

Special Education Advisory Panel

September 11, 2008

Minutes

Attendees

Bev Woodhurst
Sherri Tucker
Lynda Roberts
Steve Viola
Doreen Frappier
Elizabeth Tattershall
Brenda Boyd
Theresa Valdes
Martha Crabtree

Jeaneal Alexander
Michelle Hoffmeister
Heidi Atkins Lieberman
Jerry Neal
Lisa Amundson
Kim Oligschlaeger
Angela Brown
Dorothy Parks
Pat Jackson

Ray Wicks
Eileen Huth
Nancy Thomas
Mary Kay Savage
Melissa Frazier
Shirley Woods
Ginger Luetkemeyer

Not Attending

Sue Alderton
Russ Brock
Kris Callen

Thurma DeLoach
Trish Grassa
Tammy Hicks

Roxie Lanier

Copies of handouts for this meeting are available at:

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

Call to Order - Bev Woodhurst called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. Introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes – Lynda made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Brenda Boyd seconded the motion. Motion passed with one abstention.

Subcommittee Meetings - Subcommittees met for an hour.

Special Education Coops - Shelley Witherbee, Director, Funds Management Section, presented information about the Special Education Coops. To review her presentation, go to <http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Administration/AdvisoryPanel/94142meetings.html>. For additional information about coops, go to <http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Finance/>. Kimbra Mullenix, Ford County Coop, discussed her coop with the panel and handed out their brochure. She visits each of the districts in the coop to assist with IEPs, view students in classrooms, etc. The coop employs several staff that travel between districts in the coop providing services.

Member Issues/Reports

Division of Youth Services Award - Martha Crabtree reported that the Division of Youth Services received the Innovation in America Award from Harvard Institute at a ceremony with the Governor last night.

OSEP Leadership Conference - Lynda Roberts (attending as SEAP representative) and Heidi Atkins Lieberman recently attended the OSEP Leadership Conference in Baltimore. Lynda indicated that she felt the conference was very informative. She attended a session that emphasized reading progression at the elementary level. She also attended a session on the Memphis' reading program funded by the U. S. Department of Education which focused on students in middle school and secondary school. Heidi also attended the same session and was excited about the secondary school aspect. The program is only in its second year so they did not have a lot of data to share.

Learning Disabilities Association Conference - Eileen Huth indicated the Learning Disabilities Association is offering a special SEAP scholarship to any panel member who would like to attend their conference for \$65. Conference is October 3-4, 2008, at TanTarA. SEAP members interested should mark "SEAP Member-\$65" on the registration form to get the reduced rate. In addition, Heidi indicated she would be willing to give a free pass to one SEAP member (Angela Brown will attend).

Family Partnership Program - Bev Woodhurst reported that the Family Partnership Program is having their annual retreat for families providing services to a special needs child on November 7-8, 2008, at the Best Western in Columbia with a 150 participant maximum (expenses will be reimbursed). There will be a large number of presenters in addition to exhibitors on the second day. Funding for the retreat is primarily provided by the Department of Health and Senior Services. For more information or a copy of the invitation, email Bev.

DESE Update

- Educational Surrogate Program – Heidi handed out information regarding the educational surrogate program which included the procedures for assigning students an educational surrogate. DESE is always interested in recruiting new educational surrogates. If interested, send an email to webrepliespec@dese.mo.gov.
- SEAP Orientation – Yesterday's SEAP orientation was videotaped. It will be available on DVD and CD and will be disseminated to new members of the panel that were unable to attend the orientation. It will also be sent to new members as they are appointed to the panel. If anyone else is interested in a copy, send an email to lina.browner@dese.mo.gov.
- Margaret Strecker, Director, Special Education Compliance Section is retiring on September 19. In addition, Joyce Jackman, Coordinator of the First Steps Program is retiring on September 12. We are recruiting for both positions.
- DESE received the "met the requirements" state determination label from the U. S. Department of Education. The Division notified districts/agencies of their determination label. Approximately 520 districts/agencies received "met the requirements" label.
- Missouri Integrated Model (MIM) – Through the support of a State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) funded by the U. S. Department of Education, Missouri has been researching, developing, and implementing an integrated process of supporting student learning. Central in the Missouri Integrated Model framework is a focus on supporting academic achievement and successful behavior through tiered levels of support that acknowledge and address diversity in student learning. As a framework for supporting this focus, are the eleven essential features of the model. These features represent the evidence-based practices and qualities congruent with effective schools, responsive intervention, and successful system-change efforts. Collectively, the tiered levels of support and the essential features are integrated within the context of schools, districts, and the state to form the Missouri Integrated Model. Fourteen districts were selected to pilot this program. The pilot is being evaluated to determine if it is worthwhile. The MIM Kickoff was held earlier this week for all fourteen pilot schools and the RPDCs. This year is for planning and preparation and next year the program will be implemented. Missouri is getting a lot of attention from the national level for the work we are doing. Heidi will keep the panel updated on the status.
- Exploration of the Statewide IEP System – The first meeting started with a small group of district representatives to discuss issues, advantages/disadvantages, and what schools are currently using. The second meeting included people with diverse backgrounds and perspectives. This group gave a good perspective on their feelings about the possibility of a statewide electronic IEP. Heidi indicated the next step is for her to discuss with Dr. Bert Schulte and the Commissioner to see if we can move forward. If so, several vendors will be invited to meet with the group to discuss what options they have available. Heidi will keep the panel updated.

