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

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

## Retreat
## Plymouth State University, Concord, NH

**September 13, 2017**

# Meeting Minutes

**Attended: SAC Members**
Maureen Shields (Chair), Bonnie Dunham (co-chair), Lisa Beaudion (co-chair), Senator Watters, Senator Kahn, Linda Thistle-Elliott, Anne Davis, Lisa Hinson-Hatz, Karen Rosenberg, Heather Worthen, Le'Ann Milinder, Jill Hartmann, Moria Ryan, Kevin Cushing, Nichol Varasteh, Rebecca Mitchell, Jacqueline Kelleher, Kim Carter, Kathleen Olden, Heidi Cloutier, Mike Pinard, Janet Reed, Violetta Lortie

Absent: Donna Curtin, Patrick Curtin, Jack Curtin, Tom Grinley, Elizabeth Casey, Jason Henry, Kerri-Lynn Kimner, Audrey Burke, MacKenzie Burke, Representative Mary Heath, Eileen Mullen-Kennedy

**Guest(s):**
Santina Thibedeau, Administrator, Bureau of Special Education, Bureau of Special Education Consultants: Ruth Littlefield, Bridget Brown, Joanne DeBello, Sherry Burbank, Elizabeth Carlotto, and Amy Aiello, Next Steps NH Project Coordinator
Ada McDowell, Special Education Administrator

Maureen Shields, Chair began the meeting at 9:05am and introduced Co-Chairs Bonnie Dunham and Lisa Beaudion

Welcome / Ice Breaker and introductions

Attendees broke out into groups of 3 for Icebreaker
1. What is one fun fact about you that most people don't know?
2. What is the one place in the world that you would most like to visit, and why?
3. If you could invite anyone (1 or 2 people, living or dead) to join you for Thanksgiving dinner, who would you choose, and why?

**Approval of Minutes**
Bonnie Dunham made a motion to approve the June 7, 2017 minutes, Jacqueline Kelleher seconded. Discussion and a recommendation to make one change.
Bonnie Dunham made a motion to approve the June 7, 2017 minutes as amended, Lisa Hinson-Hatz seconded. 14 in favor, 9 abstentions, 0 opposed.

**Public comment**
Kim Carter ~ Friday Institute for Educational Innovation, to help educators and student allies better support the diverse way students learn, has created the Learning Differences MOOC-Ed, a free, six week course beginning October 2nd. Kim will send additional information to Barbara to distribute to the SAC members.

**Overview of the Day**
**Review the statutory role and responsibilities of SAC**
Bonnie updated the State Advisory Committee's responsibilities

1. Advise the NHDOE regarding unmet needs within New Hampshire related to the education of children with disabilities.
2. Advise the commissioner of education on issues relating to special education.
3. To promote communication and cooperation among individuals involved with students with disabilities.
4. Advise the Department of Education in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children/students with disabilities.
5. Review the federal financial participation and the level of state funding to determine their impact on the programs and delivery of services to children/students with disabilities.
6. In accordance with 300.514 of IDEA, findings and decisions of due process hearings are to be transmitted to the SAC, after any personally identifiable information has been deleted.

**Small group breakouts on selected SAC responsibilities**
**Small groups report back and full group discussion**

- Federal financial participation and level of State funding to determine the impact on the programs and delivery of services to children/students with disabilities.
- Legislative and parent stakeholder groups: everyone says funding is a problem
- Bill last year: legislative committee study adequacy formula
- Commissioner, study structure of the DOE
- What is our role in HB 356 committee to study?
- SAC would want to consider adequacy and FAPE.
- Is the size of the federal grant sufficient?
- $1,500 per child, $41 million. Significant disabilities, $1,500 doesn't pay for one week.
- What are our priorities? How do we determine?
- Discussed importance of having per pupil funding by district available.
- How are professional development grants different from grants that directly impact children?
- Ask DOE how much effort would it take to find more federal money (grants)?
- Adequacy for 3rd grade reading, it is sufficient?
- Personnel shortage in special education.
- Use of law enforcement for discipline
- Disproportionality in discipline
- Family engagement
- Math literacy (trained teachers)
- Funding and funding equity
- Inclusionary practices (high school)
- Transition (secondary)
- Support groups to parents/parent support at school level
- Possible advisory/action steps
- Letter(s) to DOE Commissioner (Governor and State Board)
- Request meeting(s) with Commissioner, Governor and/or Education Committees, House Senate, State Board/DOE
- Develop presentation and/or white paper
- Invite decision-maker to a meeting
- Methods to identify and provide advocacy resources for students with disabilities who are vulnerable
- Methods to share/coordinate school district resources (example: for kids with all-inclusive disabilities)

