

SLDS Governing Board
Zoom Virtual Meeting

MINUTES
August 31, 2020

In Attendance:

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

Call to Order: Chair Andrea Mayfield called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Chair Mayfield shared a brief welcome and provided an overview of the meeting. Housekeeping suggestions were provided by Dr. Krystal Thurman. Introductions and attendance were taken.

Board reviewed minutes from the last meeting. No changes were suggested. Board approved.

Board reviewed and approved agenda.

Chair Mayfield spoke about the timeline, history, and membership of LifeTracks. She provided a funding recap of previous fiscal years including 2014 through 2019. Funding for 2020 and 2021 is \$0. She discussed the total annual cost to support LifeTracks (\$1.8 million) and the four major activities upon which the full operation and functioning of the system relies. Mayfield spoke about the current status of LifeTracks and noted a pause to services and reports from the third-party clearinghouse without funding. Services and reports will not be provided unless the requesting agency pays the associated costs.

Chair Mayfield spoke of the future of LifeTracks and shared four strategic considerations for the governing board: 1) refocus on workforce and economic development; 2) conduct series of meetings to review and consider appropriate recommended changes to the governance framework documents while ensuring ownership of the data is retained by the data contributor; 3) consider moving SLDS Governing Board to become part of SWIB; and 4) consider precedent set for SWIB Chair to also serve as SLDS Chair. Dr. Carey Wright noted her agreement with a workforce and economic development focus while also emphasizing a bigger picture that focuses on improving quality of life, education, and employment opportunities for all citizens of the State. Mayfield clarified that she agreed with the sentiment and emphasized that focusing SLDS on workforce and economic development would be more of a marketing strategy that would be placed with SWIB.

Wright offered her support of having Mr. Patrick Sullivan (SWIB Chairman) serve as SLDS chair. Ms. Jackie Turner also offered her support of Sullivan as chair of SLDS. Turner reminded Board members of the previous meeting when a discussion ensued about having smaller group meetings and assigned “homework.” She spoke of the importance of having assigned homework to discuss after each call as some newer members are still learning about the SLDS and the bylaws. Turner also suggested having everyone review the bylaws and legislation that established the SLDS will not only be helpful but will also result in renewed partnership and effort, as well as renewed focus “where it needs to be for Mississippi.”

Dr. Jim Hood made a motion to elect the SWIB Chairman as the SLDS Chair. Wright seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. Patrick Sullivan is elected to serve as the SLDS Chair.

Sullivan echoed Turner’s remarks about homework for the Board and suggested reviewing rules and regulations, bylaws, etc., and collecting constructive suggestions for moving forward with SLDS.

Dr. Mayfield provided eight items, or action steps, for the SLDS Chair and Board members to address. She offered the reins to Sullivan to lead the discussion surrounding the action steps suggested. Sullivan made the suggestion to focus on a review of the Board’s focus and vision, bylaws and rules, strategic plan, and contractor agreements. Ms. Sanders suggested allowing the Board to select a smaller committee to review the bylaws and governing authority and to make recommendations that could be brought back to the Board at large. The following Board members have volunteered to serve on the group: Andrea Sanders, Dr. Carey Wright, Jackie Turner, Holly Spivey, Bob Anderson, and Dr. Andrea Mayfield.

Mayfield called the Board’s attention to new business items. She referenced the recent State Auditor’s Report and her responses. Wright shared that MDE has provided a written response to the Auditor’s office for the final report. Mayfield confirmed that her responses, as SLDS Chair, were only provided to the Board for review; they were not sent to the Auditor’s office.

Mayfield opened the floor for other concerns or items of business. With no new dates determined by the new chair at this time and no additional comments brought forth, Mayfield called for motions to adjourn. Turner made the motion to adjourn; Hood offered a second. The Board unanimously approved.

The SLDS Governing Board meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m.