
Special Education Advisory Panel

Approved Meeting Minutes

Meeting Place: Virtual Teams meeting

Date: February 8, 2024

Present: Jacqui Kelleher, Teagan Comeau, Alison Amidon, Kim McNamara, Kristen Bigelow, Sandra Chittenden, Cammie Naylor, Heather Willis-Doxsee, Rene Sanchez, Crista Yagjian, Tracy Rubman, Mack Gardner-Morse, EmmaRose McCadden, Anna Russo

Agenda:

- 4:30 – 4:35 Call to order, minutes, agenda adjustments
- 4:35 – 4:40 Public comment
- 4:40 – 5:10 Indicator 12 presentation and panel discussion
- 5:10 – 5:45 Discussion about Indicators from first part of year for feedback to AOE
- 5:45 – 6:45 Green Mountain Self Advocates (GMSA) Presentation on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Activity and discussion
- 6:45 – 7:00 Unmet need Story Sharing and brainstorming
- 7:05 – 7:15 Legislative update/check in
- 7:15 – 7:30 Bylaw update and final discussion
- 7:30 – 7:35 Action steps
- 7:35 Adjourn

Call to order, Minutes, Agenda Adjustments:

GMSA Not available, Will have brief discussion of ongoing legislative action.

Public Comment:

Mack Gardner Morse asked about patterns of strengths and weaknesses and encouraged the Panel to get more information about how it's impacting eligibility.

Indicator 12 Presentation and Panel Discussion:

Indicator 12 was tabled to another meeting. Indicator 3 was presented.

- Indicator 3: Assessment presentation by Ana Russo and EmmaRose McCadden. Indicator 3 looks at the participation and proficiency of students on IEPs taking the general and alternate assessment. Presentation and discussion on sub-indicator 3B:

General Assessment Proficiency, 3C: Alternate Assessment Proficiency and 3D: Gap in Proficiency.

- General Discussion around SPP/APR advisement with Ana Russo Discussion around SPP/APR indicators previously reviewed and potential data request for informed advisement.

Discussion about Indicators from First Part of Year for Feedback to AOE:

AOE Needs advisement from SEAP on setting baseline on the following indicators:

1. Indicator 1: Graduation Rate and Exit
2. Indicator 2: Dropout Rate
3. Indicator 13: Post Secondary Transition Plan – 61.18% compliant
4. Indicator 14: Past outcomes Survey

Discussion for Possible Advisement on Transition – adaptive driving lessons, community access- transportation, self-advocacy in the workplace, finding and navigating employment, accessing Title 1 of ADA Rights

GMSA Presentation on DEIB:

Agenda Item postponed.

Update to Committee on Relevant Legislative Action:

S. 172 – Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf/Blind Bill of Rights
Senate Literacy Bill

Budget concerns – possible delay education budgets vote.

Unmet Need Story Sharing and Brainstorming:

Discussion Items:

Are students who are home schooled who access and are enrolled in some school classes entitled to 504 Plan. They should be, does SEAP need to provide advisement.

Districts refusing to follow best practice in developing plans for children with disabilities.

Advocacy is extremely difficult for parents, often discouraging, and ultimately parents feel they cannot engage in broader advocacy while supporting the needs of their children.

Discuss lack of inclusion of parents of children with disabilities in hiring committees/panels.

There is a crisis level problem in proficiency performance of youth with disabilities and their nondisabled peers.

Use of Patterns of Strengths and weaknesses, which is significantly similar to the discrepancy model, for qualifying youth with SLD.

Additional Areas of Concern:

1. Child find/Evaluation

2. District agrees to sensory evaluations without completing
3. Providers not responding
4. What is specialized instruction/methodology
5. IEP goal bank - not utilizing individualized goals
6. Retaliation/bullying when families access dispute resolution

Lack of respect for and coordination with paras on teams

Local control makes it extremely difficult for parents to meaningfully advocate and expect consistency.

Parents are not treated as equal members.

****MEETING NO LONGER HAS QUORUM****

Bylaw update and final discussion:

Brief review of proposed changes, no discussion

Public Comment:

No additional public comment.

Adjourn:

7:18.