

# Special Education Advisory Panel Meeting

## Minutes

### March 7, 2014

#### Members in Attendance

Jerry Neal	Sue Sharp	Doreen Frappier
Diana Taylor-Soole	Julie Tackett	Cory McMahon
Jennifer Bax	Julie Boos	Stephen Barr
Reta Richmond	Shawn Nix	John Monroe
Jamey McVicker	Lori Masek	Maryellen Koch
Kelly Zigaitis	Lynnette Creed	Misty Perdue
Byron Koster	Kent Medlin	
Lauren Zeliff	Dorothy Parks	

#### Members Not in Attendance

Stacey Anderson	Kelly Cogan	Patricia Kopetz
Lisa Bonacker Slattery	Martha Crabtree	Carrie Ragsdale
Donna Cash	Wayland Dillard	
Lori Christiansen	Pamela Hollingsworth	

**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 10:05 a.m. Introductions were made.

**Approval of Minutes** – Diana Taylor-Soole made a motion to approve the minutes from last meeting as written. Lori Zigaitis seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

**Update on the Implementation of Dynamic Learning Maps** – Bonnie Aaron, Assistant Superintendent, Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled presented an update to the panel on the implementation of Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM). Items were emailed to the panel prior to the meeting. To view them and the powerpoint presentation, go to: [http://dese.mo.gov/se/seap/se-admin-seap-amphndout03\\_14.html](http://dese.mo.gov/se/seap/se-admin-seap-amphndout03_14.html). DLM's website is [www.dynamiclearningmaps.org](http://www.dynamiclearningmaps.org).

**Summary Data for Special Education** – Stephen Barr discussed in great detail the results driven accountability data. The U.S. Department of Education is focusing more on student outcomes but is balancing it with the compliance component. Missouri has volunteered to be monitored by the U. S. Department of Education. To review the handouts associated with this discussion, go to <http://dese.mo.gov/special-education/advisory-panels/seap/seap-meeting-handouts>. Copies of the Missouri Collaborative Work document were provided to panel members for their review. Additional information about Collaborative Work can be found at <http://dese.mo.gov/special-education/effective-practices/collaborative-work>. A list of schools participating will be posted soon. The panel will be provided updates as this process continues.

### **Working Lunch – DESE Update**

- Stephen indicated Ernest Garrett has been named as the new Superintendent at the Missouri School for the Deaf effective July 1, 2014.
- The Part B State Plan changes have made it through the approval process. The effective date is March 30, 2014.
- The Part B Annual Performance Report was submitted to OSEP by the deadline. A one week clarification will be given to provide OSEP with additional clarification/information as needed.
- The Part B and Part C Applications are open for public comment until the middle of March.
- Stephen discussed the Consideration of IEP Facilitation handout. The Office of Special Education is considering offering IEP facilitation and would like to obtain feedback from the panel. IEP facilitation is available in several other states. This option would be available when the parent or school feels it would be of benefit to both parties. The facilitator would not make or influence decisions at the IEP meeting. Their role would be to keep everyone focused on the issues being discussed. If the Office of Special Education decides to proceed, a small committee will be convened to work on the details. The committee would need to consider the type of training facilitators would need, how to access the facilitators, would there be an evaluation process for the facilitators, etc. It was recommended by the chair that the Monitoring and the Rules and Regulations subcommittees discuss this at their subcommittee meeting.
- Legislation from the House has been introduced which would prohibit implementation of the Common Core State standards. At this time, it is impossible to know the outcome of this legislation.

### **Subcommittees met from 12:50-1:15 p.m.**

#### **Subcommittee Reports**

- **Evaluations** – The draft Annual Report letter was emailed to panel members and they were asked to review. No changes were recommended at this time.
- **Rules and Regulations** – Byron was selected as chair of the Rules and Regulations subcommittee. The subcommittee discussed the IEP facilitator process. They felt advantages included: issues being resolved more timely and possible reduction in the number of child complaints and due process complaints. They felt a disadvantage might be potential tensions and kinships that the facilitator may have to one party or another or certain individuals involved in the IEP meeting. Things the subcommittee felt needed further discussion included: what type of training, how much training, who would conduct training, are any individuals considered not appropriate to serve as a facilitator (conflict of interest), what qualifications would the facilitator need, and could a facilitator ever be subpoenaed for a hearing? The subcommittee indicated they were leaning towards recommending the Department pursue this further but without answers to their questions they were unable to make a recommendation. Stephen Barr suggested the Office of Special Education create a committee to review this topic along with the questions the panel raised. He will report back to the panel the committee's suggestions at the next panel meeting.

- **Monitoring**
  - The subcommittee reviewed and briefly discussed the due process cases from the past year. Mediation has increased over the last three years. Jamey asked Stephen to email him some additional data.
  - The subcommittee felt DLM was difficult to navigate.
  - The subcommittee discussed facilitated IEPs. They felt advantages included: another tool to reach the goal of perfect IEPs, it is already in place in other states so we can review their information, and a facilitator could diffuse tension. Things the subcommittee felt needed further discussion included: what type of training, are there a certain set of skills that make a person a good facilitator, what type of application process, how will we locate potential facilitators, should we have an evaluation process, and would this be regionally based. They also felt they could not make a recommendation until they obtained this additional information.
- **Programs** – The subcommittee discussed transition, specifically a program provided by the Department of Mental Health called Family to Family Charting the Life Course. The subcommittee indicated they would like a presentation on this program at a future panel meeting.
- **Nominations** – Panel members were asked to nominate potential candidates for the officer and executive committee positions. Elections will be held during the June panel meeting. Lina will email the nomination form to the panel. Deadline to submit a nomination is April 18.
- **Public Comment** – The subcommittee reviewed the one comment received via the panel’s email address.

### **Member Issues/Reports**

- Byron Koster expressed a concern regarding the Notice of Action on the Department’s website. He indicated that page 2 of notice is where signatures are obtained but nowhere does it indicate on that page what you are agreeing to and no date rendered is included. He wanted to know how to know what consent page went with what notice of action. Stephen indicated he would talk with the Office of Special Education’s Legal Counsel and the Special Education Compliance Section to determine if this form needs to be changed.
- At a previous panel meeting, Jerry Neal discussed with the panel important changes the Department was proposing to the Compendium of Missouri Certification Requirements related to special education teacher certification. Jerry, along with a group of IHE representatives, met with DESE in November to hear concerns and discuss. There was also a public comment period in which many comments were received. From these comments and discussions, final recommendations were submitted to the State Board and were approved.
- Dorothy Parks indicated Vocational Rehabilitation was conducting a public hearing during March at the JC Central Office. If interested, Dorothy will provide you with additional information.

**Adjournment** – Doreen Frappier made a motion to adjourn. Diane Taylor-Soole seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.