

Special Education Advisory Panel Meeting

Minutes

March 6, 2015

Members in Attendance

Jerry Neal		
Diana Taylor-Soole	Lynnette Creed	Jodi Orton
Patricia Kopetz	Kenneth Lerbs	Elisha Ferguson
Reta Richmond	Brenda Niemeyer	Kent Medlin
Maryellen Koch	Tom Bamvakais	Kim Gee
Cory McMahan	Carrie Ragsdale	Lori Masek
Byron Koster	Lauren Zelif	Stephen Barr

Members Not in Attendance

DeWayne Anderson	Gwen Deimeke	Jamey McVicker
Julie Boos	Lauree Head	Shawn Nix
Donna Cash	Pamela Hollingsworth	Laurie Truesdell
Lori Christiansen	Mary Jo Jensen	Amy Wilson

Guest(s)

Amy Gaumer Erickson	Pam Williams
Pattie Noonan	Kenneth Holzapfel

Copies of handouts and presentations for this meeting are available at:

<http://dese.mo.gov/special-education/advisory-panels/seap/meetings>.

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 panel minutes as written. Diana Taylor-Soole seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

Comments from the Public – Kenneth Holzapfel, a special education teacher addressed the panel regarding his concerns about implementing a functional IEP but administering the MAP-A. He indicated his students are having a curriculum imposed on them that does not meet their educational needs based on their IEPs and that the number of hours required for special educators to prepare and administer the test, outweighs the benefits of scores obtained. He handed out information to panel members (to review, go to <http://dese.mo.gov/special-education/advisory-panels/seap/seap-meeting-handouts>).

Change Agenda Item Order – A motion was made by Thomas Bamvakais to change the order of the agenda. The MO Post-Secondary Success Initiative item will be next followed by the Part B State Plan Public Comments. The remainder of the agenda will continue in order. The motion was seconded by Brenda Niemeyer. Motion approved.

Missouri Post-Secondary Success Initiative – Pattie Noonan (pnoonan@ku.edu) and Amy Gaumer Erickson (agaumer@ku.edu), research professors at the University of Kansas, presented information to the panel on Missouri Post-Secondary Success (www.MissouriPSS.org), a multi-

year transition and college and career readiness (CCR) improvement initiative that provides face-to-face professional development and online support to interdisciplinary high school teams. Missouri Post-Secondary Success promotes graduation and positive postschool outcomes for all students by providing teachers with evidence-based tools, approaches and strategies that they can use to build students' inter- and intrapersonal competencies as well as cognitive skills. This project is jointly sponsored by the University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Panel members had the following suggestions/questions:

- What about engaging parents in this initiative?
- Why wait until junior/senior year? Why not start at a much younger age?
- What about Special School District of St. Louis County? It seems like they should be included.
- What is considered career program planning?
- What about sharing this information with universities?
- Parents many times do not know universities have tutoring and disability coordinators.
- Could pictures be added to the wheel to make it more visual?

Working Lunch - Part B State Plan Public Comments – Pam Williams presented the panel members with the comments received during the Part B State Plan public comment period. The handout, available at <http://dese.mo.gov/special-education/advisory-panels/seap/seap-meeting-handouts>, outlined the proposed changes to the state plan, the comments received, and the action taken by the Office of Special Education. The proposed changes to the state plan will be presented to the State Board for their review and approval at their March meeting. Once approved by the State Board, the state plan then goes to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR), Secretary of State, and is published in the Missouri Register and Code of State Regulations.

Missouri Interagency Transition Team (MITT) Services Report – At a previous meeting, the panel was asked to review the MITT services report and provide feedback. Based on those suggestions and others received by the MITT, the report was updated and sent to the panel prior to this meeting. Stephen asked the subcommittees to review and provide any additional recommendations.

Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Update – A draft example of the Individual Student Year-End Report was sent to the panel for their review prior to the meeting. Stephen asked subcommittees to review and provide comments and suggestions. Is the document clear enough? Does it give the kinds of information needed? Is it written at the level a typical parent would be able to understand? This is Missouri's opportunity to provide feedback. Comments received will be sent to the multi-state team.

Proposed Administrative Rule Regarding Early Childhood and Early Childhood Special Education Facilities Reimbursement – The purpose of the proposed rule is to establish a funding formula for early learning programs facility lease agreements when funding is requested from DESE. The panel was asked to consider if it desired to make a comment regarding the proposed rule. If so, consensus from the panel would be needed.

