

Special Education Advisory Panel

December 7, 2007

Minutes

Members Present

Steve Viola	Jeaneal Alexander	Dorothy Parks
Lynda Roberts	Elizabeth Tattershall	Heidi Atkins Lieberman
Trish Grassa	Angela Brown	Martha Crabtree
Pat Jackson	Doreen Frappier	Kris Callen
Roxie Lanier	Sue Alderton	Eileen Huth
Theresa Valdes	Ginger Luetkemeyer	Melissa Frazier

Members Not Present

Brenda Boyd	Diane Francis	Kenneth Southwick
Amanda Coleman	Jerry Neal	Sherri Tucker
Karen Coleman	Kim Oligschlaeger	Ray Wicks
Cathy Einhorn	Mary Kay Savage	Beverly Woodhurst
DeAnn Fiedler	Patti Simcosky	Shirley Woods

Copies of handouts distributed at the meeting are available at:

<http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Administration/AdvisoryPanel/94142meetings.html>.

Call to Order – Chair and Vice Chair were unable to attend the meeting. Lynda Roberts, Secretary, called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Missouri Resources (MORE) – Barb Gilpin presented information on Missouri Resources (MORE). MORE is a searchable database that contains the latest resources about the special education outcome indicators specified by the Federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). The intent of the database is to make available current and relevant information about each special education results area. The database is intended to enhance the knowledge base of results teams and enrich the planning activities to improve outcome data. The database contains information on the following topic areas: Academic Achievement; Dropout; Dispute Resolution; Early Intervention Services (EIS)/Response to Intervention (RTI); Graduation; Least Restrictive Environment (preschool age and school age); Parent Involvement; Preschool Outcomes; Post-secondary Transition; Suspension and Expulsion. Each topic has eight information types including academic literature, court ruling, definition, evidence-based practice, exemplary, FAQ, and online resource <http://www.northcentralrrc.org/sppinformationsupportsystem/index.aspx>.

OSEP Leadership Conference - Pat Jackson attended the OSEP Leadership Conference a few months ago. She shared her experience with the panel. She will share the information she obtained at the conference with the Executive Committee.

Introductions/Approval of Minutes - Heidi suggested changes to the minutes under the School District Determinations and SPDG Update sections. Pat Jackson made a motion to approve the minutes with Heidi's changes. Dorothy Parks seconded the motion. The motion passed with one abstention.

Mental Health Services – Dr. John Heskett with the Department of Mental Health (DMH) presented information on the additional mental health services they are providing to children in Missouri. DMH has been working on providing appropriate mental health services to citizens in Missouri for a long time. In

2004, legislation was passed that directed a group of individuals facilitated by DMH to create a comprehensive mental services children's plan and a comprehensive services management team. Additional legislation was also passed that created the Office of Comprehensive Mental Health which is responsible for creating policies within DMH and other agencies to create services to support children. The goal is to have comprehensive school-based mental health services available in school districts which could further support the services that students in school districts are already receiving. DMH is asking the legislature for an appropriation of \$7 and, if received, DMH will be putting out RFPs in the spring for communities. DMH would be able to fund up to 107 mental health professionals in districts throughout the state. For more information, go to <http://www.dmh.mo.gov/diroffice/depdir/childsvcs/childsvcs.htm>.

Due Process Hearings/Disclosure – The link to the 2006-07 due process hearing decisions was sent to panel members prior to the meeting and a hard copy of each decision was available at the meeting for panel members to review http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Complaint_System/06-07_DPDecision.html.

DESE Update

Child Complaints – Child complaint information was emailed to panel members prior to the meeting. Heidi discussed the information which included the types of child complaint issues, comparison data by year, and summary information by allegation/complaint with the panel.

APR/SPP – The draft APR and SPP were sent to panel members prior to the meeting for their review and feedback. DESE must submit both to OSEP by February 1, 2008. Panel members can provide additional feedback and comments to Heidi until December 31. Heidi indicated items she wanted panel members to focus on.

