

# Special Education Advisory Panel Meeting

## Minutes

### September 16, 2010

#### Members in Attendance

Scott Montgomery  
Angela Brown  
Sue Sharp  
Lauren Zeliff  
Jerry Neal  
Mary Kay Savage  
Doreen Frappier

Becky Romine  
Russ Brock  
Jamey McVicker  
Melissa Frazier  
Michelle Hoffmeister  
Lori Christiansen  
Pam Schneeflock

Theresa Valdes  
Heidi Atkins Lieberman  
Martha Crabtree  
Steve McDannold  
Dorothy Parks  
Denise Buersmeyer  
Kathleen Harnetz

#### Members Not in Attendance

Kim Bielawski  
Kris Callen  
Donna Cash  
Thurma DeLoach

Trish Grassa  
Patricia Kopetz  
Byron Koster  
Nancy Thomas

Sherri Tucker  
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** – Scott Montgomery called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Introductions were made.

**Approval of Minutes** – Heidi Atkins Lieberman made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Dorothy Parks seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

**National Dropout Prevention Center Presentation** – Jeff Dodson, principal, and Tammy Ridgeway, assistant principal, from Jefferson City High School presented information on the National Dropout Prevention Center and how their program is being implemented in the Jefferson City High School. A copy of their presentation is located at the above webpage.

#### Department Update (Working Lunch)

- Determinations Process – Heidi updated the panel at the last meeting on the status of the determinations process. The next step was for the Office of Special Education to identify determination labels for each school district. Seven districts were labeled “needs assistance.” All others met requirements. For additional information, go to <http://www.dese.mo.gov/divspeced/>.
- MSIP/Monitoring – The Department has been discussing potential changes to MSIP. The special education monitoring schedule has been coordinated with the MSIP schedule. Currently, MSIP is a 5 year cycle with each district getting monitored sometime within that cycle. Department staff are discussing the elimination of cycles and instead doing some type of annual data review that looks at all districts. If that change is made, the Office of Special Education would need to see how our special education monitoring would fit in. Until final decisions are made with MSIP, Special Education will move forward with the monitoring as it has been.
- Special Education ListServ (SELS) – This is the electronic way that the Office of Special Education communicates with the field. It is important for panel members to subscribe. Contact Lina at [lina.browner@dese.mo.gov](mailto:lina.browner@dese.mo.gov) if interested. The SELS archive is located at [http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Listserv\\_Archives.html](http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Listserv_Archives.html).

