, an update on the early learning SLDS grant. Parisi said there are 19 Head Start entities in Mississippi that have entered into data-sharing MOUs as part of this grant and everything is on track.

Davis motioned to adjourn. The board accepted the motion. Chair Henry adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.