

State Advisory Council on Special Education

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



Meeting Minutes

Date: 6/16/10

Location: State Office Building, Hartford

Attendees: Attendees: Brenda Sullivan, Beth Hart, Michelle Bidwell, Charlyne Olko, John Burke, Nancy L. Taylor, Katherine Musto, Donna Cambria, Christine Murphy, Joanna Cooper, Sherry Earle, Jon Oddo, Anne Marie Cullinan, SERC Support: Ildiko Reno
 Guests:
 Informed Absence: Julie Swanson, Benjamin Strong, Beatrice Krawiecki, Catherine Foley-Geib, Stephanie Johnson

Welcome, Introductions, Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Discussion: At 3:00 p.m. we had a quorum.

3:00-3:10 pm Last month in May we did not have a quorum. Nikki is going to be involved in the June retreat. Ildiko is going to be the new SERC support staff, her contact info: Ildiko S. Reno, reno@ctserc.org (860) 632-1485 ext. 241
 Corrections to April minutes-Charlyne Olko-district brought parents to due process for independent evaluations.
 Brenda mentioned to approve minutes from April, Donna seconded the motion
 3 abstained, motion passed

Executive Council

Discussion: SAC minutes will be posed on the CSDE website going forward. Brenda's updates-Race to the Top funding letter from Dr. Mark K. McQuillan attached. We are going to have a summer retreat in July, dates need to be suggested and chair asked for Peg Hayden to come back for this July.

3:10-3:15 pm

Bureau of Special Education Update

Discussion: • No CSDE representative was present.

3:15-3:20 pm

Action Items	Responsible	Deadline	Notes

Old business

Discussion: Brenda-We have no solid report to come forward currently. Recommendations continue for FM.

3:20-4:10 pm Joanna-we cannot forget to remediate skills/we need to continue to focus on student achievement. The testing strategies need to be taught as well. Anne Marie-we want to see continual growth with test taking strategies with children.

Indicator Reports
And recommendations for 2010-11

Sherry- a period of direct instruction has to meet the needs of children. Christine went to a meeting on Title 1 with a wonderful presentation on student data collection. She will look into getting the individuals name to see if this information is public. The new data collection system consists of a chart from Kindergarten through 21 years of age for each individual child's data. Joanne-the CSDE may already have this data, Brenda will look into it, and she may need to contact current members.

2nd priority-SRBI: Stephanie Johnson sent her notes to Brenda; email will be shared with SAC members. Joanne-would like to see an effort to clarify the myth about SRBI. Brenda-there has to be consistent training, who do we recommend that to. Christine-it can be tied into the Achievement Gap. Michelle-are there school districts that deny SRBI needs, response carried YES. Michelle-recommendations are needed on how SRBI applies to students with disabilities. Nancy-Perri would be able to help with clarification. Donna-clarification regarding SRBI is a regular education movement, and parents are being told that they can not request...needed. John-we need to continue with this topic. Brenda-she will try to offer question in

the annual report for parents. Anne Marie-The focus is on student achievement, what are the mechanics?- Who are the educators in schools, what are their roles and who are the interventionists? Brenda-the children that are not identified as Special Ed, but are actually Special Ed, how long are they in the program? There needs to be a uniform way to better inform the parents that their child is in SRBI. Anne Marie is planning on taking the summer to focus on SRBI and the referral process in her district to focus on reading proficiency. Katherine-SAC's focus should be to get consistency for parents and the process for them.

Another recommendation: Procedural Safeguards and Streamlining Due Process will need to be tabled until next time.

3rd priority: Restraining & Seclusion-Charlyne put together a report that Brenda will go through. Brenda - Why is this happening and how are they taking care of these children? What type of training are school staff receiving? What is the data the state is collecting, how many are Special Ed kids? New person appointed to SAC from judicial branch- Catherine Foley-Geib.

Indicators from Joanna: Please see document attached.

Ann Marie talked about a certificate program for ABA and her district has a follow-up BCBA that she will share with SAC members (Higher Ed Education just started at St. Joseph's College)

Indicators 5 and 8: Michelle-looking at the quality of meaningful inclusion, to see what is working for children. School districts do not have what students need. The state department is expecting 80% of inclusion; the message needs to be progress in inclusion. PJ helped to put the pressure on General Ed to take the kids.

Committee Reports

- Nominating Committee-Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2010-2011:

**4:10-4:15 pm
New Business**

- Michelle, we had two people nominated, Chair John Burke and Vice Chair Beth Hart. Anne Marie made a motion, Joanne seconded, and all 13 present members were in favor-motion carried unanimously. The Chair and Vice Chair is responsible for putting together their Executive Committee.

Wrap up

Discussion:

4:50 – 5:00pm

Public

Comments/Announcements

- Brenda-suggestion to look at 5C.
- SAC appreciates what PJ has done and that the department is looking at the quality of inclusive education. Districts not meeting the 80% threshold should provide justification as part of their yearly SEDAC collection of data thru a drop-down menu format. Brenda is amending her motion, we support the above written language to create a committee and work with CSDE in finalizing the recommendations. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned officially at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ildiko Reno

All handouts available via Ildiko Reno.