

Special Education Advisory Panel Meeting

Minutes

September 7, 2012

Members in Attendance

Jerry Neal	Byron Koster	Russ Brock
Thurma DeLoach	Lori Christiansen	Heath Dillard
Patricia Kopetz	Lynnette Creed	Martha Crabtree
Angela Brown	Kaia Fields	John Monroe
Sheila Saxton	Lisa Bonacker-Slattery	Donna Cash
Diana Taylor-Soole	Lynn Neidigh	Jamey McVicker
Carrie Ragsdale	Sherry Whorton	Stephen Barr
Lauren Zeliff	Kelly Cogan	Deena Ring
Julie Boos	Sue Sharp	Doreen Frappier

Members Not in Attendance

Jennifer Bax	Danny Tipton	Ashley Krause
Dorothy Parks	Laura Moseley	
Tammy Pence	Scott Montgomery	

Guests

Mary Wood, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled (MSSD), DESE
Geoff Lanham, Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council

Comments from the Public – No public comments.

Copies of handouts and presentations for this meeting are available at -
<http://dese.mo.gov/se/seap/>.

Call to Order/Introductions – Jerry Neal called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes – Patricia Kopetz made a motion to approve the minutes from last meeting as written. Diana Taylor-Soole seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

Transition Presentation - Barb Gilpin, Assistant Director, Special Education Effective Practices, DESE, presented on transition. The Missouri Interagency Transition Team (MITT) was created four year ago and is made up of staff from various state agencies which deal with transition for students and adults. MITT is working on collaboration between agencies, the reduction of duplication of services, and a framework which would be useful for people wanting to access these services. Any suggestions panel members have regarding this process, should be emailed to Barb Gilpin at barb.gilpin@dese.mo.gov. The team is in the beginning stages (collecting information) of reviewing assessments at the secondary level and what skills students need to be successful in an employment situation. Stephen asked panel members to discuss this during their subcommittee meetings. For more information on transition, go to http://dese.mo.gov/se/ep/transition_progs.htm.

Part B State Plan Changes

Bonnie Aaron, Director, Special Education Compliance and Cynthia Quetsch, Legal Counsel, Office of Special Education presented information on the proposed changes to the Part B State Plan (see handout). Public comments may be submitted until September 10.

The following is a list of comments from the panel on the proposed changes to the Part B State Plan:

1. Definition of LEA-good addition but how does it apply to the special school districts and specifically to SSD? Concern about the pending due process case where it appears that the decision will be made that the LEA is the one who gets the funding.
2. Qualifications of AHC Commissioners
 - a. Cannot have Commissioners who have been in the special education field in the last five years means we do not have Commissioners who understand special education laws.
 - b. Ten hours of initial training is not enough.
3. On page 49, do not use the word comparable unless that is the exact word in the federal regulations because that word is too vague and does not provide clear guidance
4. On page 83, should it be behavior intervention plan or services? Need to reflect the federal language.
5. Time lines for evaluations (Reyes letter)
 - a. Look at the existing guidelines, 60 days is good but schools could even lessen the days to get the evaluation sooner and services to students faster.
 - b. In the private sector businesses move faster to keep the consumer happy-if students are referred they have a need and need to move faster to meet the needs.
 - c. Summer break language-it is hard to contract out services in 60 days and get evaluation report back. Often the work is done but final report comes after 60 days. Need to consider the special needs of contracted services and how much time they may need.
 - d. To have timelines include the summer is difficult because the child may not be accessible due to family plans. Hard to get the evaluations scheduled with staff, child and family plans and the need for child to have socialization activities in the summer.
 - e. Shortened timelines may be possible for some students- we get some done in the 30-45 day range but, if you mandate that timeline, it could be a problem if you discover additional needs during the evaluation. Want to take additional time to do a better job.
6. OT/PT/speech are contracted services-they do not make their reports in a timely manner-they often do the assessment but do not deliver on time. Need to develop creative ways to deliver the report such as secure email. Also need to ask the contractors to get the report done faster.
7. Why was the placement continuum chart removed?
8. Model IEP form
 - a. AT requires question? Should the word be “considered” instead of “required”? Other states and the federal regulations use “consider” which should be used by DESE.
 - b. Question about does the student have communication needs should read “were augmentative communication needs considered”?
9. Get rid of the use of the word required because it is not clear who can require something. If a consultant report says need an IEP or IT is required, who decides if it is required?

