

Special Education Advisory Panel Meeting

Minutes

September 10, 2009

Members in Attendance

Ray Wicks	Thurma DeLoach	Theresa Valdes
Sherrri Tucker	Nancy Thomas	Scott Montgomery
Lynda Roberts	Jerry Neal	Byron Koster
Martha Crabtree	Steve Viola	Mary Kay Savage
Eileen Huth	Angela Brown	Ginger Luetkemeyer
Roxie Lanier	Kathleen Harnetz	Lisa Amundson
Doreen Frappier	Donna Montague	
Heidi Atkins Lieberman	Michelle Hoffmeister	

Members Not in Attendance

Russ Brock	Melissa Frazier	Dorothy Parks
Kristen Callen	Trish Grassa	Shirley Woods
Donna Cash	Amy Harrington	

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 – Doreen Frappier made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Eileen Huth seconded the motion. Motion passed.

SEAP Training (PowerPoint Provided at OSEP Leadership Conference) - Ray Wicks as chair of the panel, Mary Kay Savage as representative of MPACT, along with Heidi Atkins Lieberman and Pam Williams from DESE attended the OSEP Leadership Conference in Washington, DC. Many of the sessions were made available via webcast. One session on SEAP training discussed, among other things, the appropriate role of the panel. Advisory panels are meant to advise and provide guidance on Department issues. OSEP also created a “One Stop Shop” website for information and resources related to advisory panels which includes topics such as advisory panel roles, resource materials for advisory panels, IDEA and panel authority, OSEP leadership, and state contacts. Mary Kay handed out a document called Technical Assistance Center on Social Emotional Intervention. Another session discussed Race to the Top grants. Since application for these funds must come from the Governor’s office, the Governor has put together a committee of representatives from state agencies. Based on the proposed requirements, Missouri may not be eligible to apply for the grant unless legislative changes are made. Missouri is not alone; other states are facing similar issues.

School-wide Positive Behavior Supports (SW-PBS) Presentation and Q&A – Mary Richter, State Coordinator of the PBS initiative, and Julie LePage, Director of the Effective Practices Section of the Division of Special Education, DESE, presented a PowerPoint on SW-PBS. Currently, there are 472 schools in Missouri participating in PBS (this represents 158 districts). The SW-PBS Summer Institute (state level training) held at Lake Ozark this past summer had approximately 1,300 participants. There are 13 regional consultants at the Regional Professional Development Centers (RPDCs) (some regions have more than one consultant) and three statewide consultants. All of these are paid for by DESE through a contract with each RPDC/university.

DESE Update

- Race to the Top Funds – Heidi indicated there has been a lot of discussion the last few years on positive behavior supports with a much more concentrated effort the last couple of years. Because of all the work DESE has done with PBS, we are ready to scale up to tier two and three. Along with this and the other work DESE has done on promotion and endorsement of three tiered models of intervention (e.g., High Schools That Work, Professional Learning Communities (PLC), and Response to Intervention), Missouri has received a lot of national recognition. A couple years ago, the State Implementation and Scaling up of Evidenced Practices Center (SISEP) put out a call for applications from states to receive one on one consultation services for free to scale up an initiative. DESE (divisions of Career Education, Special Education, and School Improvement) applied and was selected as one of six states. The first year (last year) DESE was placed on the inactive list because the participation needed to include the RPDCs and two full time people to work with the teams and the national center. Due to serious budget cuts to the RPDCs and DESE, this was not possible. This year there were additional budget cuts to the RPDCs. The national center thought they could provide DESE with some funding through the Race to the Top funds but since those funds could only be applied for by a state’s governor, that was not a possibility. Not sure if Missouri will be eligible for these funds. It depends on the final regulations for applications. Martha made a motion to recommend that Commissioner Nicastro pursue, through proper channels developed by Governor Nixon’s office, “Race to the Top” 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). Nancy Thomas seconded the motion. Motion passed. Heidi will draft the letter and send to Ray Wicks for his review and signature. Panel members will be copied on the letter went sent to the Commissioner.
- Missouri Integrated Model (MIM) – A MIM summary document was handed out. The fourteen pilot schools selected last year spent the year doing the prep work to get their teams in place. They then participated in the MIM Summer Institute to prepare for the coming school year which will be the first year of implementation. Heidi will provide additional updates at future meetings.
- Director of Three-Tiered Model Coordination – Thea Scott was recently named the Director of Three-Tiered Model Coordination. Before this, she was an Assistant Director in the Special Education Compliance Section. The Director position is funded by the divisions of Career Education, Special Education, and School Improvement, as well as through federal monies from the Center on School Mental Health at MU, and the Transformation Work Group at DMH (using transformation grant monies awarded to Missouri to transform mental health in Missouri) which has been very interested in impacting mental health in school settings. Thea will report to the three assistant commissioners and will act as our point person for working with the National Center on RtI; Missouri has received much recognition nationally for creation of this position. It is the first of its kind nationally.
- Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Verification Visit – Missouri is scheduled for a verification visit from OSEP, U. S. Department of Education, the week of September 28. Missouri was due for a visit because of the number of years since the last review. Among other things, OSEP will be reviewing fiscal items and how they relate to the rest of our work. For several weeks, staff participated in weekly conference calls for both Part B and Part C in preparation of OSEP’s visit. The document guiding this visit is the Critical Elements Analysis Guide (CrEAG). OSEP also sent surveys to all panel members, as well as, Mary Kay Savage, MPACT, to disseminate to parents. Preparation for this on-site has been very time-consuming.
- New Directors’ Institute, July 2009 – As in past years, new special education directors have been invited to attend the New Directors’ Institute presented by DESE staff in Jefferson City. Last year all of the sessions were videotaped and other than a few updates, the Division continues to use these videos as part of the training for new directors and as reference material for other directors (they are posted on the division’s website).

