

Special Education Advisory Panel Meeting

Minutes

December 5, 2014

Members in Attendance

Brenda Niemeyer	Byron Koster	Shawn Nix
Lori Masek	Cory McMahon	Lauree Head
Maryellen Koch	DeWayne Andersen	Kent Medlin
Lori Christensen	Tom Bamvakais	Kim Gee
Pat Kopetz	Pam Hollingsworth	Julie Boos
Jamey McVicker	Elisha Ferguson	Donna Cash
Ken Lerbs	Diana Taylor-Soole	Jodi Orton
Gwen Diemeke	Carrie Ragsdale	Stephen Barr
Lynnette Creed	Mary Jo Jensen	Jerry Neal

Members Not in Attendance

John Monroe	Reta Richmond	Amy Wilson
Misty Perdue	Julia Tackett	Lauren Zeliff

Guest(s)

Amanda Pangborn attended as a guest filling in for Amy Wilson

Comments from the Public – No public comments.

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 – Pat Kopetz made a motion to approve the panel minutes as written. Tom Bamvakais seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

Update on IEP Facilitation Process – Karen Allan, Director, Special Education Compliance indicated Missouri was approved in June to participate in CADRE's IEP facilitation process. Missouri is one of seven IEP states being helped by CADRE to develop IEP facilitation capability. Karen and Thea Scott, Director of Three-Tiered Model Coordination recently attended a workgroup with CADRE in Eugene, OR. Representatives from each of the seven states received an overview from CADRE in addition to meeting with five states already doing IEP facilitation. States providing IEP facilitation have set up their programs according to what works best for them. The next step for Missouri is to provide a logic model to CADRE and then convene a committee of various Missouri stakeholders to review and provide additional input. Panel members willing to serve on the committee should let Karen Allan know. The IEP facilitation committee will make their recommendations to the SEAP and then to DESE. To review Karen's powerpoint, go to: <http://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/se-seap-missouri-iep-facilitation-seap-12-5-14.pdf>. More information will be provided to the SEAP at the next meeting.

Due Process Hearing Decisions/Disclosure – The link to the 2013-14 due process hearing decisions <http://dese.mo.gov/special-education/due-processchild-complaint/2013-2014-due-process-decisions> was emailed to panel members prior to the meeting. A hard copy of each decision was available for panel members to review at the meeting. A summary of the data in connection to these decisions was

handed out during the meeting <http://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/se-seap-due-process-hearings-13-14.pdf>. Cynthia Quetsch, Legal Counsel for the Office of Special Education, reviewed the handout with the panel.

Part B State Plan Changes – Stephen Barr reviewed a document that outlined changes to the Part B State Plan that are under consideration <http://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/se-seap-changes-to-part-b-state-plan-under-consideration.pdf>.

2014-15 SPP/APR – Stephen Barr discussed the SPP/APR process (see handouts at <http://dese.mo.gov/special-education/advisory-panels/seap/seap-meeting-handouts>). This year the State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report will be submitted through GRADS360 which is a web-based system that includes tools needed for states to submit their SPP/APR and receive feedback from their OSEP state contacts. Much of the data in GRADS360 will be prepopulated from information the state previously submitted. States will be required to have a cohesive set of improvement strategies to address progress toward their targets. The FFY APR is due to OSEP on February 2, 2015, and the SPP/APR State Systemic Improvement Plan is due to OSEP on April 1, 2015.

State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) (Working lunch) – Stephen Barr indicated the SSIP is being piloted under the name of Collaborative Work in several schools across the state (see handouts at <http://dese.mo.gov/special-education/advisory-panels/seap/seap-meeting-handouts>). In January, there will be a more complete and finalized SSIP. We are in the final stages of developing and submitting to the U. S. Department of Education. A draft SSIP will be sent to OSEP for their review in January.

Panel members discussed ACT concerns which included:

- students for whom the assessment might be inappropriate;
- process for approving accommodations;
- explanation of why the assessment is essential;
- number of students not provided accommodations, the difficulty in getting accommodations approved, increase/decrease in scores as a result of additional students assessing (Stephen agreed to try and get some data regarding these issues); and,
- additional numbers of students in the state taking the assessment and percent of those who are free and reduced lunch eligible.

DESE Update

- DESE's budget for next fiscal year has been forwarded to the Governor's office.
- The public comment period for the proposed changes to the Part B State Plan will occur before the next panel meeting. A SELS message will be sent indicating the timeframe for the public comment period.
- Stephen plans to bring information on braided funding, DLM, and APR/SPP updates to the next panel meeting.

Subcommittee Meetings – subcommittees met from 1:15-1:45.

Evaluations – The committee will begin working on the panel's annual report and will have the draft for review at the March meeting.

Rules and Regulations – The committee discussed the following four issues:

1. The subcommittee is concerned the legislature has never fully funded the foundation formula and discussed what the panel could do to change this. One suggestion was a letter of recommendation. Stephen indicated public input to legislators is very important and that the legislature has a set amount of money each year which they must divide based on their perception of the greatest need. Stephen will check with DESE to see if there is a possibility of creating a committee to discuss this issue and will report back at the next meeting.
2. The subcommittee is concerned about the accommodations process for ACT testing for students with disabilities and requested additional data for their review including what accommodations have been requested and whether the accommodations were granted or denied.
3. The subcommittee felt P&A should have a designated role on the panel and that P&A should be recognized as a state agency by the panel so the P&A representative would not be subject to a term limit. Stephen indicated the make-up of the panel is determined by federal and state statute but he will check how restrictive that might be and will update the committee at the next meeting.
4. The subcommittee felt many schools are not using the state model IEP form and because of this, are not including all pieces of necessary information on IEPs. They suggested this could be a vendor issue since they create the various computerized IEP programs schools currently use and/or an issue with inadequate district staff training on creating IEPs. The committee wanted to know what could be done to make sure districts are including all necessary pieces of information on every IEP.

Monitoring – The committee expressed their appreciation to Cynthia for her report and asked if they could receive data on the number of parent driven vs district driven child complaints. The committee felt that collaborative work and the SSIP is a good approach. The committee also felt that mediation has been very helpful. With regard to facilitated IEPs, the committee had concerns with marketing and how to best disseminate the information to the public.

Programs – The committee would like a presentation on what best practice ideas are working to bridge gaps between parents, communities, and schools. The gap seems even larger for special education students. They suggested creating a list of best practice ideas (industrial partnerships, transition into employment, etc.) that could be shared with schools.

Nominations – no report

Public Comment – No public comments were received since the last panel meeting. The committee encouraged members to discuss with their constituents how public comments can be made to the panel (seapcomments@gmail.com). Public comments are read by the public comment committee and then brought to the panel for discussion. Comments are not responded to individually. Any discussion regarding a public comment is included in the panel's minutes.

Secretary Election – Due to a vacancy in the panel's secretary position, an election was held. Lynette Creed was elected secretary for the remainder of the 2014-15 fiscal year.

Adjournment – Diana Taylor-Soole made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Donna Cash seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.