

CHILD PROTECTION ACCOUNTABILITY COMMISSION
Education Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 8, 2017
Townsend Building, Library Conference Room (moved to Cabinet Room)

Welcome: The Child Protection Accountability Committee (CPAC) Education Committee was called to order at 1:04 p.m. on Wednesday, March 8, 2017 at the Townsend Building in Dover by Chairperson Susan Haberstroh.

Attendees:

Joann Bruch (DSCYF – DFS)
Barbara Crowell (Family Court)
Brenda Dorrell (DOE)
Jennifer Davis (DOE)
Harvey Doppelt (PBH)
PJ Facciolo (Brandywine School District)
Susan Haberstroh (DOE)
Kathryn Herel (PIC)
Chris McIntyre (DSCYF)
Kenneth Millman (Family Court)
Rachael Neff (Family Court)
Tracy Neugebauer (DOE)
Megan Pell (for Deb Boyer, University of Delaware)
Tina Shockley (DOE)
Deb Stevens (DSEA)
Wendy Strauss (GACEC)
Al Volpe (Appoquinimink School District)
Brittany Willard (OCA)
Natasha Williams (Nemours)

Welcome and Introductions: Everyone was welcomed to the meeting, and introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes: The Committee reviewed the minutes of the December 14, 2016 meeting minutes. Chris McIntyre motioned to approve the minutes, and Tracy Neugebauer seconded the motion. Everyone was in favor of approving the minutes in their current form, thus the motion carried and the minutes were approved.

A request was made for the Committee to possibly meet at the Collette Educational Resource Building in the future due to parking concerns at the Townsend Building. This will be considered for future meetings.

Presentation – Student Printable Report

Susan Haberstroh introduced Brenda Dorrell of DOE. Brenda gave a presentation of the Student Dashboard that teachers can assess through the EdInsight application in the Identity Management

System (IMS). It was noted that the Division of Family Services could work with schools to get this information.

A handout was provided to the group and Brenda walked everyone through a sample (not real) child's profile. She noted that the information is only as good as the information the school inputs. There was some discussion regarding data entry issues with parent/guardian/legal guardian/biological parent, as this may be entered differently per school. Brenda noted that districts and charters are continually going through training.

Judge Millman asked how attendance is tracked. Susan Haberstroh noted that different schools define and enter it differently. She noted that the form does show class period (for secondary level), thus there is more detail on attendance in those grades. Someone suggested making the +/- symbol flush right or left, or making it bigger for easier viewing, as the mark is very small and hard to see. This will be taken under consideration.

Next, Brenda discussed assessment information, both local and statewide by going through course grades and credits, as well as noting on the chart where failed core content areas and advanced academics were noted for the current year.

Additionally, the student report shows college and career readiness (PSAT or SAT), and shows the DEWS (Drop Out Early Warning System) Attendance.

Brenda noted that the report only shows Delaware information, unless they are a transferring high school student, then it would be entered in the transcript as "other school."

Someone asked what it means when it shows "No" under Primary Instructional Setting. Brenda noted that is likely a special education or alternate setting. Individuals noted this is very useful information. It was noted that the system is not perfect, and that some of the data is scrambled for these examples. Some districts are piloting this, with Capital School District being one of them. Brenda noted that trainings are available and occurring.

Rachel Neff of Family Court noted that there is a condensed form that they will be using this for training, but that it is up to the individual school.

There was discussion as to what to call this report – Student Report, Student Snapshot, Comprehensive Educational Report, Court Report? The group landed on Comprehensive Educational Report because it is really used by everyone as a comprehensive report.

Brenda noted that the next time the software is updated, there will make it so there are different defaults for different users, so each person can request custom reports.

ESSA Update – Susan Haberstroh

Susan Haberstroh said the Department appreciates all the input it is receiving on the ESSA draft Plan. DOE plans to submit its Plan to USED on April 3. She noted that regulations that were put out by the Obama Administration are likely going to be pulled back by the Trump Administration.

Legislation – Children in Foster Care and Homeless – Susan Haberstroh

Susan noted that Delaware state law says that a child in foster care is to be treated the same as a homeless child. Changes in ESSA law now call for foster care and homeless children to be separated out and addressed differently. Laws around both populations have changed. There is a desire to continue to treat them the same, so the draft legislation she handed out labeled ESSA Legislation seeks to provide stability for homeless/foster care children by clarifying the two distinct populations in Delaware Code. The new Every Student Succeeds Act requires Delaware to do this, and specifically clarifies that homeless/foster care children are allowed to attend their school of origin if it is in their best interest to do so, or attend a new school if it is at a normal grade level promotion.

Someone asked that in this case classmates may go to different school, and this may be detrimental to a child. It was noted that all things will be considered when determining best interest of the child.

Another issue that arose was the term “immediately,” as this means different things to different people. Judge Crowell noted that the law defines “immediate” as 2-3 days, as described in the MOU. Jennifer Davis noted that the federal government asked us to not clarify that as there are different circumstances for different students. They want the states to mirror the federal law. Joann Bruch agreed. It was asked if we can add “extenuating circumstance?” The response is that we do not believe this is appropriate at this time and we would track and monitor any situations that are brought to the Department’s attention.

