

Special Education Advisory Panel Meeting

Minutes

December 11, 2009

Members in Attendance

Ray Wicks	Angela Brown	Steve Viola
Sherri Tucker	Byron Koster	Dorothy Parks
Eileen Huth	Jerry Neal	Donna Cash
Lynda Roberts	Scott Montgomery	Thurma DeLoach
Heidi Atkins Lieberman	Doreen Frappier	Kris Callen
Roxie Lanier	Martha Crabtree	Trish Grassa
Ginger Luetkemeyer	Russ Brock	Nancy Thomas
Theresa Valdes	Mary Kay Savage	Kathleen Harnetz

Members Not in Attendance

Lisa Amundson	Amy Harrington	Donna Montague
Melissa Frazier	Michelle Hoffmeister	Shirley Woods

Copies of handouts and presentations for this meeting are available at:

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

Call to Order/Introductions – Ray Wicks called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes – Lynda Roberts made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Theresa Valdes seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Report from Race To The Top (RTTT) Stakeholders Forum – Ray attended the Race To The Top Stakeholders Forum on behalf of the SEAP. There were approximately 250 people in attendance. The Governor opened the session followed by the Commissioner. There were then two presentations on what RTTT is all about. In the afternoon, the group was broken into four subgroups: Standards and Assessment, Teacher and Administrator Effectiveness, Data Systems, and School Improvement. Each subgroup was given questions to discuss and respond to. Ray notified his subgroup that the SEAP had recently sent a letter to the Commissioner recommending she pursue RTTT funds to support Missouri's participation in the National Center's work on State Implementation and Scaling-Up of Evidenced Practices (SISEP), and specifically for that participation to focus on scaling-up the state-wide initiative on School-Wide Positive Behavior Support (SW-PBS).

The deadline for the RTTT application is January 19. If awarded, Missouri is eligible for \$150-250 million.

Heidi also attended the RTTT Forum. She indicated it was a very diverse group which included students. Anyone interested in more information or providing input regarding the RTTT application should go to <http://dese.mo.gov/rt3/>. DESE is looking for bold and innovative ideas along with ways of scaling up things they are already doing. Heidi encouraged panel members to submit ideas. All presentations from the forum were recorded and are available at <http://dese.mo.gov/rt3/>.

Heidi indicated the Commissioner has set up a team organized around the four areas of reform each led by a DESE staff person. In addition, she identified additional DESE staff to assist this team because DESE will also have to write the grant. Pam Williams, Coordinator of Special Education Services, is serving on the Teacher and Administrator Effectiveness team. Thea Scott, representing

three DESE divisions, including Special Education, as Director of Three-Tiered Model Coordination, will work with the School Improvement team.

DESE Update

- **Draft State Performance Plan (SPP)/Annual Performance Report (APR)** - The draft SPP/APR was emailed to panel members prior to the meeting for their review. Heidi shared some brief background to the SPP/APR for new members of the SEAP: When the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was reauthorization in 2004, it included provisions for each state to develop a state performance plan and, as part of that requirement, each year the Division has to submit an APR evaluating the state performance on the required twenty indicators to the U. S. Department of Education. Must be filed by February 1 with the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). There are specific categories along with specific indicators for each category that must be covered in the SPP/APR. Each state is required to establish targets for meeting these indicators for a six year period (received stakeholder input). Heidi shared with the panel the proposed target changes for Indicator 7 (Early Childhood Outcomes-ECO). Usually DESE would set targets above the baseline but for this indicator it was a bit more complicated. As the Division reviewed the data, staff became uncomfortable with the data and felt the baseline was not correct. The Part B and Part C data did not align. Staff from Part B and Part C met and decided the same measures and outcomes should be used. Division staff decided to set the target based on what their best guess was for the baseline. Heidi asked for approval of the proposed target for ECO (SEAP voted later in meeting to support the proposed target).

Based on a phone conversation with OSEP yesterday, the Division will be revising the graduation and dropout rate targets to match the measures of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) which is different than IDEA. Once the Division receives the data from the School Improvement Division it will insert the data and change the target. Heidi will gather more information on the graduation information under NCLB and report at next meeting.

The Division has not met some targets but overall has shown improvement. There was some slippage under Parent Involvement due to a data issue. The data for this target is pulled from the MSIP Parent Questionnaires and each year the data is from a different group of districts (approximately 100 each year).

The areas of post-secondary and elementary achievement continue to be the Division's main areas of focus. Heidi reminded the SEAP that it was the SEAP that had originally recommended this focus. Heidi asked the panel if they still agreed. She also asked the panel if they had any thoughts on proposed targets for indicator 7 - Early Childhood Special Education. Ray suggested this discussion continue during the subcommittee discussion later in the meeting. (The SEAP later indicated DESE should continue to focus on these two areas.)

