

# Special Education Advisory Panel Meeting

## Minutes

### September 7, 2018

#### Members in Attendance

Lisa Robbins	Amanda Kaiser	Diana Taylor-Soole
Amy Wilson	Belinda Worley	Priscilla Reed
Todd Fraley	Byron Koster	Bill Hayes
Kimberly Bray	Cory McMahon	Elizabeth Obrey
Brenda Niemeyer	Susan Marino	Daniel Williams
Kristin Donze	Michael Aitken	Leigh Reynolds
Lori Masek	Tom Bamvakais	Stephen Barr
Cathy Johns	Desiree Byars	

#### Members Not in Attendance

Christina Booker	Mary Jo Jensen	April Regester
Donna Cash	Lauren Lynch	Abby Robbins
Lynnette Creed	Carrie Noland	

**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 10:00 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.

**Missouri Assistive Technology** – David Baker, Director of Missouri Assistive Technology. Discussed assistive technology in Missouri for students and individuals with disabilities. He asked the panel for comments and feedback on better ways to provide their programs and suggestions on additional assistance which could be provided. They have been in Missouri for approximately 20 years, they partner with many agencies throughout the state, and they are housed within the Office of Special Education at DESE. He reviewed many of the programs and services they have available (for a complete listing of their programs and services, go to <https://at.mo.gov/>). He handed out copies of their annual report (also available at <https://dese.mo.gov/special-education/advisory-panels/seap/meetings>). Two programs that specifically benefit school districts are ETC (Equipment Technology Consortium) <https://at.mo.gov/device-loan/> and AT Reimbursement Program <https://at.mo.gov/at-reimbursement-for-schools/>. New things coming to assistive technology include C-Pen, augmentative device I-Gaze, Smart Pen, Amazon Alexa, and many others. David Baker's email is [dbaker@mo-at.org](mailto:dbaker@mo-at.org).

**FIEP Update (Working Lunch)** – Karen Allan, Director, Special Education Compliance, presented updated information on the facilitated IEP program (see powerpoint <http://dese.mo.gov/special-education/advisory-panels/seap/meetings>). The goal this year is to get people trained to provide this training in school districts. The subcommittees were asked to provide information on the following:

When should training be provided?

What additional training is needed for schools?

How do we evaluate the effectiveness of the training and the program?

Karen indicated she is creating a FIEP advisory group. The following panel members volunteered to serve on this group: Leigh Reynolds, Amanda Kaiser, Amy Wilson, Kristin Donze, Lisa Robbins, Brenda Niemeyer, Elizabeth Obrey, Diana Taylor-Soole, and Daniel Williams. She plans to have an initial face-to-face meeting but then use conference calls for additional meetings.

**Public Comment Webpage/Email** – At the last meeting, the panel discussed the need for a generic public comment email address created by DESE instead of a gmail account created by a specific panel member due to the possibility of not being able to access the gmail account should that person leave the panel. Lina created a generic public comment email address through DESE and updated the panel’s public comment webpage. She demonstrated how the new “Send a Comment to the Panel” webpage looks and how comments can be submitted to the panel (<https://dese.mo.gov/special-education/advisory-panels/seap/contact-advisory-panel>).

## **DESE Update**

- State Budget - DESE is working on next year’s budget which will be presented to the State Board at their September meeting. It is due to the Governor’s office by October 1 and will be submitted to the legislature for their review.
- Federal Budget – October 1 is the deadline for Congress to pass a budget. If the budget is not passed by then, they may continue under a continuing resolution, or if they do nothing, the government could shut down. DESE operates on forward funding so we are paid from the last budget that was passed.
- State Board – The State Board President announced they will wait until they have a full board before replacing the commissioner. The Governor recently named two individuals to the State Board leaving only one vacant position.
- Governor and First Lady - The Governor presented at the Administrators Conference. He indicated he is working on economic development and infrastructure which will include paying for a person to work with the career centers to determine what is needed. He wants to see more students with disabilities involved and successful. Staff from the Office of Special Education (OSE) recently met with the First Lady after she asked for a briefing of everything special education does. She created a logo that she wants to connect with special education material and link with VR and DMH. This is a great opportunity to have someone advocate for students and adults with disabilities.
- Part B Plan - The Part B Plan was submitted to the U.S. Department of Education so funding will continue.
- State Performance Plan (SPP) – The State Performance Plan was submitted to the U.S. Department of Education. The next SPP report is due late January/early February. The draft will be reviewed at the next panel meeting. Missouri met requirements and has no additional supports needed from the U.S. Department of Education.
- Alternate Assessment – OSE has contacted districts that would be over the one percent in addition to providing workshops and webinars. Most districts made a good effort to reduce their number. We also requested a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education for districts that have made a good effort that they will not have significant consequences.
- Significant Disproportionality – At previous meetings, the panel helped identify the criteria for the regulations for the identification of significant disproportionality. OSE feels some of the requirements do not address the problems and instead are creating problems that do not need to exist. The U.S. Department of Education, after receiving public comments, has decided to put this on hold for two years. OSE will continue to help and support those districts that were identified.
- IMACS2 (Improvement, Monitoring, Accountability, and Compliance System 2) – IMACS2 is about to be released and will be used with Part C and Part B. The system is not a finished product but will instead evolve along the way. The goal is to make it easier to use.
- LRP – LRP is a large media corporation that does a lot of research and puts that information

online. OSE recently purchased a subscription making it available to all school districts in the state. This is another online resource which school districts can access 24/7.

- Merit Reform – As part of the state’s recent merit reform, the merit system has been eliminated for state employees. DESE is not a merit agency but there have been a few changes for us as well. There will no longer be a probationary period for new employees and revisions are currently being made to the evaluation process for DESE employees.
- Missouri Model Districts (MMD) – Currently, MMD is available only to pilot districts but by next school year, DESE wants to have it available to all school districts. DESE is reviewing capacity and what requirements will be needed for school implementation and not just building implementation.

**Subcommittee Meetings** – Subcommittees did not meet.

### **Member Issues/Reports**

- Cory indicated that on September 4 the Governor called lawmakers together for a special session to address two issues (1) vetoed bill which dealt with STEM education (Governor felt it targeted one particular company to bid the work) and (2) Senate was asked to deal with gubernatorial appoints with regard to adding new State Board members.
- Lisa Robbins indicated there is a lot of confusion in the special education area related to alternative certification. She has attempted to get clarification from Educator Certification. She is asking DESE to provide clarification at a future SEAP meeting.
- Lisa Robbins also indicated that the University of Central Missouri is starting a graduate program to prepare teachers for the Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) exam.

### **2019 SEAP Meetings**

- March 1
- June 7
- September 6
- December 6

**Adjournment** – Cory McMahon made a motion to adjourn and Diana Taylor-Soole seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.