DESE Update:

- Assistive Technology – The panel has discussed assistive technology during the last couple meetings (see handout on feedback from MOAT). MOAT was very appreciative of the panel’s comments.
- Collaborative Work - DESE’s focus is on student outcomes and three critical areas: 1) student achievement, 2) early childhood education, and 3) teacher quality (starting with teacher prep, mentoring, etc) (see handout).
- State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) – DESE applied for another SPDG grant (see attachment). It is a competitive \$7 million, five year grant. The Executive Committee provided a letter of support which was included in DESE’s SPDG application.
- OSEP Results Driven Accountability Systems – See handout.
- Teacher Evaluation Model – Several schools are piloting the new teacher evaluation model this school year. Next year it will be available to all schools.
- Model Curriculum – The model curriculum will be available to all schools.

Working Lunch - Statewide System of Support – Jocelyn Strand, Coordinator, School Improvement and Craig Rector, Coordinator, Grants and Resources presented information on MoSIG (Missouri’s Implementation of the 1003(g) School Improvement Program) (see MoSIG powerpoint).

Subcommittees met from 1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Subcommittee Reports

- **Evaluations**
 - Transition discussion included:
 - Parent skill-level (make more accessible to those involved)
 - Regional Transitional Networks (MPACT) (on DESE website)
 - Reverse Job Fairs (make a goal)
 - Vocational Rehabilitation (not helping) (who oversees programs)
 - Emails/SELS (at IEP meeting) (more information, use Facebook, social networks)
 - Flow chart/toolkit for students/parents
 - Why gap between parent, teacher, doctor - Health Department, WIC, PAT, First Steps
- **Rules and Regulations**
 - Kaia Fields was selected as subcommittee chair.
 - Transition discussion included:
 - Searchable catalog (by types of jobs, interests, services, etc.) that schools could add to their websites (include URL on IEP forms)
 - Contact person or transition coordinator at each district to help students connect with resources
 - Give schools incentive to maintain that type of position
 - Training for employers.
- **Monitoring**
 - Transition discussion included:

- Transition should begin at an early age (when students enter special education)
 - Those involved should also include: parent groups, hospitals, caseworkers, mental health, pediatricians, First Steps, colleges, and schools.
 - Statewide or regional database.
- **Programs**
 - Lauren Zeliff was selected as subcommittee chair.
 - The subcommittee would like more information about the Show Me Careers and the evaluation of teachers' pilot teams.
 - Transition discussion included:
 - Students currently have to self advocate if they go to college
 - Social media and web based system
 - Regional centers should have information on transition services
 - Career Days for students in elementary/middle school
 - Webinars, You Tube videos, seminars, and how to's
- **Nominations**
 - Currently, no panel vacancies.
- **Public Comment**
 - There were two comments received via the panel's email address which were shared with panel members.

Schedule Meetings (all at Truman Building, Room 400)

March 8, 2013

June 7, 2013

September 6, 2013

December 6, 2013

Member Issues/Reports

- Blind Task Force - The Children's Vision Summit is scheduled for April 29, 2013, at Stoney Creek Inn, Columbia. It is free to parents, paraprofessionals, and teachers.
- A webinar on the Homeless Act was presented by DESE on September 19. The recording may be reviewed at <http://dese.mo.gov/webinar/Webinar09-19-12-QS.htm>.
- October is Disability Awareness month.

Adjournment – Donna Cash made a motion to adjourn. Angela Brown seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.