

Special Education Advisory Panel

Minutes

December 2, 2016

Attendees

Pat Kopetz
Stephen Barr
Brenda Niemeyer
Lori Masek
Lynnette Creed
Dana Franklin
Gwen Deimeke

Cory McMahon
Carissa Rupp
Amy Wilson
Abby Robbins
Christine Hernandez
Thomas Bamvakais
Diana Taylor-Soole

Desiree Byars
Mary Jo Jensen
Cathy Johns
Lauree Head
Elizabeth Obrey
Kim Gee
Christina Booker

Not in Attendance

Julie Boos
Donna Cash
Colette Canchola
Amanda Kaiser
Byron Koster

Matthew McTeer
Kent Medlin
Rachel Morgan
Carrie Noland
Reta Richmond

Lisa Robbins
Tara Stoll
Belinda Worley
Lauren Zelif

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

Comments from the Public - There were no comments from the public.

Approval of Minutes - There was one change to Lynnette Creed’s discussion regarding DOC. Changed sentence to read “...and is zone manager for eleven programs in seven schools/prisons.” Tom Bamvakais moved to approve minutes with this change and Diana Taylor-Soole seconded the motion. Minutes were approved with this correction.

Due Process Hearing Decisions/Disclosure – Rachel Meystedt reviewed the due process hearing decisions from FY 2015-16. The handout was emailed to panel members prior to the meeting and is available at: <https://dese.mo.gov/special-education/advisory-panels/seap/seap-meeting-handouts>.

2015-16 Annual Performance Report (APR) – Mary Corey reviewed the 2015-16 APR data. The handout was emailed to panel members prior to the meeting and is available at: <https://dese.mo.gov/special-education/advisory-panels/seap/seap-meeting-handouts>.

Department Update

- Facilitated IEP (FIEP) Update – Four regions of the state have participated in FIEP. Data collected from the FIEP surveys will be shared with Doug and Joyce Little, the national experts on FIEP, and will be used to provide a training webinar for facilitators. The FIEP handout is available at: <https://dese.mo.gov/special-education/advisory-panels/seap/seap-meeting-handouts>.

- State Budget – DESE has submitted their budget to the current governor’s office and to the transition team. The budget included increases to address the rising costs associated with Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) and First Steps.
- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) changed the requirements from a one percent cap on students who could be claimed as proficient or above to a one percent cap on alternate assessment participation. Missouri will not implement the one percent participation requirement for this school year but will work with districts that are above one percent participation this year to get them in compliance for the 2017-18 testing cycle.
- Super subgroups - requires the state to calculate and report progress of each identified subgroup population.
- Over the next couple of years, a process will be put in place for school districts to begin reporting expenditures at the building level.
- New regulations on accountability and assessment will be coming from the U. S. Department of Education.

Subcommittee Meetings – Subcommittees met from 11:50 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (Working Lunch)

Part B State Plan Changes – Stephen discussed all of the proposed changes to the Part B State Plan. To review the powerpoint, go to <https://dese.mo.gov/special-education/advisory-panels/seap/seap-meeting-handouts>. Written public comments on the proposed changes should be sent no later than close of business on January 6, 2017, to Special Education Compliance, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480 or by fax: 573-526-5946 or email to Idea.Comments@dese.mo.gov.

State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) Phase III – The SSIP is required by the U. S. Department of Education. There was a need to improve academic achievement for students with disabilities. To review the powerpoint, go to <https://dese.mo.gov/special-education/advisory-panels/seap/seap-meeting-handouts>. Panel members were asked to provide their input. The Phase III Plan is due to the U. S. Department of Education in April.

Subcommittee Reports

Evaluation

- There was considerable discussion by the subcommittee regarding the APR presentation. Some questions/suggestions the subcommittee had included: What mechanisms are used to collect the post-secondary data? Could social media, personal contacts, or possible incentives be used to collect the information? Discussed the target line and asked why it has to stay for the five year period. Could there be a two tiered approach?
- The subcommittee also discussed Rachel’s report on due process hearing decisions. They felt they needed a better understanding of what the information and numbers meant and why the numbers did not add up. Also, what is the difference between requested and issued?

Rules and Regulations

- The subcommittee discussed the APR presentation, due process information, FIEP update, as well as, DESE’s proposed changes to SLPs. Stephen recommended they send

their comments related to SLPs to the Office of Educator Quality at educatorquality@dese.mo.gov.

Monitoring

- The subcommittee reviewed the due process report/decisions. They felt that if mediation had been used, it may have resolved the issues in those instances. The subcommittee also felt the FIEP process will assist families in getting through the IEP process without having to file due process. The subcommittee suggested handing out the surveys at the end of each FIEP meeting and asking each person to stay and complete as a way of increasing the number of returned surveys.

Programs

- The subcommittee discussed the APR data presented and had the following questions/suggestions: With regard to the data presented on graduating in four years, are some of the students with significant disabilities being pushed out of school? How many students actually stay in school past four years?

Nominations – no report.

Public Comment

- The subcommittee discussed the data presented and felt it was a bit confusing. They were unsure if individual district data is available on DESE's website.

Members Issue/Reports

- Brenda Niemeyer asked how schools will be notified of the free resources that will be available through the on-line platform. Stephen indicated the plan has not been developed yet but, if all goes well, the Commissioner may be able to make an announcement at the August Administrators' Conference. Brenda asked if there will be a pilot program. Stephen indicated several districts are currently piloting the program and, hopefully, by July 1, DESE will have a good beginning package.

Adjournment – Brenda Niemeyer moved to adjourn the meeting and Lauree Head seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.