

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, October 23, 2018.

Council Members Present:

Cindy Ball
Mary Broadaway
Maryanne Caldwell
Angeletta Giles
Bill Glover
Dewey Graves
Shelby Knight
Lacey Monroe
Candia Nicholas
Sherry Rogers
Bruce Smith
Deb Swink
Robyn Williams
Adrienne Robinson - for Alan McClain
Sonja Wright-McMurray – for Dr. Angela Kremers

Special Education Staff Present:

Jody Fields
Christina Foley
Yvonne Greene
Jared Hogue
Dara Nix
Rhonda Saunders
Matt Sewell
Robin Stripling
Michelle Waldo

Guest Present: None

The meeting began at 10:13 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.

Question from the August 7, 2018 meeting: – “At what point should we expect an Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) counselor to be involved in those transition meetings & development of the planning?”

Answer:

Student Success Plans could be used to drive the pre-employment to move forward. Generally, speaking we start working with our students around the age of 16 or earlier if district IEP team determines.”

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Motions were made and seconded to approve the minutes from the August 7 meeting, and the minutes were approved by the council.

Agenda:

Matt Sewell, Arkansas Department of Education, Special Education Associate Director introduced John Copenhaver - the Director of the Center for Technical Assistance for Excellence

in Special Education (TAESE) at Utah State University. TAESE provides special education technical assistance and professional development over a 27 State area.

Presentation: John Copenhaver – Orientation of Advisory Council Members:

Mr. Copenhaver provided an orientation for Advisory Council Members that consisted of an overview of the Council in the context of special education history/laws, the Council purpose, membership responsibilities, by-laws, functions under IDEA, meeting procedures, and setting annual priorities. The membership of the Council begins with the ADE Commissioner appointing individuals. The majority of the members of the Council (at least 51%) must be individuals with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities. The Advisory Council serves as advisory to the State Office of Education, Special Education Unit, and /or directly to the Commissioner of Education.

Mr. Copenhaver reviewed Advisory Council by-laws and explained that they set the ground rules for the day-to-day operation of the Council. Council decisions should move toward consensus, finding an acceptable proposal that all members can support.

Mr. Copenhaver explained that the role of the Council is to give advice, inform, counsel, recommend, suggest, and guide. The primary Council responsibilities are to improve services for children with disabilities and advise the State of unmet needs in the education of children with disabilities.

Mr. Sewell informed the Council that an annual report outlining the Council’s priorities, goals, key activities, accomplishments, areas of concern, and recommendations is in progress.

Setting Advisory Council Priorities and Sub-Committees:

Mr. Copenhaver stressed the importance of annual planning in order for an organization to focus efforts on a limited number of priority issues. The Council discussed various “big picture” priority issues to be addressed by the council and they are Leadership in Special Education and Child Find.

Section Reports:

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

Next Steps and Final Remarks:

The next Council meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. The January meeting agenda will include a discussion of the Annual Performance Report (APR), committee assignment work, and by-laws.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:58 p.m.