

Special Education Advisory Panel Meeting

Minutes

March 1, 2019

Members in Attendance

Amanda McKee
Lisa Jones
Lori Masek
Amy Wilson
Byron Koster
Desiree Byars
Todd Fraley
Christian Basi

Tom Bamvakais
Diana Taylor-Soole
Elizabeth Obrey
Virginia Allsman
Abby Robbins
Michael Aitkin
Cathy Johns
Kristin Donze

Elizabeth Fox
Kris Booker
Stephen Barr
Lisa Robbins
April Register
Cory McMahon

Members Not in Attendance

Kimberly Bray
Donna Cash
Megan Griffiths
William Hayes
Mary Jo Jensen

Amanda Kaiser
Susan Marino
Matthew McTeer
Stephanie Mefford
Amber Moss

Priscilla Reed
Leigh Reynolds
Daniel Williams

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 – Lisa Robbins called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes – Tom Bamvakais made a motion to approve the panel minutes as written. Diana Taylor-Soole seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Summer Work Program – Elizabeth Perkins, Kim Gee, and Chris Clause from VR presented information on VR's Summer Work Program. In 2014, the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act was signed into law. One of the areas of pre-employment transition services that VR was required to focus on was work based learning experiences for students with disabilities. VR determined this was an area of need for students with disabilities, so a program was developed in collaboration with community rehabilitation providers, local employers, and school districts to provide a summer work experience. The six week Summer Work Program is available for students with disabilities entering their last year of high school. Students work 20 hours each week (16 hours with the employer and 4 hours in a classroom learning soft skills) and earn minimum wage. In summer 2018, 683 students in 158 high schools participated in the program with 203 employers around the state. Of those, 73 students were offered employment at the end of the summer work experience. For a copy of the one-page flyer about the program, go to: <https://dese.mo.gov/special-education/advisory-panels/seap/seap-meeting-handouts>. Panel members were asked for suggestions on how to get the word out about the program.

FIEP Subcommittee Report – Beulahre Robinson and Karen Allan with the Special Education Compliance Section presented information from the FIEP Subcommittee meeting. For a copy of their presentation, go to: <https://dese.mo.gov/special-education/advisory-panels/seap/seap-meeting-handouts>.

Panel members were asked to make suggestions if additional information should be collected from the surveys. Panel members were also asked for their ideas on providing the training on the strategies to make IEP teams more beneficial.

WORKING LUNCH - DESE Update

- The state budget process is going well this year. There was very little to no affect during the federal budget shut down because of how DESE is funded.
- The state performance report was submitted.
- Panel members who would like to receive the special education listserv (SELS) messages should email lina.browner@dese.mo.gov.
- Part B state application has been posted on web for public comment (March 5-April 5).
- In late 2017, OSE proposed changes to the Part B State Plan but without a State Board of Education for six months, OSE was unable finalize the changes. OSE edited the changes based on comments received at that time and sent them back out for public comment once a new board was convened. The final version was submitted to the State Board at their February 2019 meeting. The changes were approved and are routing through the final approval process which includes 30 days with each of the following: Governor's Office, JCAR (Administrative Rules Division and Joint Committee on Administrative Rules), SOS (Secretary of State), Missouri Register, and in the Code of State Regulations. The proposed state plan changes are tentatively set to be effective July 30, 2019.
- There are discussions with Educator Certification regarding the administrator certification. Currently, the process includes a separate certificate for special education directors but looking at combining into one certificate.
- There were new federal regulations regarding significant disproportionality which were pulled back just prior to implementation. Have not seen any updates from OSEP at this time. Once we receive direction, a SELS message will be sent.
- The Blind Task Force (BTF) has been discussing the shortage of orientation and mobility specialists and vision specialists. They are brainstorming ways to get quality people in those positions.

SSIP Update – For a copy of Stephen Barr's presentation, go to: <https://dese.mo.gov/special-education/advisory-panels/seap/seap-meeting-handouts>.

Proposed Language Change to Bylaws – Stephen suggested the panel consider changing the term of the officer positions to a two-year term instead of yearly. If panel members agree, a recommendation to make this change and voting would be needed at the June meeting. If approved, the change would go into effect with the June officer elections. A motion was made to accept the changes as written, Corey seconded the motion. Voting will occur at the June meeting.

Subcommittee Meetings - Subcommittees did not meet.

2018-19 Annual Report Letter - The draft 2018-19 Annual Report Letter was sent via email to panel members for their review prior to this meeting. No changes were recommended. Voting on the Annual Report Letter will occur at the June panel meeting.

The panel made the following observations/suggestions regarding the FIEP survey:

- Which fields are required and which are optional?
- Can student name be added as an optional field?
- Possibly change wording from anonymous to confidential.
- Questions do not seem generic enough, seem to be geared to one individual or another.
- Could a comments section be added to item #13?
- Could a comments section be added at the bottom instead of asking for a phone call?
- Could a section be added to allow for suggestions?
- Could a question be added regarding "what are the best things about FIEP"?
- Could both items #13 and #14 be put in Likert scale?

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.