

State Advisory Committee for Children with Disabilities
NH Department Of Education
April 2, 2014
Room 15
4:30-7:00pm
Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Maureen Tracey, Bonnie Dunham, Sue Marcotte-Jenkins, Audrey Burke, Kestrel Cole-McCrea, Candace Cole-McCrea, Lynda Thistle-Elliott, Catherine Meister, Senator Nancy Stiles, Mary Ellen Pantazis, Michelle Rosado, Kerri Lynn Kimner, Carol Conforti-Adams, Dan Tanguay, Dick Cohen, Heidi Cloutier, Jean Parsons.

Guests: Bridget Brown-Bureau of Special Education, Lynn Clough-Special Education Teacher, Thomas Grinley-DHHS/Parent.

Agenda Item I: Welcome, Introductions, Approval of Minutes, Public Comment

- Bonnie welcomed members and guests; and asked for introductions.
- Sue Marcotte-Jenkins made a motion to approve the March minutes ~ Michelle Rosado seconded the motion to approve the March minutes. All in favor, with five abstentions.
- Membership Nominations:
 - Jean Parsons ~ Director of Special Education in Newmarket, nominated by Mary Ellen Pantazis and seconded by Senator Nancy Stiles. Jean is director of special education in Newmarket and Occupational Therapist.
 - Lynn Clough ~ Special Education Teacher at NFI-Contoocook was nominated by Bonnie Dunham and seconded by Catherine Meister. Lynn is a special education teacher and respite provider.
 - Both nominees were overwhelmingly approved by the committee and welcomed to SAC.
- Public comment: Tom Grinley, a parent ~ introduced himself.

Agenda Item II: Legislative Update: Update from SAC Liaisons

- Senator Stiles reviewed HB 1632 relative to child support and SB 396 relative to child restraint practices. These bills have gone to the house.
- Sue Marcotte-Jenkins made a motion to place on the record that SAC supports SB 396 and for someone provide testimony at the bill hearing or provide a letter for Representative Ladd to read at the hearing. Carol Conforti-Adams seconded the motion. Following discussion, all in favor, with four abstentions.
- Bonnie gave an update on SB 414 regarding Medicaid and duplicative services
- Bridget Brown of the Bureau summarized the status of parent consent for Medicaid ~ it pertains to every time a parent consents vs the required federal one time consent.

- ICC Meeting will be held this Friday, April 4th. There will be no update until after they meet.
- Presently, there is not a SAC Liaison for the NHDOE Indicator 8 Parent Survey Stakeholder group. However, Audrey Burke has now volunteered to fill those “shoes”.

Agenda Item III: Old Business:

- Report from “**Failed Implementation of IEPs**” subcommittee proposed recommendations. New language was inserted into the recommendation.
- Dick Cohen made a motion to approve the recommendation with the new revisions and Heidi Cloutier seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Approval of recommendation was unanimous.
- Recommendation from “**Unmet Needs**” subcommittee: Maureen Tracey made a motion to approve the subcommittee’s recommendation. Carol Conforti-Adams seconded the motion. The motion was accepted with a few grammatical revisions.

Agenda Item IV: Subcommittees met.

- Secondary Transition: Kestrel spoke for the committee: Ellen Boudreau has condensed the flow chart ~ Kestrel explained the sequence of the chart and where students fit into it, such as lifestyles, gaps and systems –need to identify gaps.
- Special Education financing/funding subcommittee. Sue Marcotte-Jenkins spoke for the committee. Notes below:

NOTES FROM MEETING OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION FINANCING 4/2/2014

- IDEA \$ allocation to school districts is reportedly based on 1988 data – is this so? Bridget will check on this.
- We reviewed a task list that we developed in November:
 - HB1128 would establish a committee to study students with IEPs and charter schools
 - Medicaid to Schools – we’d love to see a bill introduced that would address how Medicaid-to-Schools payments go to towns rather than the school districts (June would be a good time to approach legislators about a bill for next year)
 - Rep. Ladd’s bill to fund 100% of catastrophic aid passed unanimously in the House Education Committee, but it was opposed by the House Finance Committee and then voted down by the full House
 - RSA198 has a provision for interest-free bridge loans for school districts that have students with IEPs that are very costly to implement--Allen Parady of NHASEA agreed to look into the current status of these loans and whether school districts are taking advantage of their availability.

- Develop documents to educate the public about special education financing
 - easy to understand, user friendly
 - tweak/update an article that Bonnie wrote a long time ago
 - have an additional short piece with bulleted points for advocates
 - on the DOE website add links to facts and figures

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Marcotte-Jenkins

- *Unmet Needs of Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities*: They are planning a meeting with commissioner, and would like to obtain the Department's support of their recommendation, and enhance the community's awareness of multi-tiered systems of supports. There was discussion of developing a briefing paper highlighting why multistate systems of support work.
- **Agenda Item V: New Business, Emerging Issues, Announcements, Current Events and Public Comment:**
- World Autism Awareness day is April 2nd ~ In honor of the day, people everywhere are being encouraged to light up their homes in blue. The Statehouse is planning to participate. Can SAC promote this for next year? April is also autism month. Bonnie made a motion to request that the NHDOE put on their website, an Autism Awareness day on April 2nd and go blue. Mary Ellen Pantazis seconded the motion.
- Candace Cole McCrea talked about her puppeteering experience and project in helping children heal from a crisis situation. She plans to expand her project for children who do not speak. She would appreciate support and suggestions from SAC. Members can send suggestions to either Candace or Terry Stafford.
- Dyslexia Awareness night is April 10th ~ 6:00pm at Nashua community college. Audrey Burke will forward the notice out to members, through the Bureau.
- Disabilities Rights Center (DRC) has a pamphlet on their website with what their rights are with a grievance system.
- Parent Information Center (PIC) has moved to 56 Old Suncook Road in Concord.
- No public comment.

Agenda Item VI: Adjournment

- Audrey Burke made a motion to adjourn and Kestrel Cole-McCrea seconded the motion. Meeting ended at 6:50pm.
- Next Meeting is Wednesday, May 7th at the NHDOE, room 15 ~ 4:30-7:00pm.