

Special Education Advisory Panel

Minutes

June 2, 2017

Attendees

Pat Kopetz
Stephen Barr
Lisa Robbins
Tara Stoll
Brenda Niemeyer
Lori Masek
Lynnette Creed

Amanda Kaiser
Amy Wilson
Gwen Deimeke
Byron Koster
Lauree Head
Cathy Johns
Cory McMahon

Elizabeth Obrey
Carrie Noland
Abby Robbins
Kim Gee
Chris Booker

Not in Attendance

Thomas Bamvakais
Julie Boos
Desiree Byars
Donna Cash

Dana Franklin
Mary Jo Jensen
Matthew McTeer
Carissa Rupp

Diana Taylor-Soole
Belinda Worley
Lauren Zeliff

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 – Two corrections for the March minutes: add Byron Koster to “Attendees” and move Brenda Niemeyer from “Not in Attendance” to “Attendees.” Cory McMahon made a motion to approve the panel minutes with the corrections. Lisa Robbins seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

IEP Facilitation – Karen Allan, Director, Special Education Compliance, indicated the first year of full implementation for FIEP was successful. There were 37 FIEPs requested with 34 held and 3 withdrawn. Twenty two districts participated in at least one FIEP with some districts having multiple FIEPs. Missouri has been identified as one of two FIEP success stories by the CADRE Symposium panel and was featured in an OSEP article. Cheryl Thompson, Supervisor, Special Education Compliance, will present during the 2017 CADRE Symposium in October. FIEP facilitators participate in monthly conference calls which focus on specific strategies to reduce the amount of time needed for FIEP meetings. Six of the seven facilitators are continuing next year and will be receiving advanced training.

Questions from panel members included: does DESE know if any of the FIEP meetings have moved forward to a child complaint or due process; does DESE know if a district has asked for an FIEP but the parent declined; what reasons would either party have to decline the process; and are the surveys being completed and submitted. Year-end data will be provided at the September SEAP meeting.

Young Child with a Developmental Delay (YCDD) - Karen Allan, Director, Special Education Compliance, indicated the Office of Special Education (OSE) recently received a proposal to make a change in the Part B State Plan regarding YCDD. The concern was that many students who test out of special education as a result of no longer qualifying under YCDD eligibility still require support but it is extremely difficult for those students under the age of 8 to qualify for special education in Missouri due to the rigorous requirements and testing options available. These students often requalify for special education services in the second or third grade. The suggestion was that the age of continued eligibility for students under the category of YCDD be changed to eight. The panel was requested to provide a recommendation on this issue.

Post-Secondary Transition Update – Barb Gilpin, Assistant Director, Special Education Effective Practices, provided an update on post-secondary transition. To review the handout, go to <https://dese.mo.gov/special-education/advisory-panels/seap/seap-meeting-handouts>. MoEdu-SAIL in an online source of professional development materials and resources for school districts and the statewide system of support <http://www.moedu-sail.org/>. Subcommittees were requested to provide feedback on the competency wheel, ideas regarding the program, and any other helpful input to improve the program.

(Working Lunch) Subcommittee Meetings – Subcommittees met from 11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Subcommittee Reports

Evaluation

- The subcommittee felt making the age change for YCDD would have positive results.
- The subcommittee really liked the post-secondary information but felt it should start at a younger age.
- Annual Report Letter – There was one correction: add “s” to the word finding in #4 on first page. Chris Booker made a motion to approve the Annual Report Letter with this correction. Brenda Niemeyer seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Rules and Regulations

- The subcommittee discussed YCCD and agreed it is a good idea. One possible drawback could be with the structure of classrooms within a district.
- The subcommittee suggested the college and career information be offered across the board for all students and teachers and to change the name of the wheel to “Life Competencies.”

Monitoring

- The subcommittee agreed with the suggestion of changing YCDD to include age 8.
- The subcommittee liked the college and career competency wheel and felt these skills should start in the elementary schools and be encouraged at home. A suggestion was also made to provide this information to school counselors and embed it into the curriculum.

Programs

- The subcommittee also felt changing the age for YCDD would be beneficial.

- The subcommittee liked the competency wheel and suggested it be introduced at parent/teacher conferences. They were concerned that some may feel they must be good at everything on the wheel or not be considered successful when in fact; it should be used to look at an individual's strengths, emerging skills, and what skills need to be worked on. They suggested adding a statement to the wheel indicating individuals are not going to excel at everything but should capitalize on their strengths and work on their weaknesses.

Nominations – No report.

Public Comment – No report.

Division of Youth Services (DYS) – Gwen Deimeke, Special Education Supervisor, Division of Youth Services, presented information about the DYS program. Fifteen to twenty percent of the students in their facilities receive special education services. DYS has a variety of community based services: day treatment (students go to school and treatment, then go home); group home (students are there three to six months and are usually first time offenders); moderate care because of severity of offense (students are there six to nine months); and secure care (students with severe offenses, there nine to twelve months and sometimes longer). They also house dual jurisdiction students (student sentenced as a juvenile and an adult). Students work towards their high school diploma or HiSET. Missouri has one of the lowest return rates for students in DYS. For additional information, go to: <https://dese.mo.gov/special-education/advisory-panels/seap/seap-meeting-handouts>.

DESE Update

- **Budget** – The proposed state budget with the usual withholdings was signed by the Governor. The federal budget has a continuing resolution through September 30 – expect it to be extended beyond that.
- **ESSA Update** – 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. DESE has been working with districts that are above one percent participation to get them into compliance for the 2017-18 testing cycle. MSSD students are counted with their residing district. In late October, DESE will send a letter to districts providing additional data.
- **U. S. Department of Education Submissions** – The following items have recently been submitted to the U. S. Department of Education: Part B and C State Applications, Deaf-Blind Grant, State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) Phase III, and Annual Performance Report.
- **SPDG** – The SPDG annual report and the application for a new SPDG grant were both submitted to the U. S. Department of Education. The SPDG grant is funding the Collaborative Work in schools.
- **Part B State Plan** – The Part B State Plan is currently being reorganized. There are no content changes. The State Plan will be presented to the State Board at their August meeting.
- **Significant Disproportionality** – DESE recently met with MOCASE, Special School District, Blind Task Force, and held a live webinar to receive input from districts. Survey

results overwhelmingly recommended a risk ratio threshold of 3.5 for all areas; 10 as a minimum cell size; 30 as minimum n-size; and using three consecutive years. Progress will be defined as 0.2 improvement from year one to three for identification and placements and 0.4 from year one to three for discipline. Currently, 56 LEAs meet criteria for one year. When looking at the latest three years, 16 LEAs meet criteria for significant disproportionality. Alert letters were sent to 56 LEAs that met the criteria for the first of the three years. Official notification will occur in spring 2019, with CEIS implementation in the 2019-20 school year. DESE is considering holding regional meetings in the fall for LEAs that exceed criteria. Resource materials for significant disproportionality are available on the DESE's website.

- **RPDCs** – Three additional compliance supervisors will be added to the regional offices to provide additional assistance to schools.

Elections

Chair – Lynnette Creed

Vice Chair – Byron Koster

Secretary – Kim Gee

Members at Large

- Cory McMahon
- Chris Booker
- Lauree Head
- Tara Stoll

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.