

**Special Education Advisory Panel Meeting Minutes
Jorgenson's Inn and Suites
September 25-26, 2014**

Members in Attendance: Doug Dellwo, Tessie Rose Bailey, Dave Marzolf, Barbara Varnum, Harold Olson, Courtney McNeill, Tristan Scott, Peter Halloran, Sindie Kennedy

Excused Members: Clarena Brockie, Laura Straus, Marvin Williams; Dan Laughlin, Peter Halloran (Thursday Afternoon and Friday), Wendy Studt, Christine Whitlatch, Theresa Becker

Non-Members in Attendance: Dick Trerise, Frank Podobnik, Dale Kimmet, Susan Bailey-Anderson, Anne Rainey, Marlene Wallis

Thursday, July 10, 2014

Chairperson Doug Dellwo called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The Panel members, OPI staff and visitors introduced themselves.

Following review of the Proposed Agenda, Dave Marzolf moved to accept the Proposed Agenda, Tessie Bailey seconded the motion and the motion passed. The Proposed Agenda was accepted as written.

The Panel reviewed the minutes of the July 10-11, 2014, meeting. Dave Marzolf moved to accept the minutes, Tessie Bailey seconded the motion and the motion passed. The minutes of the July 10-11, 2014, meeting were approved as written.

Division Report

Frank Podobnik informed the Panel that Amy Friez resigned from the OPI to accept a position with the Helena School District.

Debi Cockrell-Gilsoul has been hired as a case manager for the Aspire Program. An additional case manager will be hired.

Advisory Panel Orientation

John Copenhaver, Director, Center for Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education (TAESE), Utah State University, conducted the Advisory Panel Member Orientation.

He informed the Panel that the orientation provides training and information regarding their purpose and functions as an effective panel. John suggested that the Panel members: Read the Bylaws; Attend the Meetings; Represent their Stakeholder Group; Participate in Panel Items; and Work as a Team.

John went over the agenda with the Panel members that included: Membership of the Panel; Purpose for the Panel; The Advisory Panel Function; Relationship Between Part B of IDEA and Part C of IDEA; Major Functions of the Panel under IDEA; Panel Meeting Procedures—Open

Meeting Requirements; and the Panel Role in Regard to OSEP Verification, SPP/APR, SSIP and Results-Driven Accountability.

The Panel was informed of the 10 National Hot Topics in Special Education. They are: Reauthorizations—No word on IDEA or ESEA Reauthorization; State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP), Indicator 17; State Core Standards; Results Driven Accountability (RDA); Fiscal Accountability—Continues to be a hot topic, both at the state and school district levels; ESEA Waivers—States have been allowed to submit ESEA Waivers that, if approved, excuses them from NCLB requirements, but establishes new accountability requirements; School Climate, Safe Schools and Mental Health—This is a hot topic because of incidents throughout the United States where children are bullied directly or become victims of cyber bullying—There is a shortage of programs and services for students who need mental health interventions in and out of school; Cradle to College/Career Movement—Create a pipeline where all critical partners and individuals are working together for the common cause of creating a seamless system of support and collaboration for families, children and service providers; Virtual Special Education—Because of advancement in technology, virtual education programs are being developed and offered throughout the world; and Sequestration Cuts.

John distributed the handout “Know Your Acronyms.” He also distributed “A Primer for State Special Education Advisory Panel Members and SEA Staff.”

Following the Orientation, the Panel adjourned for the day.

Friday, September 26, 2014

Professional Development

Susan Bailey-Anderson told the Panel that MBI—Montana Behavioral Initiative—is 20 years old in 2015.

Susan distributed two abstracts of new programs: The OPI’s NITT-Project AWARE-SEA project will address the mental health needs of children, youth, families/caregivers and communities. The project will serve the entire state of Montana with Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) training.

The School Climate Transformation Grant seeks to expand and enhance its award-winning MBI by strengthening our state-level capacity to better serve LEAs throughout the state. The objectives include: Improving the skills of OPI personnel to assist LEA implementation of MBI; strengthen OPI capacity to support and sustain implementation of MBI in Indian Country; develop a cadre of trained and experienced staff to provide MBI training and ongoing coaching to LEAs; improve the quality, accessibility and usefulness of statewide data collection and analysis. Other objectives are included in the Abstract that is a part of these minutes.

The ASPIRE grant provides a case study of 14-16 SSI students with disabilities to transition into Higher Education. Debi Cockrell-Gilsoul has been hired as a Case Manager; another Case Manager will be hired.

Call for Public Comments

Chairperson Doug Dellwo asked for public comments. There were no public comments.

State Performance Plan Indicators Targets

The panel reviewed the indicator data for each indicator, except 17, and set targets for the span of the new State Performance Plan. Targets for indicator 17 will be set later.

Additional Items

Preview of January Meeting

Draft APR
Erin Butts—Mental Health

Meeting Dates

May 7-8, 2015—Joint Meeting with CSPD

Adjourn

Tessie Bailey moved to adjourn the meeting, Tristan Scott seconded the motion and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at Noon.