- Collect data
    - Parent surveys
    - Hold regional forums
    - Renew results of prior forums (e.g. ESSA meetings)
    - Review parent and student satisfaction surveys
    - Collaborate with DOE regarding existing data DOE collects (knowledge) indicator data
    - Make sure we collect right data for the problem trying to solve
- Awareness of resources → PIC, ELL programs, supports for parents
- Utilization of public television – recorded trainings televised – NPR- - webinars
- Communication from district, state level for resources available to parents
- Medical → special education information and communication
- Family-friendly guides to special education
- Education to teams about parent participation so parents feel heard – family engagement
- More education about Voc Rehab
- Listening groups around the State

**Special Education Funding: The Rest of the Story by Bonnie Dunham**
In the packet distributed to attendees is a write-up on Special Education funding. SAC would like to gather additional information on the scope of the funding problem and present to the Legislators.

**"State of the State" – updates/reports/presentations from the Bureau of Special Education Santina Thibedeau and Staff**
Santina presented on "What's Next for the Bureau of Special Education?" via a PowerPoint presentation:

- IDEA 34 CFR 300.169 Duties of the State Advisory Panel
- NH RSA 186-C:3-b, IV
- Provided information regarding:
    - Students with Disabilities Data
    - Students with Disabilities Data compare to all students
    - Percent of Population who are Children with Disabilities (IDEA), Ages 3 through 12
- The Bureau of Special Education has been awarded a State Professional Development Grant (SDPG) in the amount of $3,850,000.00 to expand the implementation of New Hampshire's State Systemic Improvement Plan over the next five years ($770,000.00 per year)
- General Supervision – Federal law requires that States have a system of General Supervision to monitor the implementation of IDEA with a primary focus to improve educational outcomes for all students with disabilities.
- Office of Special Education Program – OSEP determined that New Hampshire meets the requirements and purposes of Part B of the IDEA for 5 consecutive years
- Professional Development Opportunities Using Modules
    - Creating Measurable Goals 2017
    - The Early Childhood Transitions
    - Understanding Preschool Special Education Settings, Program Placement and Data Reporting Requirements
- What's next? Professional Development Opportunities Using Modules
    - Accommodations and Modifications
    - Understanding Discipline and Students with Disabilities
    - Introduction to Preschool Outcome Measurement System
- Providing Professional Development using Webinars
    - Service Plans
    - NH Standards for the Education of Children with Disabilities
    - Indicator 11
    - Extended Learning Options (ELO)

- Upcoming Professional Development
    - Extended Learning Opportunities: Creating Alternative Pathways for Students to Achieve Academic Credit in School
    - Best Practices in Transition Planning Training
    - A Compass for Building Family-School Partnerships in Special Education
- Special Education Alternative Dispute Resolutions
- State Special Education Complaints
- Updates from the NHSEIS Stakeholder Group
    - Potential new features are brought to the Stakeholder group
    - New features: a change to the invoice entry page in NHSEIS so that is now includes the service description details to allow for ease of data entry
    - Changes to the language for VR services
    - Roll out of EasyTrac
- Universal Design for Learning 2014-2017
    - 25 schools in 15 districts
    - 200 participants in 3 cohorts
- Universal Design for Learning 2016-2017 New Hampshire Teacher Coaching Program (Literacy)
    - NH UDL Rural Teacher Literacy campaign to districts in New Hampshire during the 2016-2017 school year
- What's Next? Universal Design for Learning
    - The New Hampshire UDL State Plan is included in the current draft of the NH ESSA State Plan
- Family Engagement
    - State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)
    - Scholastic Contract for Family Engagement
- IDEA Funding
    - The purpose of IDEA Part B grants is to assist States to provide special education and related services to children with disabilities, including that children with disabilities have access to a free appropriate public education (FAPE).
    - Reviewed the IDEA Funding Formula, Fiscal Year 2018
- Adequate Education Aid
    - Adequate Education Aid is computed for each city, town and unincorporated place. Adequacy Aid is based on the average daily members (ADM) of resident students.
- Special Education Aid / CAT Aid
- Court-Ordered Students / Chapter 402
- House of Correction Data and Students with Disabilities Ages 18 through 21
- Results of the Compliance and Monitoring Process
- Assistive Technology
- Specialized Instruction
    - Higher percentage of paraprofessionals in NH compared to other States. 1 in 5 students has a para; need to training for paraprofessionals as many as providing services.
- Innovations
    - Mentoring Program for new Special Education Administrators
    - New Hampshire Occupational Therapy Mental Health Promotion Project
    - Dyslexia Guide
    - 12-week self-study offered by the Transition Coalition for the University of Kansas
- Professional Development Opportunities / Participant Count for Professional Development