- Stimulus Funds (ARRA) – This has involved a lot of staff time. For lots of information about the Stimulus Funds including ideas on how districts can spend the funds this school year, go to <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/sia/ARRA.html>. We have worked very hard to stay on top of the issues and provide support to school districts on this; it has been a team effort at DESE.
- Statewide Electronic IEP System – DESE is moving forward on the development of a Request for Proposal (RFP). Should be able to send to Office of Administration (OA) by the end of September. DESE’s timeline remains the same; hope to have 100 pilot school districts identified under the contract by spring so those pilot districts can begin using the new system in the 2010-11 school year.
- Draft Annual Performance Report (APR) – Heidi will review a copy of the draft APR with panel members at the December meeting. A copy of the report will be sent prior to the meeting for members to review. Our work continues to focus on post-secondary transition and elementary achievement as advised by the panel each year. DESE is seeing data showing improvement.
- MAP Performance – Information regarding MAP performance was sent electronically to panel members prior to the meeting. The data is very encouraging showing a steady improvement.

Subcommittees met for 45 minutes.

Transition (TOPS) Presentation (Working Lunch)

Presenters:

- Regina Higgins, Regional Professional Development Center, University of Central Missouri
- Pam Earnest, Post Secondary Transition Teacher, School to Work Coordinator, and Transition Liaison for Region 9; Kim Bessey, Post Secondary Teacher; and, Barbara Gordon, Director of Special Education - Nevada R-5 School District

Information regarding transition was handed out. Barb Gilpin, Assistant Director, Special Education Effective Practices Section and Bev Luetkemeyer, Supervisor, Special Education Compliance Section also assisted with the presentation. Regina Higgins presented an overview of the TOPS program and throughout her presentation had the individuals from Nevada School District provide more specific detail in relation to their experiences at their district. The focus of the discussion was on student results. The Nevada School District is currently working on student led IEPs. The presenters explained that TOPS (Transition Outcome Project) is an evidenced-based program brought to Missouri as part of our improvement activities to address post-secondary transition. We have provided training and support to many districts participating in this project, and the data is showing an impact.

Subcommittee Reports

- Evaluation – Lynda Roberts reminded panel members that at the last meeting, it was decided to discontinue the panel’s annual report since it is no longer required by OSEP. Instead, a summary letter from the chair will be done at the end of each year. This will require a change to the panel’s bylaws. At the next panel meeting when the subcommittee meets, they will develop an outline of the letter and have asked Ray Wicks to participate. They will finalize and have the letter ready for panel review and approval at the June panel meeting.
- Rules and Regulations – Eileen Huth, new chair of the subcommittee, indicated the Rules and Regulations subcommittee, along with a few other interested panel members, discussed the issue of child restraints and seclusion. The subcommittee plans to make some recommendations to DESE at the December panel meeting
- Monitoring – no report

- Programs
 - Martha Crabtree would like for Heidi to continue to update the panel on Race to the Top.
 - Martha suggested the RPDCs or DESE encourage the districts participating in PBS to implement district-wide and not just in some school buildings. She also would like to see continued emphasis for parent and community involvement. She suggested colleges and universities be asked to include basic information about PBS in their curriculum for all teachers.
 - Martha indicated she attended the Facilitated IEP Training hosted by MPACT. She thought it was very well done and was an effective collaboration between MPACT, school districts, and parents.
 - Martha indicated the subcommittee would like to invite the new Commissioner to an upcoming panel meeting, at her convenience, to share her ideas, goals, and objectives for the state of Missouri related to education and special education.
 - Martha would like additional information on Teacher Retention/Recruitment, specifically Career Ladder (how does it work, funding information, etc.), be provided to the panel at a future meeting.
 - Martha suggested panel members may want to subscribe to Legislative Education updates during the next legislative session if interested. Ray reminded panel members that if they decide to contact a legislator, it has to be as a Missouri citizen and not on behalf of the panel. Ginger indicated this suggestion was meant to be a way of providing panel members with additional information regarding legislative issues related to special education.
- Nominations – Doreen Frappier indicated there are three parent vacancies (still looking for additional representation in the southern and northern areas of the state) and one administrator vacancy.
- Public Comment – Nancy Thomas indicated the panel provides the public with an avenue to provide feedback and comments by going to the panel’s website and sending an email which goes directly to the Public Comment subcommittee. The subcommittee is discussing ways to increase the awareness of this opportunity. At the next meeting, they plan to create a list of agencies, listserves, and other groups to send an announcement (Ginger will draft) to.

Member Issues/Reports

- Eileen Huth announced the 2009 LDA Conference will be held on October 31 at the Missouri Baptist University in St. Louis. She also indicated information from a recent survey regarding special education teacher retention can be found at <http://www.ldamo.org/>.
- Doreen Frappier announced the Blind Task Force will be hosting this year’s Children’s Vision Summit (for children who are blind or visually impaired) on October 5-6.
- Ginger Luetkemeyer indicated the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) and the Autism Society announced the publication of professional competencies for teaching students with autism spectrum disorders. For more information, go to <http://www.autism-society.org>.

Next year’s meetings (all are in the Truman Building, Room 400 and will start at 8:30 a.m.)

March 18 (Thursday)

June 11 (Friday)

September 16 (Thursday)

December 3 (Friday)

Adjournment – Scott Montgomery made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sheri Tucker seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.