DESE Update

- New Staff at DESE since last December:
 - Commissioner – Margie Vandeven
 - Deputy Commissioner, Division of Learning Services - Stacey Preis
 - Assistant Commissioner, Office of Quality Schools - Chris Neale (effective 7/1/15)
 - General Counsel - Bill Thornton
- The Part B APR/SPP was submitted to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) on time.
- The Part B State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) is being finalized and will be ready to send by the April 1 due date.
- The Part B Application is currently open for public review <http://dese.mo.gov/special-education/compliance/part-b-annual-state-application>. Written comments may be submitted until close of business on March 10.
- Collaborative Work is being embedded into the Top 10 by 20 Plan.
- The IEP Facilitation committee meeting was rescheduled to April 1 due to weather. Will bring the committee's recommendations to the panel at the June or September meeting.
- The Blind Task Force (BTF) recently identified how difficult it is for blind students to transfer from high school to college/technical schools. Many students do not realize the time needed for colleges/technical schools to provide the accommodations they may need. In many cases, months of preplanning is needed. To assist students, the BTF developed a listing of on-line resources which were provided to all districts.
- Cory McMahon is a recipient of the 2015 Mental Health Champions' Award. He will be recognized at a ceremony on June 9 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel.

Discussion Issues Raised by SEAP Members

- **Adding to the SEAP Membership** – At the last panel meeting, Byron suggested adding a representative from Protection and Advocacy (P&A) as a permanent member of the SEAP. He felt that because of the work P&A does, they would be a good group to have included on SEAP. Stephen indicated that federal statute identifies the membership of SEAP and specifies that at least half of the members must be from the category "Parents of Children with Disabilities and/or Individuals with Disabilities." There is nothing in statute that prohibits the panel from adding additional representatives.
- **Accountability for Medically Fragile Students** – Thomas Bamvakais expressed two concerns.
 - The first regarding medically fragile students. He indicated medically fragile students can cause issues with school attendance and affect numbers on MSIP. Stephen indicated there is a waiver process for students with medical emergencies and that medically fragile students can receive homebound services which would be their educational placement if a student with an IEP.
 - The second was about students who are incarcerated. The last school the student attends is the school which must count the student attendance information. Stephen indicated this is not a special education issue so no decision will be made.

- A couple panel members expressed concerns regarding conflicts between schools and parents whose child has frequent doctor/counselor appointments during school hours. Stephen indicated these are local policies but he would send a SELS message to school districts clarifying the issue.
- **Braided Funding for EC/ECSE Programs** – Nothing has been finalized yet with the U.S. Office of Education.

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

Evaluations and Monitoring

- Dynamic Learning MAPS
 - Provide reports quarterly if DLM is to be an ongoing assessment process.
 - Provide a fact sheet of definitions.
 - Provide training for parents.
 - Is there a way to say XXX is the target and Mark (the student in the example) got this far toward achieving the target? This would tie it closer to the IEP.
- MITT
 - Positive changes were made.
 - Needs to be online and digital.
 - Provide to homeless shelters and directors of all state agencies.
- Annual Report – The panel’s draft 2014-15 annual report was emailed to members prior to the meeting for their review. No additional changes were suggested. The draft report will be voted on during the June meeting.

Rules and Regulations

- Dynamic Learning MAPS
 - Provide an explanation of skills.
 - Provide what area need improvement.
- MITT
 - Provide a date of publication.

Monitoring – No report.

Programs

- Dynamic Learning MAPS
 - Check the language – too much educationese.
 - The graphs were confusing-maybe a line chart not a bar chart.
 - Do not use the word “fell” as in Mark’s mastery of math “fell” into the third...instead say Mark achieved, mastered, etc. To parents, the term “fell” sounds very negative.
 - Provide an explanation of skills.
 - Show examples to explain the text.
 - What is the purpose of the report?
- MITT
 - Needs to be online and digital

- Provide to schools, agencies, county health departments, independent learning centers, MOHealthnet, social workers, hospitals (NICU), Vocational Rehabilitation, agencies that work with transition clients, and chambers of commerce.

Nominations – Forms to nominate panel members for officer positions and for the Executive Committee were handed out at the meeting. Lina will email the form to the panel next week. Forms must be sent to Mary Jo Jensen at jensenm@fredericktown.k12.mo.us by March 31. Mary Jo will contact individuals nominated to verify their interest in serving in the position(s).

Public Comment – Patricia Kopetz

- Dynamic Learning MAPS
 - Provide fact sheet.
 - Combine the graph and explanation. Separating them makes parents hunt for the explanation.
 - What does proficient mean? Not clear about what is proficient and not proficient.
- MITT
 - No additional comments other than those already suggested.

New Business

Byron Koster made a motion that P&A be recognized as a state agency within the Missouri SEAP bylaws. Thomas Bamvakais seconded the motion. This item will be discussed and voted on at the June meeting.

Member Issues

Cory indicated the State Board of Education is having a dinner to honor former Commissioner Nicastro on March 16.

Adjournment – Cory made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Diana Taylor-Soole seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.