Joann noted that the current MOU says the students are to stay in their current school, so there should not be a gap in their education. Students coming from out of state is another, separate issue.

Susan noted that this legislation is coming before the CPAC Legislative subcommittee on Friday and we need to vote on this draft legislation. Motion to approve the legislation as is was made by Judge Barbara Crowell and seconded by Jennifer Davis. Everyone was in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

Rachel Neff provided a handout titled, “FAQ for DSCYF and Schools”, regarding children in foster care. She encouraged comments and feedback on it, and noted that she is working to present this information to foster care liaisons in schools. She noted that she will be bringing this to the Data workgroup which meets in another month or so.

Legislation – Education Decision Maker – Susan Haberstroh

Susan indicated that there have been several drafts of this legislation, but that this is the current version. Tracy Neugebauer noted that as a foster parent, she is the designated individual involved, but that there may be a biological parent, GAL/attorney (Guardian ad Litem) and now the student will also have an Education Decision maker. She wonders if the GAL and Education Decision maker can be one in the same. Susan noted that the language in the bill refers to a preference the Education Decision maker be an adult already involved in the child’s life.

This legislation is not necessarily for students in special education, because they have the ability to be assigned an Educational Surrogate Parent (ESP). This bill is broader. Someone asked,

“Who is going to train these folks on how to be an Education Decision maker and who decides who will be the best decision maker?”

Someone asked who currently trains GALs? The Office of the Child Advocate trains GALs.

Tracy supports the bill, but just wants to make sure the Education Decision maker has the training in the educational field.

Tracy asked, what level of involvement do they have? Susan noted that this is specifically for school-related decisions.

The following questions were raised: How many of these will be appointed?, Who manages this?, Who does someone call to get an Education Decision maker appointed?, What if there is disagreement on who the Education Decision maker is to be?, If an Education Decision maker is assigned, how would a school know about that assignment?

Eliza Hirst, though not in attendance at the meeting, has reviewed these concerns and taken this through her agency and the Department of Education has also provided input. The legislation needed approval to move forward to the CPAC Legislative subcommittee.

Al Volpe made a motion to approve the draft legislation so that it may move forward. Harvey Doppelt seconded the motion. The committee voted on the legislation with no one being opposed and everyone in favor. The legislation was approved by the CPAC Education subcommittee to move forward.

Chris McIntyre asked if we wanted more clarity, can there be an addendum? Susan noted that this has been through many versions. It is enabling legislation, so it would move to the CPAC Legislative subcommittee next, and then goes before the full CPAC. After that, OCA would need to get a legislator to sponsor the bill, introduce it, there would be discussion on it and there may be amendments to the current bill language. This is just part of the legislative process and it would need to pass both houses.

Education Committee Goals Discussion - Susan Haberstroh

Susan provided a handout which outlined the Committee’s mission and charge. She noted that we will table this discussion for right now, but the Committee should review and consider this for discussion at our next meeting.

Workgroup Updates:

MOU Workgroup – Jennifer Davis

Jennifer clarified that the MOU and Data workgroups are separate entities. As for the MOU Workgroup, they have moved forward with some of the revisions for the MOU, such as removing the GAL language (since they are no longer used). However, now the MOU must be updated to incorporate ESSA requirements, and then be reviewed by the group once more. The workgroup is currently waiting on the final Delaware Code change legislation to update the MOU. She notes it is close to being done, and there should be a final MOU for this committee’s review at the July 19 meeting.

Someone asked what the MOU covers. Jennifer advised it covers best interest meetings, dispute resolution, child abuse training, roles and responsibilities when DSF does investigation, etc.

There was an inquiry about templates for best interest meetings and Jennifer noted that this has been done and there is now a universal form for all districts to use. It was asked, "Who is conducting training on the MOU?" Jennifer noted that districts sign off on it, so each district is responsible for training their foster care liaisons. Joann noted she will make sure DSF staff are trained.

Data Workgroup - Joann Bruch

Joann said the Data Workgroup met in February and agreed it needs to redefine business rules, so they are going to do so. They are also looking at target dates for data.

Other Updates as Needed - None

It was noted that next week the Delaware Inclusion Conference will be held on March 15 at the Dover Downs Conference Center.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment given at this meeting.

Next Meeting Dates:

The group noted that the next meeting would occur on July 19 at the Townsend Building, Library Conference Room. Tina Shockley and Susan Haberstroh will look into the availability of conference rooms at the Collette Educational Resource for ease of parking for members. They will update members on the location. Joann Bruch offered to reserve the DSF conference room over at their Silver Lake Building.

Tentative future meetings will be held on September 13, Cabinet Room, Townsend Building and December 13, 2017, Cabinet Room, Townsend Building.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by Susan Haberstroh at 2:40 p.m.