

State Advisory Council for the
Education of Children with Disabilities
Minutes

The Arkansas Advisory Council for the Education of Children with Disabilities met in the Clinton School District, Administrative Building, Professional Development room in Clinton, Arkansas, on Tuesday, October 15, 2019.

Council Members Present:

Cindy Ball
Marcella Dalla Rosa
Christy Lamas - for Alan McClain
Shelby Knight
Lacey Monroe
Sherry Rogers
Bruce Smith
Deb Swink
Robyn Williams
Sonja Wright-McMurray – for Dr. Angela Kremers

Special Education Staff Present:

Jeff Adams
Bonnie Boaz
Tiah Frazier
Lisa Johnson
Rick Porter
Michelle Waldo

Guests Present:

Tiffanie Bufford
Morgan Carlton
Melanie Crider
Carson Holmes
Kendra Holmes
Matt Holmes
Renee Holmes
Suzanne McMurry
Audra Stewart
Ruth Taylor

The meeting began at 10:08 a.m. with Ms. Deb Swink, Chairperson, calling the Council meeting to order. Ms. Swink welcomed the Advisory Council members; Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, Special Education Unit (DESE-SEU) staff; and guests to the meeting. Ms Swink introduced Rick Porter, Compliance Specialist in the Dispute Resolution Section.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Ms. Swink stated that the Council did not have a quorum present; therefore, the July 16, 2019, minutes could not be approved and were tabled for the January 14, 2020, meeting.

Presentation: Ms. Audra Stewart, Assistant Principal for Clinton Elementary - Ms. Stewart presented an overview of Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS). PBIS is a concept that provides a framework for developing and recognizing positive behaviors in students. The behavior matrix targets 5 major character areas: Safety, Respect, Motivation, Effort, and Responsibility. It is common to hear students talking about **STING**

Staying safe (Safety),
Treating others with respect (Respect),
Inspired and motivated (Motivation),
Never give up (Effort), and
Give no excuses (Responsibility)

The results and changes from PBIS have been:

1. A drastic decrease in the number of office referrals. There were 484 referrals in 2016-17 and only 240 in 2018-19!
2. The Average Daily Attendance has increased from 93.8% in 2016-17 to 95.5%, currently.
3. A happier, more exciting place to work and learn!

Presentation: Ms. Suzanne McMurry, Adaptive Music Teacher for Clinton Jr. High and High School - Ms. McMurry's Jr. High and High School students performed songs with their various instruments, including tone chimes, plastic eggs filled with rock/sand, a fork, from the cafeteria, a T-bar mallet, and an ORFF instrument with removable bars. Ms. McMurry presented an overview of adaptive music which is not necessarily teaching music skills, but is a secondary product of music. Skills taught by Ms. McMurry reinforce physical therapy (PT), occupational therapy (OT), speech, and special education goals. For example, one of the goals is to follow directions and another is to play on the beat. Music is used to enrich her students' lives by teaching appropriate social skills, decision-making skills, fine motor skills and by adding enjoyment to their education.

Presentation: Ms. Morgan Carlton and Tiffanie Bufford, School Based Mental Health Coordinators for Clinton, Shirley and Southside School Districts - Ms. Morgan reported on the partnership between Clinton School District School Based Mental Health Services and Methodist Behavioral Health, which serves high risk students. Clinton is currently serving 108 students who are also receiving services from Methodist. Ms. Morgan stated that with 15 years experience she has learned that "the simpler the piece of paper the better", especially when it comes to their Referral Form. This form can be filled out by a parent, a guidance counselor, a teacher, or a staff member, but must first be sent to the building counselor/gate keeper. Ms. Tiffanie shared the intake process and the different options available, such as individual therapy, family therapy, telemedicine services, crisis intervention services and more.

Presentation: Ms. Renee Holmes, Director of Autism Services for Partners for Inclusive Communities for the University of AR - Ms. Renee, shared "There is Always Potential" a biography of her sons journey from pre-birth, his early years, to now.

Presentation: Ms. Melanie Crider, Special Education Teacher at South Side high School in Bee Branch. Ms. Melanie teaches resource classes as well as transition classes which include the Opportunity for Work-based Learning (OWL) program. Ms. Melanie explained how the OWL program works and how her students learn valuable job skills.

Presentation: Ms. Glenda Stagg, Federal Coordinator and Grant Writer for the Clinton School District and Shelly Hink, Program Coordinator at Clinton Schools for the McKinney-Vento Program. The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children as "individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence." Ms. Glenda and Ms. Shelly shared that there is a high percentage of children in the district who fit that description. Out of 1,353 students enrolled in the district, 200 are identified as "homeless". Additionally, they shared some of the challenges that homeless children and youth face.

Presentation: Mr. Jeff Adams, State Systemic Plan Coordinator for Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, Special Education - Mr. Adams presented an

overview of the 2018-2019 Advisory Council Annual Report and thanked council members for their involvement, time commitment, sacrifice, and meaningful discussion that occurs as a result of being involved. Mr. Adams led an interactive discussion on Inclusive Practices followed by a video. Ms. Tiah Frazier shared valuable Response to Intervention (RTI) resources available on the DESE RTI web page. The updated behavior resources website, with tools and materials, can be accessed by going to <http://dese.ade.arkansas.gov> and clicking on “R” for RTI or “B” for behavior.

Section Reports:

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

Future Agenda Item Suggestions:

- Deb Swink: Tiffany Tackett-Howell Mediation
- Bonnie Boaz: College Bound/CIRCLES
- Shelby Knight: Parent Center/CPRC
- Bruce Smith: Janene Hamilton UCA Respite for Parents with Disabled Kids

Next Steps and Final Remarks:

The next Council meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. The January meeting agenda will include a presentation on the Annual Performance Report (APR), Arkansas Support Network’s Community Parent Resource Center, and Center for Exceptional Families. The meeting was adjourned at 2:39 p.m.