

**CPAC EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 11, 2015**

Attendees: Joyce Hawkins (PBH), PJ Facciolo (Brandywine SD), Rebecca Harris (DSCYF), Angela Porter (DSCYF), Jackie Mette (Family Court/Casey), Michele Marinucci (Woodbridge SD), Barbara Maza (DOE), Kenya Alston (CFF), Joann Bruch (DFS), Tina Shockley (DOE—Chair of CPAC Education Committee), Eliza Hirst (OCA), Jennifer Davis (DOE), Heather Alford (DFS), Julie Miller (DYOI), The Honorable Kenneth Millman (Family Court), The Honorable Barbara Crowell (Family Court), Carol Moore (Charter School Network)

The meeting was called to order by Tina Shockley. The committee approved the minutes: Judge Crowell moved, Jackie Mette seconded. A discussion followed about whether DOE provided 100% of the cost of transportation in the past. Michele Marinucci asserted that was past practice, but now DOE covers 90% and the districts pay 10% of transportation costs for all students. Eliza Hirst and Jackie Mette confirmed that was their understanding based on a prior meeting with DOE as well.

Tina Shockley asked if there were any issues that could turn into a presentation/learning opportunity at the next CPAC committee meeting. The group would consider different options.

Reports

MOU workgroup—Jenn Davis reported out that the MOU workgroup will meet at the end of March to rework the language in the MOU. Jenn also reported that DOE has added a homeless best interest screen to the Eschool system. It is not live currently, but training will be forthcoming. The purpose of this new screening tool will be to track student best interest meetings to see whether youth are moving to different schools and how frequently the best interest meetings are occurring. Currently, there is a capability to see the number of foster care kids by district and schools within the Ed Insight dashboard. The school homeless liaisons can also see that information about kids in foster care. Jenn is going to work out instruction guide and training to help explain which district is responsible to input specific information. Jenn further reported that she no longer reports to Linda Wolfe. She now reports to Shauna Payne in higher education.

Jenn was commended by the Committee for creating this document because it will help provide a better understanding of how often best interest meetings occur and how the decisions will impact children's education.

Collaboration Workgroup

Eliza Hirst reported out that at the last meeting, there was a big emphasis on agency partner updates. Jackie Mette reported that the Compassionate Schools training would be held on March 27. The training involves teaching schools to become more trauma informed and supportive school environment. Colonial, Christina, Appoquinimink, Brandywine, Woodbridge, Caesar Rodney school districts are all participating. The training will be led by Ron Hertel.

Jackie also reported that she is tracking longitudinal study to see how kids are doing academically in Brandy wine and Woodbridge School Districts. Jackie explained that the longitudinal study will also look at activity with PBH and YRS, since such involvement often helps explain what happened before they entered DFS custody.

Eliza reported that she is going to gather additional information also with CASA to track how kids are doing academically before and during their time in care. Currently, we do not know whether kids are doing better or worse educationally once they enter care.

The Collaboration work group is also working on better information sharing between agencies. Eliza explained that the Ed Insight Dashboard can provide the entire academic history for youth in care, which would be invaluable to the Court and other agency partners. Judge Millman agreed that the Court would benefit from viewing a youth's academic history. DELSIS shows new enrollment, but it will not show information of family moves or whether the child is in foster care. DELSIS also does not track addresses or why the student has moved. A discussion followed wherein Judge Millman asked what happens when school districts ask for records from previous schools. Oftentimes, when children move around a lot, their school records do not always follow. With the Ed insight dashboard, the child's records are accessible as long as they've been in the State. Currently, however, data on aggregate number of kids in care and number of placement changes is not available because FACTS and the Dashboard do not talk to each other.

Michele Marinucci explained the difference between the various data systems:

DELSIS: Database that pulls from ESchool and one other system. DELSIS gives some educational history. But, it is the easiest way to tell entry and exists in school year for kids in foster care or homeless. It also shows progression of grades. DELSIS acts as a historical system. It is not very user friendly because it is based on codes and tables.

ESchool: Most school district uses this program for attendance, grades, discipline history, counseling contacts, best interest screen, and nurse notes. There are different versions for teachers and administrators. Parents also have access through the home access center for grades and attendance. Most districts use that system.

Ed Insight Dashboard: The state rolled this system out 2 years ago. It's a read only system to pull data. The data is received from Eschool and IEP plus (among other sources). Attendance, Discipline, testing scores can be tracked using this system. Ed Insight Dashboard pulls from 30 different computer systems. Look at district, school, teacher, staff by years of experience, look at students and their education history, grades, teachers, discipline, special needs, services, attendance, historical test assessment history. Every district has access to the Dashboard.

