

State Advisory Committee (SAC) For the Education of Children with Disabilities

Advising the NH Department of Education per RSA 186-C:3-b

NHDOE, Room 15

4:30pm – 7:00pm

November 4, 2015

Meeting Minutes

Attended: SAC Members

Bonnie Dunham, (Vice-Chair), Janet Reed, Rep. Jack Balcom, Lisa Beaudoin, Tom Grinley, Mike Pinard, Sue Marcotte-Jenkins, Karen Rosenberg, Rep. Mary Heath, Jean Parsons, Candace Cole-McCrea, Kestrel Cole-McCrea, Eileen Mullen, Kerri Lynn Kimner, Rep. Nancy Stiles, Lynda Thistle-Elliott, Donna Curtin, Jack Curtin, Ellen Boudreau

Guest(s):

Santina Thibedeau, Administrator, Bureau of Special Education, Violetta Lortie, Joe Diamant, Maureen Shields (Parent)

Welcome, Introductions of SAC Members & Guests

- Janet began the meeting at approximately 4:34pm
- All attendees introduced themselves and stated their role

Nominations:

Karen Rosenberg nominated Violetta Lortie, Bonnie, seconded, all in favor. Violetta works at the Sununu Youth Center; she will be filling the vacant membership requirement for juvenile justice.

Approval of Minutes

- Approval of October 7, 2015 Meeting Minutes
 - Bonnie made a motion to approve the minutes, Mary Heath seconded.
 - Discussion
 - With regards to "Candace asked if a student is an addict aren't they automatically a special education student?"
 - Addiction cannot be the only identifying disability.
 - Under "Committee Rule Making Input & Discussion"
 - Karen made a motion to remove notes whereas 10 points reached a consensus, SAC didn't have time to review all proposed changes.
 - Acceptance of meeting notes as amended, 10 approved, 0 opposed, 6 abstentions. Motion passed.

Public Comment & Announcements

- Guest Maureen Shields is a parent and is currently involved in the NH Leadership Series; she is becoming involved in the reauthorization of the NH Rules for the Education of Children with Disabilities.
- Donna Curtin, the town of Litchfield is being proactive and held a three hour public forum, on the heroin epidemic in New Hampshire.

Legislative Updates (State Representatives Mary Heath and Jack Balcom)

- Governor Hassan has asked for a special legislative session for a committee to work on the heroin crisis in New Hampshire.
- House Minority Leader Jack Flanagan has resigned; running for congress.
- Representative Balcom is heading up the committee on dyslexic screening for all students (HB 519).
- SB 265 passed 25 to 0 ~ ABLE Act (Achieving a Better Life Experience).

Bonnie reviewed her handout with SAC member: "NH Bills that may affect Education, Special Education, Persons with Disabilities and/or Families." The Bills are currently in title format and hard to see what they are regarding, as the language comes out will see what is of interest for SAC in their charge. If Bonnie has missed any Bills, please let her know.

Representative Nancy Stiles

- Page 5, HB 2704; this has been added for Bonnie; clarification to a change in a Bill last year, when a student placement is changing due to hardship, the school boards of sending and receiving districts need to approve. IEP Teams makes the decision and was left out. Placement decision for students with disabilities are made by IEP Teams, not Superintendents and/or School Boards.
- Page 5, HB 2588; need school board permission for audio and video recording. The Department sent out a Technical Advisory and can be found on the Department's website; http://www.education.nh.gov/standards/tech_advisories.htm

Old Business: including Selecting Priority Areas and workgroups moving forward

- Tabled ~ Selecting Priority Areas and workgroups moving forward until Maureen is in attendance.
- Jack Curtin ~ "*Rhio Saves the Big Day*." Jack's senior book project; Jack re-edited and the book is now available on Amazon. Jack did all the computer illustrations, co-wrote the book with his father; the book has local flavor (Town of Litchfield) and is for ages 4 to 8. Congratulations Jack !!

Update from the Bureau of Special Education

Updates from Santina:

- The John Copenhagen letter has been available on the Bureau's website; SAC requested to be issued as a formal memo. Bureau of Special Education FY'16 Memo #12 was distributed on October 20, 2015.
- The Bureau is promoting Bookshare and is providing a professional development opportunity for individuals who work with students who have print disabilities. Books are available in many different formats: listen to books with high quality text-to-speech voices, hear and see highlighted words on screen, read with digital braille or enlarged fonts. Services are free through OSEP. (Jack uses Bookshare, can customize the features)

- Update for Due Process, a link has been added to the bottom of the Agenda, for access on the Bureau's website.
- The Bureau has received public input with regards to the NH Rules; currently reviewing input received and will write language to be presented to the State Board for the readopting of the NH Rules in order that they don't expire.
Question was asked as to when the Rules would be presented to the State Board: the Bureau is currently working with the Attorney prior to submittal to the State Board.
- The Independent Evaluator, Pingora will be at the Department of Education on Wednesday, November 18th and Thursday, November 19th; an invitation will be extended for SAC members to attend on Thursday, November 19th at the NHDOE, Room 12, 8:30am. If unable to make this meeting, Pingora will reach out via other venues.
 - The previous report and progress reports are located on the Bureau's website.
- The Bureau has a Facebook page which has been up for four weeks; this was a request from the field: <https://www.facebook.com/NHSpecialEd>. A means as a resource and provide information to reach parents of younger children. Comments made not be made, if someone does comment they will receive a message to call the Bureau.

Presentation & Discussion:

"Students with Mental Health Issues" by Tom Grinley, Bureau of Behavioral Health

Tom will send his PowerPoint to SAC members.

Questions, comments, discussion:

- Numbers are based on national statistics.
- Office of Homeless Education and NAMI are training "train the trainer" on suicide prevention.
- Now What?
 - Always goes back to funds. Our role is to advise about unmet needs.
 - Tom: three things to help the children:
 - Address the issues of stigma
 - Need to address the issue of suicide
 - Need to look more at how to wrap services around students (not being pulled out of school on a consistent basis.
- Discussion around trauma to students, raising awareness of the impact of trauma at an early stage. Behavior is not the problem, but the solution to the problem. Look at the whole environment; the environment of the student.
- Monday, November 2nd, NH Chronicle did a segment on the Stigma of Mental Illness, was first class/very well done.
- Recommended by Karen to set aside time to discuss and look at legislation, Children's Health Collaborative, and Rules.
- Recommend to Maureen
 - What should SAC explore more?
 - Trainings via modules?
- Santina recommends bringing in additional entities to see what is already occurring; existing resources and ideas.
- What is happening with the Children's Health Collaborative; Tom is a member can provide feedback on the Collaborative initiatives.

New Business, Emerging Issues, Announcements, Current Events, Public Comment

- Susan Marcotte-Jenkins
 - What was the outcome of the meeting of SAC representative with Commissioner Barry; place back on agenda.
- Candace
 - There is a collaborative in Dover between the jail, public housing and schools for the children whose parents are incarcerated; they are working together and putting on monthly celebratory dinners.
 - For future SAC meeting, any meeting agenda items that need in-depth and/or technical issues to address at the beginning of the meeting.

Kestral Cole-McCrea made a motion to adjourn, Jean Parsons seconded, all in attendance approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:35pm.

Next meeting ~ Wednesday, December 2, 2015, 4:30pm-7:00pm ~ NHDOE, Room 15