- **Seclusion and Restraint Policy** - DESE is currently working on the seclusion and restraint policy. Tom Quinn, Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Career Education, and Cynthia Quetsch, Legal Counsel for the Division of Special Education, have been given this task. They held a stakeholder meeting recently to gather input. Present at the meeting were some nationally recognized experts on the topic. DESE must have a model policy by July 1.
- **Update on OSEP Verification Visit** – The OSEP verification visit went very well. They had a lot to say about what they saw as Missouri's strengths especially the data systems. Division staff spent a lot of time demonstrating the data systems and how much information is available. They saw the Division's collaboration between other divisions in DESE and outside stakeholder groups as a strength along with systems change and three tiered models of intervention. One area of possible concern was the follow-up process for the Division's

monitoring. They were very impressed with the fiscal part. ePeGS was a huge help with this allowing staff to provide the information they requested. Overall they were very impressed with Missouri and the work the Division is doing and wished that other states were more like Missouri. The Division has not received the final report but expects it in late January or early February.

- **Improvement Grants** – The Division has funded improvement grants the last few years. The Division has given preference to districts that proposed systems change/three-tiered models. This year the Division is funding \$2 million again in improvement grants.
- **Proposed State Plan Changes** – Heidi discussed the proposed state plan changes being out for public comment and reminded members that a SELS had gone out about this and that public hearings were occurring in January and the website provides information for comments
- **Status of Statewide IEP system** – The request for proposal (RFP) was sent out a couple weeks ago. There was a recent prebid meeting with possible vendors. Several of the vendors' questions made the Division rethink a couple provisions in the RFP which have since been changed. Bids are due December 17. Heidi is keeping a list of districts interested in being pilot school districts. An evaluation team will review the bids.
- **Missouri Integrated Model (MIM)** – Heidi provided an update on the MIM. After the first year of preparation/planning/reflecting, Missouri is in its first year of implementation with 14 schools in the state participating. DESE held regional meetings recently for the pilot schools and these meetings were very successful.
- **School-wide Positive Behavior Supports (SW-PBS)** – Division staff have been having discussions on how to encourage districts to expand from school-wide to district-wide.
- **Nominations for SEAP** – Almost all of the nominations on file for the “Parent of a Student with a Disability/Individuals with a Disability” category are from the St. Louis and Kansas City areas. The panel needs geographic and disability diversity. Heidi recently asked several stakeholder groups to help the panel receive more diverse nominations. Heidi indicated many of the nominations were quite old and that we have attempted to eliminate some of the nominations that were a few years old. Heidi asked for help to recruit parents and individuals with disabilities who are from areas of the state not currently represented and who are minorities.

Due Process Hearings Disclosure – The link to the 2008-09 due process hearing decisions http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Complaint_System/ShellPage.html 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. A hand out provided a summary of the data in connection to these decisions.

Subcommittees met for one hour.

Subcommittee Reports (Working Lunch)

- **Evaluation** – Lynda Roberts indicated that last June the panel voted to discontinue the SEAP annual report since it is no longer required in regulation and much of the information contained in the report was available on the panel's website. Instead, the chair will provide an end of the year letter which will contain a bit more information than in past years. There will be bullets in the letter for each subcommittee. The content for these bullets will likely be pulled by the subcommittee from past minutes. A draft of the letter will be presented to the panel for their review at the March.
- **Rules and Regulations** – Eileen Huth reported that the Rules and Regulations subcommittee reviewed the issues of seclusion and restraint and the model policy. A law was passed in Missouri requiring DESE to develop a model policy by July 2010 addressing seclusion and restraint. DESE brought in a stakeholder group to determine what the policy should look like. Ginger made a motion to direct the Rules and Regulations subcommittee to develop

some bullet points for DESE to consider when developing the policy. Trish Grassa seconded. Motion passed. Some suggested bullet points included:

- Need to have terms clearly defined
- For all students
- Positive approach implemented for students with disabilities to prevent incidents and those include but are not limited to PBS, CPI, and other interventions
- How districts will word their policy making sure that in all areas the school district is involved in these measures are included
- Not allowing seclusion/restraint unless imminent danger
- For every incident, the district should report to the parent and state
- Appropriate training for district staff

Panel members may provide suggestions to Eileen. Eileen will pull together the bullet points and send to the panel for review prior to sending the final version to Tom Quinn and Cynthia Quetsch.