IEP +: This is the system used to create special education IEPS and track IEP data.

Following the distinction in systems, Angie Porter explained that the Kids Department does not have access to Ed Insight Dashboard. If kids are enrolled in a PBH/YRS facility—school information is available, but not the reverse way. (Meaning that when a youth exits a PBH/YRS facility, the school does not have access to the youth's records from their time outside of the school district). As a result, all of that information has to be copied or sent a hard copy. This becomes an issue if the records are large or if the placement changes during the summer. Plus, PBH does not

always receive school records when they do evaluations. If the youth is placed in a PBH/YRS facility, that access might help with assessments. The Kids Department would need statewide access. The issue is that students do not always get withdrawn from their home district. There is a new DELSIS code when kids go to the kids department.

If this is worth pursuing, DOE and the DOJ would have to approve access. Added complication might result because the special education regulations require different collection of information and information sharing. PJ suggested going to the Chief's meetings to address this issue. Eliza suggested that this committee consider drafting a letter to CPAC regarding the concerns. This could be added to the limited LEA based on the EO45 recommendations. Eliza Hirst will contact the Kids Department and then consider drafting the letter for the group to circulate to CPAC. **PJ and Michele offered to do training on Ed Insight Dashboard.**

Eliza also shared that the collaboration workgroup will begin looking at the interplay between HIPAA/CAPTA/FERPA/IEP privacy laws to help train and education on information sharing across agencies. That work product will be forthcoming.

Data Workgroup

Joann Bruch reported that there is a lot of cross over between the MOU and Data workgroup. When the group reviewed the data at the most recent meeting, Michele Marinucci explained that graduation rates appear to be low for kids in foster care. However, the data does not tell a comprehensive picture. When students enter high school, they are placed with a four year cohort. If students take extra time to graduate they are counted as a drop out-- even if they ultimately graduate from high school. Students on certificate track and students who move out of state are also considered "drop outs." Woodbridge for example, tracks youth who have moved out of state to see if they have graduated. If those youth are not traceable, it is still counted as a drop out. Since 35-50% of youth in foster care have IEPs, they have until 21 to graduate but they're still considered drop outs. A better measure of academic success is to consider how many kids received a diploma.

Partner updates

NCJFCJ: There has not been much activity because of weather. Tina will follow up with Jackie for an update.

DYOI: They are pre-filing legislation for youth in DSCYF custody regarding a bill of rights. Twelve legislators support the bill, and it has been vetted by DSCYF. Julie will circulate the draft to the group. It was noted that the Strengthening Families Act requires youth to receive a copy of rights. On May 5th, DYOI is hosting a statewide job shadow day. This will require a 3 hour block of time to show youth the various job options and is only for youth age 16+. In addition, Foster care month is May: Destined for Greatness is now going to be in August at DYOI annual conference.

Update on McKinney Vento Call between DOE, OCA, and Family Court: Eliza reported that \$6 million is spent on homeless transportation each year. Many districts have their own contracts, others use OMB. One follow up from the meeting is to see if DOE is tracking the number of students and number in foster care. If students are IV-E eligible, we might be able to cross check that with DOE to see if that particular funding can be used for transportation. However, DSCYF would need to start accessing that IV-E funding for transportation and IV-E eligibility is very complicated.

JoAnn Bruch raised the point that DSCYF may have some of the same transportation providers as school districts, but they may have different rates. One suggestion was to see if the rates can be negotiated for a lower cost if DSCYF and DOE/districts collaborate on the transportation costs. The question remains whether IV-E funds are earmarked for specific kids or for the department. We also do not know the number of kids who are McKinney Vento. JoAnn will follow up to see who needs to be involved in the conversation.

Every child receiving private transportation is tracked. We do not know how many cases exist where transportation funding was denied because the student would be moving to a new school building if he/she remained in the same school district. However, if there is an issue with rerouting of a bus, DOE and districts do not usually track that even when incurring an additional cost. It was noted that there are no specific McKinney Vento transportation funds, but DOE funds transportation for all children, including those who are McKinney Vento eligible.

Joann will follow up with Keith Zierkle about how to move this conversation forward. Tina will follow up with DOE about tracking denials.

To Do List:

- 1) PJ and Michele offered to do training on Ed Insight Dashboard.**
- 2) Eliza Hirst will contact the Kids Department and then consider drafting the letter for the group to circulate to CPAC.**
- 3) Joann will follow up with Keith Zierkle about the intersection of McKinney Vento and IV-E eligibility.**
- 4) Tina will follow up with DOE about tracking the number of foster youth receiving homeless transportation and any denials of transportation.**

Next meeting dates:

June 10, 2015

September 9, 2015

December 9, 2015