1.	What are we already doing to improve child health through early childhood education and childcare systems? What roles are colleges and universities playing in the process? What can we, and other states, learn from these experiences?

Children in licensed centers are required to have age appropriate immunizations. Head Start provides screening to children they serve to determine if health problems exist and secure service providers to address the identified needs. Some childcare providers have participated in providing information to parents with regard to the state insurance program for children. First Steps works in conjunction with local early childhood providers to address the needs of eligible children. Role of colleges and universities: The Cooperative Extension Service provides health information to childcare providers and parents/ assessment teams from some universities are working to assess children to determine if developmental delays are present and to make referrals to providers in the area/ I am not familiar with the work UMC is doing with childcare providers or universities in the Jackson area, I'm sure another team member can address. At MSU rural health issues are studied at the social sciences research center and children's health issues are more of a focal point than currently in the school of education. In Mississippi, colleges of education traditionally are concerned with the instruction of children in academic areas. Child life programs are offered in some universities that prepare individuals for work with hospitalized children. I think we will be able to learn a lot from other states in the area of integration of health and early childhood education.

2.	What are our priority goals and targets for early childhood health? If we could establish a statewide academic partnership around one measurable child health goal, what would it be? The one goal would be to insure every child in the state.

3.	How can we use early childhood settings to reach these goals?

Goal: Children* are born healthy
Target: All pregnant women receive pre-natal check-ups throughout the pregnancy
Target: All pregnant women receive proper nutrition during and after the pregnancy
Target: All pregnant women receive information about the dangers related to consuming alcohol, using drugs and smoking during their pregnancy
Childcare Role: Provide clinics at childcare facilities on a once a week basis in the late afternoon or night to assist women who have children at the center with routine check-ups and to provide information on nutrition/substance abuse/have information about services such as WIC and insurance at childcare centers

Goal: Children are raised in supportive, nurturing environments that promote positive mental health and are free of life threatening environmental circumstances

Target: All parents of children ages birth to age three of age have access to in-home parent education programs that support positive parenting behaviors that allow children to meet developmental milestones in an appropriate manner and under healthy circumstances

Target: All parents have access to mental health services to assist them in addressing issues that impair their ability to parent in emotionally healthy ways

Target: All parents and children have access to a domestic violence shelter or safe house for an extended period of time as to stabilize a violent situation that threatens the physical wellbeing of the child and parent

Childcare Role: Have parent meetings monthly on topics related to support and education on issues they face in raising children/ work with in-home parent education programs to provide meeting spaces for individual or group parent meetings/ Have a cooperative agreement with a mental health agency to provide counseling once a week for individuals in a confidential arrangement/Provide parents with a community resource directory with names and numbers of all social service agencies

Goal: All children are age-appropriately immunized

Target: All children have access to immunizations

Target: Every parent has information provided as to the schedule for immunizations

Childcare Role: Centers and family homes can provide immunization information to parents/immunizations could be administered at an on-site clinic per agreement with the Health Dept. or from a mobile unit parked outside the child care center

Goal: All children are screened for developmental delays and other health problems at yearly intervals until they are 8 years of age and if necessary, referrals made and services provided to children identified

Target: All children have access to screening through a variety of access points and the results reported to parents

Target: EPSDT screening is reinstated

Target: All children identified as having a need for special health services are provided with a provider to address the need

Target: Medicaid reimbursements are raised as to increase the number of providers who see children in low income families (Arkansas model)

Childcare Role: Allow screenings to be done in conjunction with the program offered at the center (with parent permission)

Goal: All children have a medical home

Target: Al l families have access to a physician or nurse practioner so that non-emergency health problems are addressed before they become emergency situations

Target: Children qualifying for the Mississippi Health Care Insurance (CHIP) program can use the same physician as opposed to situations now where some physicians will not take Medicaid resulting in one child in a family going to one physician and another physician taking care of other children

Childcare Role: Insurance sign-ups can be conducted at centers or in family childcare homes

How can early childhood educators and day care providers become effective agents of child and family health?

1. By educating parents on health related issues (nutrition, appropriate discipline practices, immunizations etc.).
2. More participation in obtaining child care facility licensing as to ensure basic health standards and safety issues are addressed in caring for children.
3. More participation by providers in the Adult and Child Food Program through the Department of Education.
4. By seeking to learn more about the relationship between health and school success/reading success and incorporating that information into daily interactions with the children they serve

And how can we ensure that early childhood programs are safe and healthy?
1. Encourage and recruit providers to gain licensing status
2. Develop a system by which any individual accepting funds from TANF to care for children in a non-licensed facility has at a minimum a criminal background check, a working smoke alarm and fire extinguisher
3. Adapt models that have utilized nurse/childcare connections as to provide consultations to address safety and health issues in care settings
4. Utilize childcare facilities for nursing programs at community colleges and universities to use as sites for internships

How can schools and departments of medicine…. work systematically with policymakers and practioners toward these goals?

Establish a central data/research division at the research and development center to focus on children and family information so we can wholistically address children's health in the context of our society and future needs as to build a healthy workforce and more productive citizenary. Technology would play a major role in the data collection, analysis and reporting of findings to all disciplines mentioned as well as to the general public.

Conduct seminars that involve all disciplines mentioned to promote collegiality and information sharing to build networks and think tanks to explore solutions to problems identified related to children's health. Technology could be utilized to share information and educate childcare providers on issues related to their roles.

What supports and incentives are needed to enable postsecondary institutions to participate in this strategic partnership in a way that both produces results and enhances their teaching and scholarship?

Funding for positions to conduct research across disciplines, release time for projects that involve multi-university sites, health providers, childcare providers, parents and children

* early childhood is defined as pre-natal through age eight years