- New Directors' Institute – New special education directors attended the New Directors' Institute in July. Approximately 40 attended and received a lot of information on Compliance, Funding, Effective Practices, Data, etc. A follow-up session will be presented at the MOCASE conference for those who attended the training.
- Blind Task Force (BTF) - Heidi is a member of the BTF. Their focus is on students who are blind or visually impaired. They are moving toward a focus on student achievement for students who are blind or visually impaired. They are concerned about rural areas which may not have access to teachers for the blind/visually impaired.
- Post Secondary Transition Institute – This is an annual institute. There was very good participation by district staff. The Missouri Interagency Transition Team is looking at the many aspects of education related to children going through transition and how systems can be changed throughout the state. The Community of Practice is an online group where folks can share what they are doing and can ask experts questions http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/EffectivePractices/mo_comm_pract.htm. The Community of Practice is a closed group that is occasionally open to everyone (when that happens, a SELS message will be sent).
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Workshop – DESE purchased a workshop from the National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE) for public school district administrators on Meeting the Needs of Students who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing (HOH). The workshop is designed to deliver the most current information on requirements, practices, and resources for improving educational services for students who are Deaf/HOH. Participants will also work on identified state issues and proposed solutions and create a Deaf/HOH community of practice. The workshop will be held on October 2-3, 2008, in Jefferson City. In addition to those registered to attend, Heidi indicated that she invited several other individuals to listen in on the workshop.
- Standards Based IEP Training – A training was held in June but the group included such a diverse group of individuals. It was decided that another Standards-Based IEP workshop would be held on November 19 in mid-Missouri. This workshop will be geared toward teachers and individuals who serve as LEA representatives on IEP teams. Additionally, a webinar training will be scheduled for administrators on Standards-Based IEPs. During the webinar, trainers will focus on the administrator audience and will not focus on basic IEP development information that was included in the June training. Instead, the emphasis of the webinar will be understanding the purpose and requirements of standards-based IEPs and will include some information about IEP development processes. Watch SELS messages for additional information.
- Monthly Special Education Webinars – The monthly webinars will resume on Oct 8. To view a webinar or review the Q&A, go to <http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/mnthlywebstrmHAL.html>.

Working Lunch - Parent Advocates/IEP Facilitation/Parent Mentor Training – Mary Kay Savage presented information regarding parent advocates. To review her presentation, go to <http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Administration/AdvisoryPanel/94142meetings.html>. A list of MPACT certified parent mentors can be found on their website at <http://www.ptimpact.com/>. MPACT certified parent mentors will have a letter identifying them as certified. There are many parent advocates in the state that are not MPACT certified parent mentors. MPACT is a private organization funded as a contractor by DESE and OSEP.

Subcommittee Reports

Evaluation – Lynda Roberts indicated that at the last meeting the annual report was approved and published and is available on the web at <http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Administration/AdvisoryPanel/94142reports.html>. The subcommittee will begin reviewing the APR soon. Heidi indicated the preliminary data will be available at the December meeting.

Rules and Regulations – Ray Wicks indicated they discussed their three responsibilities. Heidi asked the subcommittee to work with the nomination subcommittee to look at the membership of the panel/nomination form. Is it following federal guidelines as it relates to how members are presenting themselves on the panel? Also, look at how people are recruited. Is there a minimum age for panel members under the category of “Individuals with a Disability?” Ray indicated they will bring back their findings and recommendation, if needed, at the December meeting. The committee also discussed end of year exams and felt it would be beneficial to get additional information at the December meeting. Heidi indicated many questions have been answered and are posted on the web at <http://www.dese.mo.gov/divimprove/assess/eoc/>.

Monitoring – Sherri Tucker – Plans are to review the Annual Performance Report (APR), State Performance Plan (SPP), Correction Action Plans (CAP), and Improvement Plans (IP). The subcommittee plans to review the child complaint and due process data before the December meeting. They would like for Lina to set up a conf call and send preliminary data to them in mid to late November.

Programs – Martha Crabtree reminded panel members that DESE has a SELS archives (located at http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Listserv_Archives.html). She suggested a SELS be sent reminding people about the SELS archive.

Martha asked about parent surveys used during the MSIP process and how the information is collected and how it is used. How do parents of a child with a disability fit into the MSIP process? She would like information on this presented at a future meeting.

Martha expressed concern over the shortage of educational surrogates and what needs to be done to recruit more educational surrogates. Heidi indicated the Division looks to stakeholders to help recruit.

Martha would like to continue discussion of the retention of special education teachers. What are other states doing to retain quality special education teachers?

Nominations – The subcommittee will work with the Rules and Regulations subcommittee to look at the membership of the panel/nomination form.

Public Comment – Jeaneal Alexander indicated the panel now has a website/email address for individuals to send comments to the Public Comment subcommittee at <http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Administration/AdvisoryPanel/94142feedback.html>.

Adjournment – Jerry Neal made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lynda Roberts seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.