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## Special Education Advisory Panel

### Draft Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Place:** Virtual Teams Meeting

**Date:** January 7, 2025

**Present:** Cammie Naylor, Ashley Converse, Ana Russo, Krista Siringo, Cassie Santo, Regina-Ann Cooper, Teagen Comeau, Caitlin Chisholm, Sandra Chittenden, Crista Yagjian, Jacqueline Kelleher, Erika Smith, Tracy Rubman, Mary Barton, Lindsey Wells, Alison Amidon, Susan Aranoff

**Agenda:**

- 4:30 – 4:35 Call to Order, agenda changes, approval of any outstanding draft minutes
- 4:35 – 4:40 Public comment
- 4:40 – 5:10 Parent Engagement Survey conversation with Caitlin Chisholm from AOE. Purpose: to discuss and provide potential feedback
- 5:10– 5:40 Discipline/exclusionary discipline updates and data with Ana Russo and Tracy Harris from the AOE
- 5:40 – 6:00 Updates from Chair and AOE. Purpose: to provide Panel updates on changes at AOE and Panel priorities
- 6:00 – 6:15 Discuss follow up from December meeting. Purpose: to update on questions for Secretary and follow up discussion as group
- 6:15– 7:00 Transition conversation review and P2P update if available. Purpose: John Spinney will be back in February to prepare as a group we will discuss and check in around our past questions/conversation and make sure it's still relevant
- 7:00 – 7:15 Update on SPP/APR with Ana Russo. Purpose: check in with Ana and hear updates
- 7:15 – 7:25 Membership update and potential vote. Purpose: update on current roster and update from Governor's office
- 7:25 – 7:30 Public comment
- 7:30 Adjourn

**Call to Order, agenda changes, approval of any outstanding draft minutes:**

Call to Order at 4:33.

JK Moved to Approve Dec. 3 Min., CY second and passed unanimously

**Public comment:**

No public comment offered.

**Parent Engagement Survey conversation with Caitlin Chisholm from AOE.****Purpose: to discuss and provide potential feedback:**

Questions in Survey Offered via Likert scale. CY requested clarification on what the AOE is seeking advisement on related to the survey question. AOE seeks input to ensure the survey is clear to parents.

Q: How are school districts using data? AOE is pushing schools to use for improvement.

Consistently Low Response Rate – AOE is working to communicate purpose of survey more clearly. Tailor communications around the purpose.

Is there an opportunity for narrative. Vendor is gathering the qualitative data – Recommendation to analyze whether the qualitative data and the quantitative data are consistent.

Recommendation to share data back and make available. What is the accountability of the information.

**Discipline/exclusionary discipline updates and data with Ana Russo and Tracy Harris from the AOE:**

Ana Russo, Brandon Dall (Federal and Special Education Data Director), Tracy Harris.

Indicator 4 (Discipline/Exclusionary Discipline Update) 4a- discrepancy in rate of suspension/expulsion greater than 10 days for children w IEP; 4b Including race and ethnicity and disability with policies that don't comply.

New Methodology for data beginning SY 2023-2024. (Option 4 in previous document published, this was also the method the Panel recommended to agency.

Mention of Soft Suspension – Susan Aranoff asked what the AOE does to respond? AOE – This is not ok, does not have a legal or legislative leg to stand on. Awaiting some administrative/legislative action.

Discussion of What action AOE will take if benchmarks are not met – Recommend notify families in district.

**Updates from Chair and AOE. Purpose: to provide Panel updates on changes at AOE and Panel priorities:**

Update from Interim Director Cassie Santo – Announce Accepted Permanent Position as State Director (Effective Jan 12).

H.630 Cooperatives; Regional Work; Monitoring with National Center for Systemic Improvement. Anticipate.

**Discuss follow up from December meeting. Purpose: to update on questions for Secretary and follow up discussion as group:**

SA asked about Secretary Response to No Services Notices, Response to Panel outlines action steps families can and should take including notifying the agency.

**Transition conversation review and P2P update if available. Purpose: John Spinney will be back in February to prepare as a group we will discuss and check in around our past questions/conversation and make sure it's still relevant:**

Question Added – What if there is disagreement regarding readiness for graduation? What evidence should be used to determine readiness?

Is there follow up about how the transition plans are working? How do we know?

How do we ensure collaboration with community partners? There is a lot of interagency planning involved. How do we educate families around what it means to transition and what is the educational responsibility?

How does the variability around the PreEts program impact transition services? Variability between 14-16 of when students begin services.

**Update on SPP/APR with Ana Russo. Purpose: check in with Ana and hear updates:**

Review new reporting requirements.

**Membership update and potential vote. Purpose: update on current roster and update from Governor's office:**

The Panel took no action on this item. A brief discussion with anticipated member, will await next meeting.

**Public Comment:**

DD Counsel – Because of concerns heard during listening sessions. One of the issues on the top of the Counsel's Legislative Platform – (1) Use of Exclusionary Discipline, Restraint and Seclusion; (2) Lack of Services for students with Disabilities.

**Adjourn:**

CN Moved to Adjourn, TC Second. 6:44

**Meeting Schedule (hold the dates):**

February 4, 2025, 4:30pm - 7:30pm

March 5, 2025, 4:30pm - 7:30pm

April 1, 2025, 4:30pm - 7:30pm

May 6, 2025 (In-Person), 10:00am - 4:00pm

June 3, 2025, 4:30pm - 7:30pm