- Monitoring – No report.
- Programs - Martha Crabtree suggested:
 - A presentation on charter schools.
 - An update on ARRA funds.
 - Information on End of Course (EOC) exams – how special education students performed, also looking at 2011-12 when MAP goes online. Heidi did not think the information was available at this time but will keep it on her list for a later date.
 - An update on the status of MOVIP.
 - Information on special education cooperatives including services provided and funding.
 - Information on whether the RPDCs have seen any negative affect from having to charge for some professional development activities.
 - An update on Career Ladder.
 - Information on any state legislation concerning GEDs (age and credit information).
 - Information about how districts are chosen to set up the Flex Option program and how it can be taken advantage of by special education students.
- Nominations – Trish Grassa reported that there are three vacancies in the “Parent of a Student with a Disability/Individual with a Disability” category. There will be more vacancies in other categories by next June due to a few members reaching the end of their third and final term. If panel members know of anyone interested in serving on the panel, especially in the Northwest, Northeast, Southeast, and Southwest areas, please encourage them to submit a nomination form.
- Public Comment – Nancy Thomas indicated the Public Comment subcommittee is trying to increase public awareness by creating an announcement advertising the panel’s public comment link on their website. The subcommittee will review the final language at the March meeting. The subcommittee is also pulling together a list of groups to send the announcement to. Below is the draft statement:

PUBLIC COMMENTS TO MISSOURI'S SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL

Missouri’s Special Education Advisory Panel is comprised of educators, administrators, state agency representatives, parents, and persons with disabilities. Our quarterly meetings are open to the public to attend and there is a time for public comment on every meeting’s agenda. For meeting information, please visit: DESE Special Education Advisory Panel webpage:

<http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Administration/AdvisoryPanel/94142mainpage.html>
or contact Lina Browner at 573-751-5739 or email lina.browner@dese.mo.gov.

The public may also submit private comments to the panel via email.

Address: seapcomments@gmail.com

DESE Webpage:

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

We welcome and encourage comments regarding concerns or issues faced by students with disabilities, their families, and the professionals who work with them. For example, the SEAP has addressed such issues as transitioning to adult services, positive behavior supports, seclusion and restraint, and due process hearings related to special education.

This is a private SEAP committee email address and is not accessed or monitored by DESE. It will be viewed by the SEAP's public comment committee members only. The comments will be shared with the full SEAP Panel at quarterly meetings. However, your identity may remain anonymous at your request. Please submit comments to the Advisory Panel with the understanding not to include any personally identifiable information regarding a child or other individual parties. While responses cannot be made to your individual comments, public comments received will be shared among Panel members as examples of issues concerning the special education community.

Feel free to pass this information along to other groups or interested parties. By working together, we can positively impact special education in Missouri. Thank you!

SEAP Public Comment subcommittee members:

Nancy Thomas, parent

Kathleen Harnetz, parent

Shirley Woods, parent

Donna Montague, parent

Trish Grassa, special educator

Scott Montgomery, state agency representative

Ginger Luetkemeyer, parent

Draft State Performance Plan (SPP)/Annual Performance Report (APR) (continued)

Post secondary and elementary achievement are the Divisions areas of focus. Heidi asked the panel if they still agreed. Nancy Thomas made a motion to continue with these areas of focus. Dorothy Parks seconded. Motion passed.

Heidi also asked the panel if it had thoughts on proposed targets for indicator 7 - Early Childhood Special Education. Scott Montgomery made a motion to accept the targets as presented to the panel. Kris Callen seconded. Motion passed

Member Issues/Reports

- Doreen was contacted by the Thompson Center about an ongoing Autism study on genetic links to autism. Families will need to attend the Thompson Center for one day for testing. Participants will receive \$50 a day per person to participate and everyone in family must attend and \$50 to fill out the paperwork. If you would like more information, contact Doreen.
- Mary Kay Savage reported that the Transition Summit was held on September 19 in Jefferson City. It was a huge success with over 100 students participating from across the state. The Summit offered students a variety of sessions on self determinations and transition skills building. There was also a session on IEP modeling and how to help students write their own IEPs.

- Doreen reported that the Blind Task Force (BTF) held their annual Children’s Vision Summit in October 5-6. Positive feedback has been received and there was a good turnout.
- Scott Montgomery reported that the work between the Children’s Division and First Steps was intended to improve the initial referral process, ongoing collaborative efforts, and establish parameters around necessary communication between the Division and First Steps on a statewide level.
- Ray indicated he serves on the MOVIP advisory committee. MOVIP suffered a \$1.7 million cut in the last round of budget cuts which meant all of the state funded course slots were cut for second semester. The remaining money will be used to continue providing state funded slots for special needs students currently enrolled in the program. He hopes to have more positive news next legislative session.
- Dorothy Parks reported that the Members of The Missouri Interagency Team (MITT) met with two representatives from the National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities (NDPC-SD) /Clemson University, as well as representatives from eight Missouri school districts, to create a partnership of model schools for dropout prevention programs. MITT will work with NPDC-SD to provide state level guidance and support to those school districts participating in the dropout prevention project. The overall goal of the Dropout Prevention Project is to lower the participating school's dropout rate for students with disabilities by helping them design and implement successful dropout intervention strategies. NPDC-SD will provide technical assistance/training.
- Scott Montgomery indicated there is a bill being proposed that would lower the compulsory age to six and require full day kindergarten. He indicated he will share with Heidi.

Adjournment – Eileen Huth made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trish Grassa seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.