

CHILD PROTECTION ACCOUNTABILITY COMMISSION

Education Committee

Wednesday, December 9, 2015 - 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Collette Education Resource Center – Conference Room A

MINUTES

Welcome: The Child Protection Accountability Commission (CPAC) Education Committee was called to order at 1:09 p.m. on Wednesday, December 9th at the Collette Education Resource Center in Dover, Delaware by Chairwoman Tina Shockley.

In Attendance: Tina Shockley, PJ Facciolo, Rachael Neff, JoAnn Bruch, Eliza Hirst, Jackie Mette, Michele Marinucci, Joyce Hawkins, Jackie Kemp, Kitty Rherig, Barbara Crowell, Sybil White, Heather Alford, Kenneth Millman, Cindy Montejo, Candice Brooks, Kristin Dwyer, Erin Carroll, Barbara Mazza

Excused: Jennifer Davis, Tracy Neugebauer, Kenya Alston and Kathy Devine

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the September 9, 2015 meeting were approved

Old Business:

Presentation: Access to school records—Barb Mazza, DOE

Barbara Mazza handed out a document as she gave a presentation that was the result of comments from a few meetings about regarding access to special education records. The document, which has been shared with LEAs and Special Education Directors, provided an overview of special education records that respective agencies have access to. Barb noted she has reviewed local, state and federal regulations

Following the meeting an updated handout was emailed to members.

Work Group Reports:

MOU Workgroup—Jackie Mette provided the update. She referred to the MOU document marked up and a comparison document noting changes, both were previously emailed to the group. She reviewed the history and timeline of MOU. Currently the MOU workgroup is asking the Education Committee to review the revised MOU. None of the departments have signed off on the MOU, as it is in draft form and marked “draft proposed changes – pending review”.

The group discussed briefly and it was noted that Jackie will circulate the proposed revisions via email with highlighted changes. Once changes have been finalized, Jackie noted that the revised MOU will be sent to the heads of each department involved. There was discussion around lack of knowledge of the MOU in the involved departments...potential need for additional training. Ultimately, the group will need to finalize and send to the larger CPAC group.

McKinney-Vento—Eliza Hirst discussed this topic, noting that the new federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) notes that instead of using McKinney-Vento or Title I to fund transportation, that cost will be shifted to the child welfare agency, but no funds are going to the child welfare agency. She indicated we have a couple of options for moving forward - delay or continue. The general consensus of the group was to continue the MOU process.

It was noted that DDOE is currently not tracking actual costs of keeping kids in their schools of origin, specifically for foster or homeless youth. The group endorses recommending that DDOE start gathering that information. We don't want that money getting pushed through to another initiative. DSCYF will also want this information.

Eliza will write up the recommendation. Judge Crowell motions to support this recommendation. Jackie Mette seconds the motion, and motion passed. Further discussion occurred of what the recommendation should be and who it should go to. Eliza will get recommendation to Tina, who will get to correct person at DDOE.

Collaboration Workgroup—Eliza Hirst noted that the FAQs are now on the website.

Education Decision Maker Update - Eliza is still making some tweaks to this. The group discussed the draft child abuse training legislation which Eliza emailed to everyone prior to this meeting to review and provide feedback. Therefore, the group discussed: aligning language with the bullying legislation language, everyone should be getting the same training, who is creating the training?, who is approving the training?, additional trainings become cumbersome. It was suggested that perhaps schools could alternate trainings on an every other year basis instead of annually. Likewise, it was suggested that on site trainings be reserved for only those schools found in violation. Eliza will work on getting some answers and updating the legislation to send out to the group for feedback so it can get submitted to the legislative committee in early 2016, prior to our next meeting (March 9).

Data Workgroup—JoAnn Bruch

Joann noted that the group received data from DDOE for the past school year. It came in a different format than has previously been received, so the group is currently working with DDOE to get it in the format they need. Joann noted that the following information was missing: number of discipline incidents, out of school suspensions, expulsions, and percentage of students passing algebra. Data is needed in the same format to align and make longitudinal comparisons. Tina is working with DDOE staff to obtain the necessary information. A handout comparing Smarter ELA/Math scores for foster care students was provided to the group.

The group discussed suspension data, and specifically suspensions in grades K-3. Eliza has drafted legislation to address this. It was asked if there is a penalty/consequence in the proposed legislation for not addressing the disciplinary issues in schools? (RE: Suspension data). The group proposed that instead of passing legislation, we should have conversations with local districts and school boards. This shouldn't be the state passing more laws; this is a local decision. There was also a suggestion to ask the Academic Framework Working Group (AFWG) to include foster children in the super-group category. Additionally, there was a comment that our community and our parents see suspension as the consequence/answer. Perhaps some additional education is needed in this area. Eliza will send out an email update.

The group discussed merging the Data and MOU workgroups, since the groups are largely comprised of the same people. A motion was made and seconded and the motion passed.

Partner Updates:

Mentoring Support—Jackie Mette - Deferred.

McKinney-Vento—Ed Insight, Eschool – Deferred

Education Demonstration project update—Jackie Mette noted that there is still some great work going on with this project.

Other Updates:

Michele Marinucci noted the Western Sussex Summit held on October 9 was very successful. The theme was “If not you, then who; if not now, then when”

Public Comment:

Bill Doolittle of the Delaware PTA gave public comment regarding concerns with broken education system.

Next Meeting Dates:

The next meeting of this committee will be held March 9, 2016, 1-3 pm Collette Education Center.

To Do:

Jackie Mette to circulate the proposed MOU revisions via email with highlighted changes, and to work with the Education Committee group to finalize a revised MOU which will be sent to the heads of each department involved, and ultimately to the larger CPAC group.

Eliza will draft the request/recommendation for DDOE to start tracking the actual costs of keeping kids in their schools of origin, specifically for foster or homeless youth. She will get the request to Tina, who will get to correct person at DDOE.

Eliza will work on getting some answers and update the child abuse training legislation to send out to the group for feedback so it can get submitted to the legislative committee.

Tina will work with DDOE staff to obtain the 2014-2015 school year data as requested.

Eliza will send out an email update on the K-3 suspension data/issue.

Adjournment:The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. by Chairwoman Tina Shockley.

Minutes submitted by Tina Shockley on December 30, 2015.