Bonnie Dunham made a motion for SAC to accept the name change of Catastrophic Aid to Special Education Funding, seconded by Karen Rosenberg. All in favor.

**Identifying Key Issues/Priorities**

**Small group discussions and identification of the most pressing unmet needs or issues impacting children with disabilities in NH (each group will make a full list and highlight 3 priorities)**

**Small groups report back for full group discussion / Identify/selection of priority issues**

- Transition (post-secondary) → providing information to parents about availability of community supports for transition process
- Community supports for parents
    - Low income families
    - Uniform guidance for parents through support groups, written resource guides
- Using CRA dollars to support digital equity
- Training for teachers on behavioral supports in the classroom
- Kids not getting needed services, not in IEP/not met in IEP
- Dyslexia
- Funding Equity
- Legal representation for families/support
- Medicaid to School → more information
- Para training
- Class size effect on students with disabilities
- Diploma levels
    - SAC voted to recommend that any alternative diploma policy or model form include a clear statement that is does not end eligibility (only a regular diploma or turning 21 ends eligibility)
- Mental Health
- Self-contained
- Information sharing/resources/communication
- Family engagement
- Foster care (court involved) children, access to FAPE
    - Vulnerable children, transient
- Equitable access/services/opportunities despite voucher/scholarship
- Trained teachers (dyslexia, reading, etc.) in evidenced-based programs and disabilities
- Use of law enforcement with discipline
- Personnel shortage in all specialized areas
- Insufficient funding
- Lack of substance abuse training – access to treatment
- Graduation options
- LRE – least restrictive environment
- Disproportionality
- Training for para's
- Supports/training for school personnel to include prep time in the day to receive training and grow/develop → pre-service
- Inclusionary practices (especially at the high school level)
- Inequity of availability of evidence based teaching practices
- Interagency agreements
- Supports for homeless and vulnerable children
- Develop and implement policies regarding the coordination of services for students with disabilities
- Review policies and procedures in New Hampshire, and other States regarding:
    - Paraprofessional training
    - Paraprofessional participation in IEP team meetings
    - Parent support group models
    - Coordination of transition services

- Review New Hampshire Interagency Agreements (and laws requiring it)
- Methods to connect homeless children to services, including special education need – outreach to ID homeless students

**Top Issues**

- Personnel shortages in special education
- Use of law enforcement for discipline
- Disproportionality in discipline
- Family engagement
- Math Literacy (trained teachers)
- Funding and funding equity
- Inclusionary practices (high school
- Transition (secondary)
- Support Groups to parents/parent support at school level
- Training for paraprofessionals

**Remarks from the Chair (agenda restructuring, public comment guidelines, coming attractions and opportunities**
**Maureen Shields:**

- Agenda restructuring:
  - Public comment will be at the beginning of the meeting
    - Guidelines for Public Comment ~ distributed to attendees
    - Response to public comment will be provided at the next scheduled SAC meeting
  - Nomination will occur at the end of the meeting.
    - Interested persons will attend two meetings, at the end of the second meeting they will leave the meeting and the SAC membership will make the nomination and vote. The SAC Chair will advise the nominee.
- Coming attractions
  - Opportunities for volunteers to be on a membership and nominations subcommittee.
  - Volunteers to participate in a subcommittee to review and make recommendations to revise 186-C SAC membership requirements and the Annual report.

Please e-mail Maureen if you are interested in volunteering, or advise Maureen at the beginning of next meeting.

At 2:16pm Janet Reed made a motion to adjourn, Heidi Cloutier seconded. All in agreement. Motion passes.

Senator Kahn attended 9am-10am
Lynda Thistle-Elliot attended 9am-12pm
Anne Davis attended 9am-12pm
Jacqueline Kelleher attended 9am-12:15pm
Rebecca Mitchell attended 9am-1:30pm

Next meeting ~ Wednesday, October 4, 2017, 4:30pm-7:00pm ~ NHDOE, Room 15