

Minutes

State Advisory Council for the  
Education of Children with Disabilities

The Arkansas Advisory Council for the Education of Children with Disabilities met in the Conference Room at the Victory Building, Suite 445, on Tuesday, April 16, 2019.

**Council Members Present:**

Cindy Ball  
Mary Broadaway  
Maryanne Caldwell - for Alan McClain  
Marcella Dalla Rosa  
Dana Davis  
Leslie Faulkner  
Angeletta Giles  
Bill Glover  
Patricia James  
Lacey Monroe  
Candia Nicholas  
Sherry Rogers  
Bruce Smith  
Deb Swink  
Eric Treat  
Robyn Williams  
Sonja Wright-McMurray – for Dr. Angela Kremers

**Special Education Staff Present:**

Jeff Adams  
Jerri Clark  
Christina Foley  
Tiah Frazier  
Yvonne Greene  
Jared Hogue  
Lisa Johnson  
Tanya Powell  
Rhonda Saunders  
Matt Sewell  
Robin Stripling  
Michelle Waldo

**Guests Present:**

Keondra Hampton  
Rita Taunton  
Janeene Lynch  
Christine Bennett

The meeting began at 10:07 a.m. with Ms. Deb Swink, Chairperson, calling the Council meeting to order. Ms. Swink welcomed the Advisory Council members; Arkansas Department of Education, Special Education Unit (ADE-SEU) staff; and guests to the meeting. Mr. Matt Sewell, along with Ms. Christina Foley, introduced Ms. Tanya Powell as the newest staff member of the ADE-SEU with Christina's finance department. In addition, Mr. Sewell announced two position changes, Ms. Angel Eddleman to finance and Ms. Tabitha Riendeau to Curriculum and Assessment.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

Motions were made and seconded to approve the minutes from the January 15, 2019, meeting and the minutes were approved by the council.

**Presentation: Ms. Sonja Wright-McMurray, Associate Director for Career and Technical Education – Special Projects** – Ms. Sonja Wright-McMurray, Ms. Janeene Lynch and Ms. Christine Bennett presented an overview of the Perkins Transition Plan. Ms. Janeene Lynch shared a brief history of how Perkins V started. Ms. Christine Bennett shared an overview of

Perkins V and the law. Ms. Sonja Wright-McMurray provided details of the College and Career Coach Program, which is designed to motivate and support Arkansas students and adults to achieve their goals as they relate to college and career planning through intensive, hands-on programs and services. College and Career Coaches work with students in 7th through 12th grades. In middle and high schools, Career Coaches work in partnership with the Career Orientation Instructors and School Counselors to assist with the development and revision of college and career plans for their students. The Arkansas Career Coach program provides assistance and information for resources in the areas of academic tutoring, career counseling, college preparation and admission, financial aid guidance, mentoring, and other supports necessary for postsecondary education/training access, retention, and success. In addition, the Jobs for Arkansas Graduates (JAG) Program provides support to at-risk youth to encourage them to achieve high school graduation. Along with academic support, JAG also provides work-based learning experiences that will lead youth to further education, training and rewarding careers. Arkansas's JAG program is the state affiliate of the national organization Jobs for America's Graduates.

Ms. Swink presented the Proposed Bylaw Changes that were suggested by John Copenhaver at our last meeting on October 23, 2018. Motions were made and seconded to approve the Bylaw Changes.

**Presentation: Mr. Matt Sewell**, Arkansas Department of Education, Special Education Director, presented the current status of the Advisory Council Membership. As it stands, the Council is compliant per the Bylaws with eleven of the twenty members being parents/advocates. Mr. Sewell also asked the board to complete and return to Michelle Waldo the "Member Information for Advisory Council 2019" form that was included in their folders.

**Presentation: Mr. Matt Sewell**, Arkansas Department of Education, Special Education Director, presented the Family Surveys for both Early Childhood and School Age and led the discussion. Each school is different and once data is collected it is sent to Dr. Jody Fields' office and then sent on to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). Data is also sent back to the school districts for planning purposes.

**Presentation: Ms. Maryanne Caldwell, Statewide Transition Manager for Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS)** – Ms. Maryanne Caldwell presented an overview of the Opportunities for Work-Based Learning Program (OWL) and video. The purpose of the OWL Program is to provide the opportunity to gain work readiness skills and work experience before students graduate from high school. The program is open to anyone who has a disability and it can include those diagnosed with ADD, ADHD, anxiety, depression, as well as physical disabilities and injuries. Funded by ARS, students can receive minimum wage for working up to four hours a day.

#### **Section Reports:**

Section Reports were presented and are available to view on the Special Education website.

#### **Future Agenda Item Suggestions:**

- Candia Nicholas- Parent Advisory Group Training (October 2019)
- Leslie Faulkner- Overview of the Alternate Pathway to Graduation DLM 1%
- Matt Sewell- Information on Inclusive Practices

- Maryanne Caldwell- PSA/ACT Awareness Accommodations

**Next Steps and Final Remarks:**

The next Council meeting is scheduled for July 16, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. The July meeting agenda will include a presentation on CHI St. Vincent Project SEARCH program and video, Legal Updates and PSA/ACT Awareness Accommodations. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.