SPP Indicator 1 and 2 (graduation and dropout) – There is an issue of including the Department of Corrections (DOC) students in these two indicators. By including DOC, DESE does not meet the targets but without DOC, DESE exceeds the target. Currently, OSEP does not dictate what data is used. DESE has been using special education and 619 data because it is more accurate than the regular education data. Also, DESE is working on a new student specific database that will be ready in a year or two which should be very accurate. Heidi asked if the panel could make a recommendation on whether or not the targets should be changed and/or what data should be used. Pat Jackson made a motion to give DESE discretion on changing the targets to something more realistic for indicator 1 and 2 if DESE can not use the regular education data. Eileen Huth seconded the motion. Motion passed.

SPP Indicator 18 and 19 (success of resolution sessions and mediations) - The targets in these indicators attempt to judge whether parties are able to reach resolution through a resolution session or mediation and holds districts accountable for whether it is successful or not. The indicators basically imply that districts are doing something wrong if the numbers are not better. DESE currently has a fifty percent target for resolution sessions and a 62.5 percent target for mediation. Neither target was met in the draft SPP). In checking on what other states are doing, Heidi found out that several states have targets set in the thirty percent range while others have even lower targets. Heidi asked for feedback and a recommendation from the panel. Kris Callen made a motion to allow DESE to consider lowering the targets to the thirty percent range. Pat Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Heidi briefly discussed the other indicators and whether DESE has met or not met. There are several that have not been met but have improved substantially.

MO Options Program – This is the issue of whether or not inmates can participate in the MO Options program. DOC is concerned about some issues (would this include the full population or just a certain age group). More discussion is planned with DOC and the panel will be updated at a later date.

Part B Application – DESE has received our Part B application from OSEP. DESE is required to post the completed application for sixty days with a thirty day public comment period. A notice will be sent via SELS indicating when comments can be made. The goal is to post from February 4 until April 4 with the public comment from February 18 to March 18.

Incidence Rates – Information regarding incidence rates was emailed to panel members prior to the meeting. Additional information is available by going to <http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/DataCoord/>.

MOVIP (Virtual Schools) – Information regarding the MOVIP program was handed out at the meeting. Additional information is available at <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/curriculum/movip/>.

September State Board Update

- Dr. Tim Lewis, Professor and Associate Dean, University of Missouri-Columbia, College of Education; Dr. Mary Richter, Missouri State Coordinator for School-wide Positive Behavioral Support; and Julie LePage, Interim Director, Effective Practices, DESE, presented information to the State Board on Positive Behavior Supports.
- Information was presented on end of course exams. MAP-A will still exist at the high school level. Students with disabilities will have to take the end of course exams.
- Heidi and Ginger Luetkemeyer served on the Blue Ribbon Autism Panel. The report will be available shortly and does not reflect agreement of all members of the panel. One member is Tom Davis who was a state board member for many years and is a grandfather of a child with autism. At the November State Board meeting, Tom presented 145 recommendations of what he personally thought school districts and DESE needed to change. Many items were things DESE and school districts have already been working on which he may not have been aware of.

Working Lunch - The subcommittees met for approximately 45 minutes.

Subcommittee Reports

- ✓ **Evaluation** – At the next meeting, Lynda Roberts will provide the timelines for the annual report ending May 31.
- ✓ **Rules and Regulations** – no report
- ✓ **Monitoring** – no report
- ✓ **Programs** – Martha Crabtree has heard concerns about the dropout age being changed from 16 to 18. Heidi indicated that it would take a legislative change. Martha wanted to know how it would affect students with disabilities and the MO Options Program. Martha also expressed concern about the end of course exams and whether there would be flexibility and accommodations for students with disabilities. She would like more specific information at the next meeting.
- ✓ **Nominations** – The two remaining vacancies are in process, awaiting background checks.
- ✓ **Public Comment** – Jeaneal Alexander indicated that the public comments subcommittee is in need of an email address they can use to receive public comments. It was suggested they contact Diane Golden at the Assistive Technology Center for assistance on setting up a temporary email account. Once the public comment link is added to the panel's website, topics to focus on will be based on comments received.

Future Meetings

March 13 (Thursday), Truman Building Room 500

June 6 (Friday), Truman Building Room 400

September 11 (Thursday), Truman Building Room 500

Adjournment – Eileen Huth made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trish Grassa second the motion. Meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.