

**Special Education Advisory Panel Meeting Minutes
Jorgenson's Inn and Suites
September 17-18, 2015**

Members in Attendance: Theresa Erickson, Barbara Varnum, Estee Aiken, Stephen Morsette, Dan Laughlin, Robin Farrell, Josh Wigen, Wendy Studt (on Friday), Heather Denny, Tristan Scott

Excused Members: Courtney Bell, Christine Whitlatch, Kellie Ann Hicks, John Wetsit, Theresa Becker, Wendy Studt (on Thursday)

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

Thursday, September 17, 2015

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

The Proposed Agenda was accepted. There was no formal approval.

The minutes of the June 25, 2015, meeting were reviewed. Barbara Varnum moved to accept the minutes of the June 25, 2015, meeting and Robin Farrell seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as written.

Dick Trerise explained the procedure that is taken for the Panel meetings. Dick informed the Panel that the meetings are somewhat informal. The Robert's Rules of Order are followed for meetings.

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: The Panel in the Context of the History of Special Education; Purpose for the Advisory Panel under IDEA; Required Membership of the Panel; Relationship between Part B of IDEA and Part C of IDEA; Work as an Advisory Panel, not an Advocacy Group; the Major Functions of the Panel under IDEA; Panel Meeting Procedures—Open Meeting Requirements; Panel's role regarding OSEP Verification, SPP/APR, SSIP and Results Driven Accountability.

The Panel was informed of National Hot Topics in Special Education. Included are: Reauthorizations; State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP); Mental Health; Results Driven Accountability (RDA); Postsecondary Education; and Early Childhood.

John distributed the handout “Know Your Acronyms.” He also distributed “A Primer for State Special Education Advisory Panel Members and SEA Staff.” John noted that it is important for Panel members to know the acronyms associated with Special Education.

Following the Orientation, the Panel adjourned for the day.

Friday, September 18, 2015

Professional Development

Susan Bailey-Anderson, Professional Development Unit Manager, presented the Panel with information regarding the Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD). The CSPD activities and projects, past and present, cover years 1993-present. The CSPD Projects include: CSPD State Council, Regional CSPD Councils, CSPD Annual Partnership Meeting, Special Education Endorsement Project, School Psychology Traineeships, Speech Traineeships, Services for Children with Deafness and Blindness, Early Childhood Partnership for Professional Development (ECPPD), Montana Behavioral Initiative (MBI), Paraprofessional Consortium, and many others (the list is part of the minutes). Also, the list of CSPD Regional Coordinators and CSPD Regional Chairs is also a part of the minutes.

Susan told the Panel each CSPD Region is allocated \$100,000.

Susan distributed a flyer regarding the 2015 Montana Youth in Transition Conference that is being held in Great Falls, November 4-6, 2015, at the Best Western Holiday Inn. Youth with disabilities, families, educators and counselors are invited to connect, collaborate and learn more about transition planning.

The Keynote Presenters include Jason Deshaw. He is an inspirational speaker sharing his story of living with bipolar disorder. He wrote his first song on a John Deere tractor and made his recording debut on his mother’s answering machine.

Nina G is America’s only female stuttering stand-up comedian. She is the author of her children’s book “*Once Upon an Accommodation: A Book About Learning Disabilities.*”

Gabe Murfitt is a young man with an amazing story who has been featured on Oprah Winfrey and Good Morning America. His message has touched many lives and encourages the audience to live courageously. He shares his experiences and reaches deep into the hearts of those who hear him speak.

Call for Public Comments

Chairperson Dan Laughlin asked for public comments. There were no public comments.

OPI Report

Steve York, Assistant Superintendent, Department of Education Services, reported on the Divisions within the Department of Education Services.

Special Education—Student Voice is available through MBI to all schools and will be available through the 2018-2019 school year.

Career and Tech Ed-MCIS—The HISET Options program was piloted in 11 schools and was successful with 90 students receiving high school diplomas rather than dropping out.

Health Enhancement—HB 374, the Suicide Prevention Act, requires the OPI to locate and make available best practice training in recognizing suicidal ideation, as well as the proper response protocol when recognized.

EOE-Title 1—We are waiting to see what comes of the Elementary Secondary Education Act reauthorization.

Accreditation and Curriculum—The Division offered Advanced Placement Workshops to qualify teachers to teach AP classes this last summer.

Indian Education—Friday, September 25 is American Indian Heritage Day. The OPI Indian Education Director, Mandy Broaddus, was honored as the National Native American Educator of the Year.

Curriculum and Instruction—The CSI team is working hard at supporting Montana educators in adopting the Montana Common Core.

State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report/Levels of Determination

Dick Trerise shared the correspondence from the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSEP) regarding the Level of Determination for Montana. The Department has determined that Montana needs assistance in implementing the requirements of Part B of the IDEA. They based this determination on the totality of the state's data and information, including the federal fiscal year (FFY) 2013 State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR), other state-reported data and other publicly available information. The OSEP is continuing to use both results data and compliance data in making determinations in 2015.

Administrative Rules

On October 28, 2015, the Superintendent of Public Instruction Denise Juneau will hold a public hearing to consider the proposed amendment and repeal of various rules. The complete document for the proposed amendment and repeal of various rules is a part of the minutes.

Additional Items

Preview of January Meeting

- APR
- Update on Rule Changes
- MANDT Trainers

Meeting Dates

May 4-5, 2016—Joint Meeting with CSPD

Adjourn

Triston Scott moved to adjourn the meeting, Theresa Erickson seconded the motion and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at Noon.