

State Advisory Committee for Children with Disabilities
NH Department Of Education
December 4, 2013
4:30-7:00pm

In Attendance: Kestrel Cole-McCrea, Candace Cole-McCrea, Joan Holleran, Audrey Burke, Mary Ellen Pantazis, Renea Sparks, Bonnie Dunham, Michelle Rosado, Ellen Boudreau, Carol Conforti -Adams, Daniel Ward, Susan Marcotte-Jenkins, Catherine Meister, Sarah Cooley, Dick Cohen.

Guests: Santina Thibedeau, Bridget Brown, Alan Parady, Heidi Cloutier

Agenda Item I: Welcome, Introduction and Thank you from the Chair

- Bonnie welcomed everyone, asked for introductions, and thanked members for their time volunteering for SAC.

Agenda Item II: Approval of Minutes and Public Comment

- Candace Cole-McCrea made the motion to approve the November minutes with a few changes. Kestrel Cole-McCrea seconded the motion. All in favor, with four abstentions, including all of those not here.
- Public comment: There was no public comment

Agenda Item III: Nomination of candidates for SAC membership:

- Heidi Cloutier would like to become a SAC member. Audrey Burke nominated Heidi to become a member under the Institutes of Higher Education (IHE) representation. Ellen Boudreau seconded the motion. All in favor.

Agenda Item IV: Subcommittee Reports after meeting:

- Subcommittee groups met and reported back.

Unmet needs of Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities: Catherine Meister

Sub-committee meeting notes ~ December 4th 2013

SAC work group on the unmet needs of children with students with emotional/behavioral disabilities.

The subcommittee decided to make a proposal for the full committee to consider, which is that the SAC make a recommendation to the commissioner as follows:

The SAC recommends that The Commissioner adopt and pursue a goal that all schools implement, with fidelity, an evidence based multi-tiered system of support which includes both academic and positive social emotional components such as Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS).

The sub-committee agreed to present this to the full SAC for a vote at the next meeting.

The sub-committee also decided to research the issue of restraint and seclusion, suspension and expulsion including current and pending legislation and existing data and reports. After researching the issues the sub-committee would make a report back to the commissioner with recommendations. Dick Cohen agreed to provide the sub-committee with some data he had recently received on the rates of suspension and expulsion for students who have identified special education needs.

The sub-committee discussed other unmet needs of this population and Daniel Ward provided some information regarding special education students in the jail who are not receiving services and the group discussed possible ways that SAC could assist in addressing this need. The committee will discuss this issue further at the next meeting.

Secondary Transition: Joan Holleran –

- Ellen Boudreau is working further on the flowchart.
- Subcommittee members commented Kestrel's voice was very important.

Special Education Funding: Bonnie Dunham

Agenda Item V: Bureau Update ~ Santina Thibedeau and Bridget Brown

- Data Driven Enterprise (DDE) Report: Santina summarized the process of getting the final report, in addition to finding it on the NHDOE website. Report has to be done in 2015 through a RFP process. The Main focus then will be improvements. OSEP is now adding an Indicator 17. The bureau will do what the DDE report has covered. They will bring a stakeholder group in late spring and choose a focus area on where to put improvements. There is no additional money with indicator 17. Will need to continue with plan and will reorganize the SPP. The monitoring is done by the bureau. Focus Monitoring is still SERESC. In reorganization, some indicators will be removed. Feedback has been good with assessment ~self assessment is done by six districts. Santina will keep SAC updated on this.
- Santina summarized the child count from 2000-2012. (Oct 1st of every year is the child count) The count is on students who are enrolled, including in the House's of Correction and NHSP. Santina was asked if the total enrollment could be found out to do a comparison.
- Santina and Bridget went over complaints with a powerpoint presentation. There was discussion around decline in numbers, complaints that did not meet standards, or no violations were found. Santina reviewed the informal third party led by moderator. Joan suggested that information be given out to new parents regarding this and in language they understand.
- SAC should also be looking at assessment in common core.

Agenda Item VI: New Business, Emerging Issues and Public Comment.

- Joan Holleran has new business for the January agenda.
- Carol Conforti-Adams brought up an issue regarding health confidentiality.
- Bonnie Dunham reviewed the meeting cancellation process.

Public comment:

Thank you to Joan Holleran and Renea Sparks who spoke to the hard job that special education directors have to do.

Also, relative to the complaint system a comment was made that parents are afraid to file a complaint for fear of retaliation.

Agenda Item VII: Adjournment

- Ellen Boudreau made a motion to adjourn and Audrey Burke seconded.
- Adjournment of meeting was at 7:10pm
- Next meeting is: January 8, 2014 ~ with a snow date of January 15th.