- Medicaid Expansion for School Billing - The state has pursued Medicaid expansion to enable school districts to bill for more services. We believe this will allow districts to get more revenue to cover costs in serving kids. One down side is the small number of children in the state that have been receiving 24 hour private nursing which has been supported by Medicaid through the Bureau of Special Health Care Needs. Now that nursing services (provided for by the child's IEP) can be billed by the district, the Bureau will not be able to cover. Parents were notified of this change - if it is an educational requirement, it should be included in the child's IEP so the district will provide and then be able to get Medicaid reimbursement.
- The Department has been notified by the U.S. Department of Education that the MAP-A in science is not approved. The Assessment Section is working to find something that will be approved by the U.S. Department of Education. Once that is determined, training/in-service will need to be provided regarding the change.
- Seclusion/Restraint Model Policy – The policy was posted on the Department's website on July 1. Districts have until July 1 of next year to have their policy in place.
- MAP/MAP-A - Scores are in and again show progress for students with disabilities. There is still a long way to go but the trend for the last five years is very encouraging. The credit for this goes to the RPDC consultants who have provided training to the field and to school districts that have provided leadership focusing on student achievement, and teachers who have worked hard with their students.
- Missouri Integrated Model (MIM) Update – This is a pilot project the Department is implementing based on a grant received a few years ago from the U. S. Department of Education. This project created a three tiered model that took the essential elements of existing three-tiered models in the state (RtI, High Schools that Work, Professional Learning Communities, PBS etc.). Last year was the first year of full implementation at the building level with 14 pilot schools. At the end of the five year pilot, the Department hopes to have positive data to support statewide implementation. This year there is a scale up to additional buildings in each of the pilot districts.
- RPDCs – Last year was a difficult budget year and this year will be worse. The RPDCs were all but destroyed by having all state funding eliminated. They are surviving on the federal funds that are being provided mostly by Special Education. They are also receiving federal monies from MELL (Missouri English Language Learners) and the Department is allowing the RPDCs to use program income (income from fees that were charged). Many consultants have been laid off. Not sure what next year will bring or if they will even be able to continue to exist. Districts can access the special education consultants at the RPDCs this year as they have in the past.
- Reorganization – The Department's reorganization was finalized on August 1. All of the Department's finance staff were centralized. The special education finance staff will continue to work directly with the Office of Special Education as they have in the past but will report to a different boss. This is also true with the Data staff. They will both be moved to a different floor in the Department.
- State Operated Schools – Have laid off around 40 people and think we have reached the bottom. We can still provide appropriate services and the students will not suffer from the layoffs. MSSD has 925 students, MSD has 80 students, and MSB has 50 students. These are the lowest numbers we have seen for each of the schools.
- Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) – Many people in the field have recently received emails giving incorrect information about ECSE. Heidi indicated that in the Spring the Missouri legislature had expressed interest in possibly pulling out of IDEA services for 3 and 4 yrs olds and instead offering a voluntary state-funded pre-school program for kids with disabilities. They became interested in this when they were looking at all state programs and determining which were not mandatory. ECSE is not mandatory. A state decides to participate. It is very expensive for the state. When Missouri decided to participate, it made it a mandatory program and had to

pay for all of it. The state currently pays approximately \$125 million of the total \$145 million cost. The legislature wanted to know the impact of pulling out and asked Heidi to send a letter to OSEP to see what the ramifications would be to the state's maintenance of effort. Would the state be excused for maintenance of effort? OSEP said Missouri would still have to pay the same amount as the previous year. If the legislature files a bill, Missouri can submit a waiver request. If we don't get the waiver, it would mean that the U.S. Department of Education would deduct the amount we are not spending from our allocation. The legislature has been made aware of this information. At this time we do not know if a bill will be filed or not. If filed, Heidi will let the panel know. For additional information regarding this, you refer to Heidi's September 2, 2010, monthly webinar (video and Q&A) located at <http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/mnthlywebstrmHAL.html>.

### **Subcommittees met from 12:50 to 1:25 p.m.**

#### **Subcommittee Reports**

- **Evaluation** – The Evaluation Subcommittee is responsible for the preparation of the panel's annual letter (it used to be a report and required much longer to produce). Because of the smaller amount of time required to prepare the letter, the subcommittee suggested their members may also want to serve on a second subcommittee (for approximately two meetings each year).
- **Rules and Regulations** – The Rules and Regulations subcommittee discussed what direction they want to go and the need for a new chairperson.
- **Monitoring** – nothing to report
- **Programs** – The Programs subcommittee would like to revisit some things from previous meetings since things may have evolved.
  - MIM presentation (where are we now, how do the components work, and long term plan)
  - MAP-A science test – more in-depth
  - Department Reorganization – report on how the new structure is working and how it is impacting the Office of Special Education
  - Presentation on ECSE - research and value of program.
  - Presentation on National Parents as Teachers Center (or someone from the Department) - how are they making adjustments in Missouri due to the recent budget cuts.
- **Nominations** – two parent openings, in process of filling the charter school vacancy.
- **Public Comment** – no report

#### **Schedule Next Year's Meetings (Truman Bldg, Room 400)**

March 11, 2011

September 9, 2011

June 17, 2011

December 2, 2011

**Adjournment** – Russ Brock made a motion to adjourn. Heidi seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.