

State Advisory Council On Special Education

STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION • 25 INDUSTRIAL PARK ROAD • MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457



Meeting Minutes *as amended on 6/16/10.*

Date: 4/28/10

Location: State Office Building, Hartford

Attendees: Ben Strong, John Burke, Stephanie Johnson, Nancy Taylor, Julie Swanson, Jon Oddo, Christine Murphy, Charlyne Olko, Joanna Cooper, Beatrice Krawiecki, Dana Corriveau, Katherine Musto, Donna Cambria
Support: Nikki Hendry

Informed Absence: Michelle Bidwell, Brenda Sullivan, Beth Hart, Anne Louise Thompson, Ed Klonoski, Angela Klonoksi, Anne Marie Cullinan

Welcome, Introductions, Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Discussion: At 2:40 pm we have a quorum

2:35-2:40 pm Stephanie motioned to approve minutes, Christine seconded the motion
 Motion Carried Unanimously

Executive Council

Discussion: Ben Strong: SAC's report to the board: Members need to look at their indicator reports for recommendations and should be prepared to send those to Brenda and Ben by the May meeting so that the report can be compiled early in the summer.
2:40-3:00 pm

Bureau of Special Education Update

Discussion: Dana Corriveau,

3:00 pm-3:15 pm
2:50 pm

- Charlene Russell-Tucker is overseeing bureau activities. Terri De Francis is helping the SAC executive committee
- ED (Emotional Disturbance) guidelines are at an internal review phase at the department
- AT (Assistive Technology) guidelines has a taskforce that started in January 2010 and will work for two years
- Clarification on Indicator 15 under general supervision, and an indicator 5 data discrepancy.
- OSEP was happy with responses to Indicators 4 suspension/expulsion, 10 disproportionality, and 11 evaluation timelines. These indicators have been problematic for the state department in prior years.
- New consultants: Jay Brown, Ashley Roberts, and a third consultant to be hired.
- Terri will most likely cover for Dana in her absence

Action Items	Responsible	Deadline	Notes
Forward Cover letter and SAC report guidelines	Dana will send to Ben		
Julie and John will email Joanna some thoughts about her indicator report	John, Joanna, and Julie	Before may Meeting	

New business

Discussion: 3 pm Joanna and Bea, Indicators 6, 7, and 12

Indicator Reports

- Early childhood, worked with Maria Synodi
- Indicator 6, LRE for Children 3, 4, 5 years old. SDE did not report on this because the federal government is changing the guidelines so there are no unmet needs for SAC
- 12- FAPE by age 3, no unmet needs for SAC
- Indicator 7, early childhood outcomes- Joanna provided a handout with timelines, history of activities, and data surrounding this indicator
- SDE has met requirements for the three activities of indicator 7.

Recommendations (DRAFT): continue recruitment and retention of highly qualified PreK special educators

- Continue to create inclusive opportunities for preK children
- Continue to find ways to inform families transitioning in special education
- Continue to assist in training of teachers and other personnel in nuances of determining if delays are related to disability or lack of experiences/opportunities,
- Continue to caution against possible institutional racism for white and non white students struggling with Positive social-emotional skills, acquisition and use of knowledge and skills (early language/communication, and early literacy), and appropriate behaviors.
- Needs to be a one page executive summary that lists the recommendation.
- Members can email feedback to Joanna.

Charlyne emailed report to Brenda-looked at due process cases statewide for the last three years. Looking for trends in how many cases mediated, resolved, went to hearing, etc. Most cases went to mediation and findings are not published. Most cases were around independent evaluations-*Districts brought parents to due process around independent evaluations for students.*

Stephanie- Indicators 3, 9, 10

Provided a summary page for each indicator

CT Benchmark Assessment System-testing data base, 60 districts participating grades 3-8

*Teachers need to be taught how to write goals and objectives

Indicator 9-Zero districts are under or over represented

Indicator 10-over representation in specific disability categories

SRBI-looked at information from CPAC, other state's documents, worked with Pat Anderson and Perri Murdica.

3 areas of unmet need

Professional development-What training exists for staff to be able to implement interventions with fidelity?

No requirements by the state, teachers get CEUs each year, districts pay for authorized training.

Recommendation for consistent training across the state

Development of professional framework for training across the state.

Accountability-How will the state track student participation in SRBI? How long are students spending in SRBI before mastering content,

*Develop student tracking system for students participating.

Involvement for Families? Districts are not under obligation to abide by the guidelines.

The challenge is how to make a recommendation from SAC around SRBI which is general education driven.

Update on indicator 5 and 8

5 C was not met. Emphasis on increasing Time with Non-Disabled Peers. Issues are revolving around quality of education for students with disabilities

Indicator 8-

Surveys mailed, response rate was 20% , parent workgroup meets six times a year, SDE is providing training to districts with high response of parent dissatisfaction. Michelle is continuing to follow up on these indicators.

Indicator 20- Jon, was addressed through other indicators. Jon has information on writing transition goals

Indicator 15-Nancy, group was supposed to meet in May, but meeting was postponed.

Members should work on their recommendations and submit to the chairperson.

**Old Business-
Updates
Discussion:**

- No Old Business

**4:35-4:50 pm
Committee
Reports**

Nominating Committee: Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair for 2010-2011

- Michelle Bidwell has one nomination for Chair and Vice Chair, and can accept additional nominations before the may meeting.
- Candidates will be announced at the May meeting, and voted on in the June Meeting. It is

important that there is a full quorum at the June meeting to elect the new officers.

Wrap up

Discussion: Public Comment none

4:50 – 5:00pm

Christine Murphy motioned to adjourn,
Jon Oddo seconded the motion,
All in favor, motion approved unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,

Nikki Hendry

All handouts available via Nikki Hendry.