

Minutes

State Advisory Council for the
Education of Children with Disabilities

The Arkansas Advisory Council for the Education of Individuals with Disabilities met in the Conference Room at the Victory Building, Suite 445, on Thursday, August 24, 2017.

Council Members Present:

Sarah Allen
Kathleen Atkins
Cindy Ball
Courtney Eubanks
Leslie Faulkner
Angeletta Giles
Bill Glover
Dewey Graves
Shelby Knight
Julie Mayberry
Candia Nicholas
Kimberly Parker
Sherry Rogers
Deborah Swink

Special Education Staff Present:

Linda Barnes
Jody Fields
Christina Foley
Yvonne Greene
Jennifer Gonzales
Lisa Haley
Jared Hogue
Veronica Milton – for Jeanie Donaldson
Courtney Salas-Ford
Rhonda Saunders

The meeting began at 10:08 a.m. with Ms. Deborah Swink, Co-Chair, calling the Council meeting to order and welcoming the Advisory Council members; Arkansas Department of Education, Special Education Unit (ADE-SEU) staff; and the guests to the meeting. Ms. Christina Foley, Administrator for Funding and Finance, introduced Mr. John Hargis as a new ADE-SEU staff member. Ms. Yvonne Greene, Administrator for Monitoring and Program Effectiveness, introduced Ms. Angel Moran as a new ADE-SEU staff member. Ms. Jennifer Gonzales, Coordinator of the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) and State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG), introduced Ms. Missie Corder as a new ADE-SEU staff member. Ms. Lisa Haley, Associate Director, Special Education informed the Council that Superintendent Bobby Acklin retired and will no longer serve on the Council. Any nominations need to be submitted to Ms. Haley for consideration. There is a quorum; therefore, Ms. Angeletta Giles made a motion to approve the January and April 2017 minutes and Ms. Cindy Ball seconded. The minutes were approved.

Presentation: Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford, ADE Deputy General Council – Legislative Updates

Ms. Salas-Ford provided an overview of education acts passed during the 91st General Assembly, 2017 Regular Session.

Presentation: Ms. Melissa Jacks, ADE Educator Preparation – Special Education Licensure Updates

Ms. Jacks provided an overview of current and new educator licensure requirements for Special Education and Early Childhood endorsements.

Presentation: Dr. Jody Fields – Significant Disproportionality

Dr. Fields presented a brief review of the revised federal regulations for the Coordinated Early Intervening Services program outlined in Section 616 of IDEA and the identification of Significant Disproportionality. The State needs the Council’s feedback. The Council discussed the opportunity to set different thresholds, different cell sizes, and eligibility criteria. The Council requested Dr. Fields run the calculations using lower risk ratios and cell sizes to be presented at the next Council meeting.

Committees Update:

The Council discussed how to proceed with the subcommittees. After the introduction and passing of the minutes, it was decided that the Council will revisit the committees and how to proceed during the first hour of the next Council meeting.

Arkansas Annual Determination:

Ms. Haley informed the Council that since the last meeting ADE received the State’s Annual Determination from the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services. The determination was “needs assistance.” The State is taking a close look at this data to inform the work on improving results for students with disabilities.

Deb Swink showed a short video segment from the week long “Film Camp” for students with disabilities held at Northwest Arkansas Community College. Joey Travolta of Inclusion films ran the camp which was supported by Arkansas Transition Services and Arkansas Rehabilitation Services. A red carpet premiere will be on October 5, 2017, in Bentonville.

Section reports were not presented. The reports were placed in the member folders and posted on the website.

Next Steps and Final Remarks:

The Council discussed holding a Council meeting at a school district. Julie Mayberry made a motion that the next meeting be held at a district. Cindy Ball seconded. The motion was passed. Deb Swink offered Clinton School District for the next meeting.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for October 24, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

