

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 Clinton School District, Administrative Building, Professional Development room in Clinton, Arkansas, on Tuesday, October 24, 2017.

Council Members Present:

Sarah Allen
Cindy Ball
Christine Bennett
Angeletta Giles
Bill Glover
Dewey Graves
Shelby Knight
Sherry Rogers
Deborah Swink
Eric Treat

Special Education Staff Present:

Linda Barnes
Jerri Clark
Jody Fields
Christina Foley
Jennifer Gonzales
Yvonne Greene
Lisa Haley
Jared Hogue
Rhonda Saunders

The meeting began at 10:00 a.m. with Ms. Deborah Swink, co-chair, calling the Council meeting to order. Ms. Swink welcomed the Advisory Council members; Arkansas Department of Education, Special Education Unit (ADE-SEU) staff; and the guests to the meeting. There was a quorum; therefore, Ms. Angeletta Giles made a motion to approve the August 2017 minutes and Mr. Eric Treat seconded. The minutes were approved.

Presentation: Ms. Deborah Swink - Making the Village Stronger

Ms. Swink presented program highlights of Clinton School District. Numerous individuals work together to provide special education services to the children of Clinton Schools and Van Buren County.

These districts have a strong child find process including an annual countywide child find meeting. Arch Ford Educational Services Cooperative provides quality pre-K programs countywide for students with disabilities.

The Clinton School District is a pilot site for Opportunities for Work-based Learning (OWL). They collaborate with local school districts, AR Rehabilitation Services (ARS), and AR Transition Services (ATS) to give students with disabilities the opportunity to gain work skills. The Clinton area has a large number of homeless students. Clinton School District receives a Homeless Grant for transitional education through the McKinney-Vento Program. The school district provides numerous programs which are used to assist in the individual child's education opportunities. Some of the programs which were presented to the Council include:

- Inclusion Film camp sponsored by Joey Travolta in April 2017
- Transition Employee Program (TEP) in Hot Springs every summer

- Students Transitioning to Employment Program (STEP), an option for students as they transition from high school to the community.
- CoBalt Clinic, a Community-Based Autism liaison and treatment project
- School Based Mental Health (SBMH) partners with Methodist Family Health and provides teleconferences

The district has a variety of student-centered programs such as Muttigrees through North Shore Animal Shelter and Tour for Life with service dogs and comfort dogs. Check & Connect is a Student Peer Mentoring program that encourages students to use problem-solving strategies, complete school work, and participate in school activities. Check & Connect is open to any student K-12th grade who has excessive absenteeism, is failing any class, is having trouble with behavior, or just needs a little extra push. The program is open to any student.

Two parents spoke about the quality programs of the Clinton School District and reported that the district has a great support system for parents. Also, Ms. Swink showed pictures of two Clinton alumni and shared one student's journey with the council.

Presentation: Dr. Jody Fields – Significant Disproportionality

Dr. Fields presented a brief review of the revised federal regulations for the identification of Significant Disproportionality and the provision for Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS) outlined in Section 616 of IDEA. The Council discussed how large the threshold and the cell size should be. Sherry Rogers made a motion that the threshold for Arkansas be 3 and the cell size be 5. Eric Treat seconded the motion and the motion passed as the Council's recommendation.

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

Next Steps and Final Remarks:

It was decided that the Council will discuss how to proceed with the work from the various subcommittees at the next Council meeting. Jody Fields will present updates on the status of the federal Disproportionality regulations and the Annual Performance Report.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. Eric Treat made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Sherry Rogers seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.