

Minutes
State Advisory Council
For the
Education of Individuals 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, July 19, 2012.

Council Members Present:

Bobby Acklin
Christine Archer
Bill Glover
Robert Gunter
Valerie Harvel
Kathryn Murphy
Kimberly Parker
Deborah Swink
Barry Vuletich

Special Education Staff Present:

Ella Albert	Sherry Holliman
Martha K. Asti	Kristin Hughes
Bonnie Boaz	Belinda King
Jennifer Brown	Danny Reed
Jodi Fields	Courtney Salas-Ford
Jennifer Gonzales	Debbie Zeringue
Lisa Haley	Donald Watkins

There were no guests present.

The meeting began at 9:24 a.m. with introductions of the Advisory Council and Members of the Special Education Staff.

Area reports were given by representatives from each of the section of the Special Education Unit. Martha Kay Asti reviewed the Annual Performance Report and announced that the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) had determined that Arkansas “Met Requirements.” She expressed thanks to Jodi Fields and other staff for their contributions to the report.

Jodi Fields reported on information from the Data and Research office. She provided the council with information on the 241 school age programs and 331 Early Childhood programs. Dr. Fields shared the IDEADATA.org website and explained that individuals who visit the site can view data and determinations for every state and territory. She announced that her office had planned trainings for districts that will begin in the 2012/2013 school year on changes to the data system and movement from APSCN to E-School.

Lisa Haley provided an overview of the districts that were monitored during 2011-2012 and their respective findings of noncompliance issue areas. She also gave a brief explanation of OSEP's vision for Results-Driven Accountability (RDA) along with an update on Arkansas' progress in reviewing its current system of monitoring.

Donald Watkins presented information from the Grants and Data Management section of the SEU. He reported on trainings for school districts that he and his staff had completed budget applications and requirements necessary to receive approval for federal funding. He indicated that the 11 million dollars designated for catastrophic occurrences had been distributed to school districts according to the procedure outlined in the special education regulations. Mr. Watkins announced that for the coming school year each district's allocations of federal funds would be posted on the special education website and available for public view. He explained the formula used for determining Title VI-B funding for each district and the reimbursement process that would be used for access to their funds and documentation of their expenditures.

Sherry Holliman presented information from the State Program Development section. She reported that there are currently 3 tuition reimbursement programs available from the SEU. The programs are for teachers who are seeking licensure in the areas of visual impairments, hearing impairments, and speech/language pathology. There were 8 teachers participating in the vision program. In the area of speech/language pathology, there are 5 who had completed the program, and 4 new applicants were being processed. There were 23 teachers have completed their requirements for licensure in special education as part of the teacher reimbursement program. Beginning with the 2012-13 school year, 20 additional teachers will be approved to receive \$3500 in reimbursement funds to become fully licensed to teach special education. Ms. Holliman discussed that Sandra Crawley, State Program Development Coordinator, is reviewing paraprofessional modules to align with the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) competencies developed specifically for Paraprofessionals. Ms. Holliman finished by presenting information about the AR Deafblind Project. She reported that 128 children are registered in the database as eligible for services through the Project. The federal grant project has one education consultant, Joni Whitener, and one family consultant, Jana Villemez. They work with teachers, school staff, and parents of students on the registry to

provide services, resources, and support needed for the child to receive benefit from their education and participate in school, home and community activities.

Ms. Holliman described the SPARKLE program that is an online resource for parents, teachers, and other individuals with an interest in assisting children with dual sensory impairments. She announced an upcoming training, "SPARKLE Boot Camp" for August 18, 2012, targeting parents of children on the registry.

Jennifer Gonzales represented the State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG), reporting on their current projects. She described the Literacy Intervention Project, a tool tied to the Common Core standards that can be used by teachers. A statewide group of specialists that included literacy specialists, general teachers, and special education teachers will meet to write intervention lessons tied to the Common Core standards. Teachers will be able to access the tool once it is completed. Mrs. Gonzales reported that during the summer SPDG staff provided professional development to teachers at educational cooperative service centers within the state.

Courtney Salas-Ford presented a report from the Dispute Resolution section that provided an overview of hearings and complaints that had been filed since the last council meeting. Mrs. Salas-Ford summarized the allegations and outcomes from the complaints and due process hearings. In the last three months there were three new hearings, all of which were closed at the request of the party or as a result of a settlement agreement between the parties. There were 15 complaints, 4 of those being withdrawn with assistance from Danny Reed. Districts in which the allegations were substantiated were given corrective actions to complete. Those actions are monitored by the SEU for compliance.

A member from the Parent Training and Information Centers (PTI) in Arkansas presented information about a sub grant, in which they are a partner, awarded to the PTI and Community Parent Resource Center (CPRC) that began in January. PTI is part of the AR Disability Coalition that provides personnel to advocate for students with disabilities and attend IEP meetings with parents. There are two offices, Little Rock and Jonesboro, although they serve the entire state.

Bonnie Boaz presented information about AR Transitional Services. She explained about transition, the planning process, and the development of plan to a guide to the student's future. Specifically she discussed that the plan has to be in place by the child's 16th birthday and the process for implementation of the plan as part of the IEP process. Additionally Mrs. Boaz described the transition assessments and their use in development of transition goals for the student.

The goals developed for the student are to assist in the preparation for post-secondary opportunities for successful transition in training, education, employment, and independent living skills.

Jennifer Brown, the Administrator for Curriculum and Assessment, presented information about Standards Based IEP's and the training that was provided in June to Special Education Supervisors. The one and one-half day of training was developed as a "trainer of trainers" model. Supervisors were given specific information that will be available to support the teachers in their districts to implement Standards-Based IEP's. All materials presented as part of the training will be posted on the special education website along with the two new/updated IEP forms.

Motion for adjournment was made by Barry Vuletich at 2:15 p.m. Kimberly Parker seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned.