

Special Education Advisory Council Meeting
March 15, 2019

**Special Education Advisory Council Members
(Members in bold were in attendance.)**

Parent Advocates	Special Education Directors/Leaders	Organizations
Sonya Lawrence-Parent Advocate	Dr. Michele Marinucci- Dir. Christina School District and DASEP President	Kendall Massett-DE Charter Network
Bill Doolittle-Parent Advocate	Dr. Lisa Lawson-Dir. Brandywine School District and DASEP VP	John Marinucci-DE School Boards Association
Dafne Carnright, Autism Delaware	Dr. Josette McCullough-Dir. Appoquinimink School District and DASEP Secretary	Mondaria Batchelor-DSEA Member
Kristin Pidgeon, Down Syndrome Association	Dr. Sarah Celestin-Dir. Red Clay School District and DASEP Treasurer	Kristin Dwyer-DSEA Representative
Annalisa Ekbladh, Autism Delaware	Dr. Jon Cooper-Dir. Colonial School District	Katheryn Herel, Parent Information Center of Delaware
Wendy Strauss-Governor's Advisory Council for Exc. Citizens	Dawn Alexander-Early Childhood Rep, DSEA Member	Rep. Kim Williams, Legislator
Sybil Baker- Governor's Advisory Council for Exc. Citizens	Dr. Vince Winterling-DE Autism Program	Tammy Croce, Delaware Association for School Administrators
Natika Hartock-Parent of a child with Autism	Laurie Kettle-Rivera-DE School for Deaf	Deborah Boyer, UD PBS Project
Antonikka Owens-Parent of a child with a hearing impairment	Mark Campano-DE Statewide Programs	Mary Ann Mieczkowski-DE Dept. of Education
Neil Ray-parent of a child with a developmental delay	Jill Scannell-Newark Charter School	Elisha Jenkins, Division for the Visually Impaired
Dr. Debbie Harrington-parent of a child with a visual impairment		

Public Attendees	X if you wish to make Public Comment
Tara Kelly, DSD	
Erin Weaver, DVI	
Debbie Postles, Christina School District	
Dale Matusevich, DOE	
Jenn Rubush, Parent	x

Special Education Advisory Council Meeting

March 15, 2019

Agenda Item	Discussion
Welcome	Dr. Marinucci welcomed the council and explained the purpose of the meeting.
Public Comment	<p>Public Comment: Parent shared that her daughter's depression struggles have increased significantly since going into high school. There are so many kids affected by depression and anxiety. She shared that having the kids work in a group is effective, so the kids don't feel as if they are alone in the process. The teachers have been great and the special education coordinator has been great also. She shared that in addition, her daughter also has attention issues and there is an increased challenge with the work being presented online or on the computer.</p> <p>The state received a SAMSA grant, called Project Aware, currently partnering with three districts. We agree there are not enough mental health counselors out there to meet the need.</p> <p>Delaware Family Voices has been doing a lot of work on the insurance approval issue. They get initial denial, and then when they push back, it does get approved. They are running special workshops around insurance issues and mental health.</p> <p>It was discussed that we may want to have the Insurance Commissioner's office come to a meeting again, since the last time we met with them was two years ago.</p> <p>Information was shared about the Lt. Governor's Health Coalition and the subcommittee of the Early Intervention and Education Committee.</p>
<p>Focus Area Updates</p> <p>(1) Statewide Supports for Autism and Low Incidence Disabilities— Sarah and Mark</p>	<p>Sarah shared that the next steps are for the subgroup to continue conversations. They have a current meeting scheduled for this afternoon—after this meeting. Some of the strengths that came out from the prior conversation was the collaboration with SWP, DVI, etc. The SWP has prepared a presentation of collaborative structure that SWP has prepared. Next month, the committee will bring back the strengths for the committee. In order to do a more extensive study of the financial implications, we may need to consider legislative support in doing a financial investigation. Every task force run on this topic, has gotten to this same point and then not gotten much further due to the need for the funding</p>

Special Education Advisory Council Meeting

March 15, 2019

implications. We may want to recommend one or two models to further explore. The real challenge is to do the full fiscal impact. How can we get that information done? *The subgroup wanted to discuss the different models and teasing out the models that would be the most effective. The taskforce is not just determining the pros and cons of the various models and the monetary impact but the other supports the local funds cover. What would be the funding implications of pulling the groups out of the district?*

A PowerPoint presentation was shared and discussed with the committee. (attached)

DVI issues are different than those of the Deaf Blind. Is this plan addressing some of the concerns with being under the LEA model, and also, the under the Agency model—or just under the LEA model. The perception of some members is that this is creating a virtual agency via MOUs. The idea is that we start with a collaborative model and then move toward a hierarchical model. It was shared that this is similar to the model that the DNEA is creating. If we can build this all together as Low Incidence and Autism Disabilities, it may meet the need, and bring us further toward our plan. We can't have a fiscal analysis done currently since there are many things not currently in place. We need to look at the subparts that need to go through a legislative avenue and work toward those parts, while also looking at the financial analysis component. The DNEA is a fresh opportunity that we can potentially influence and collaborate with to build this as an all-inclusive model (low incidence and autism) instead of specifically autism. It was suggested to do an MOU between all of the birth mandate disability groups, but the concern is with the fiscal impact and the current structure of the financial components (challenges with our ability to do this). It was suggested that a potential solution is to have the CFO and Sped Directors meet for a combined conversation in looking at a fee for service model (with a menu of services and their costs).

While we are looking at larger aspects of meeting SESPAC goals the following was proposed to help move forward on initiatives simultaneously. Year 1: What can we do on our own and how? What aspects of each program's "needs for change" can be piloted (as they differ) to identify and work through challenges. Year 2: Using measures from the pilots gather input and draft

Special Education Advisory Council Meeting

March 15, 2019

	<p>proposals for the structural changes needed to fully meet SESPAC related goals for each of the programs involved (DVI, DNEA, SWP). Can we use the PreK MOU as a model—gather the CFOs and Sped Directors at the table. Year 3: Look at the legislative change needed.</p> <p>Can DNEA, DVI and SWP put together a fee list of services that kids may need? Then can we start with NCC to do an MOU and try this out? It's important to note that services provided for Autism are not charged, and DVI services are currently funded by the agency and not paid for by the individual school districts. All of the services are funded differently in the current model (Autism, DVI, Deaf-Blind, SWP).</p> <p>Can DNEA and DSD put together a fee list of services that kids may need? Then can we start with NCC to do an MOU and try this out? It's important to note that services provided for Autism are not charged, and DVI services are currently funded by the agency and not paid for by the individual school districts. All of the services are separately funded in the current model (Autism, DVI, Deaf-Blind, DSD).</p>
Member Comments	<p>Annalisa stated that the statewide program for Autism has historically been administered by Christina. Then Sec Bunting and Christina met behind closed doors. She shared that her concern is that this committee is working toward a statewide goal of looking at how statewide programs are administered and at looking at models. There was an agreement from the meeting that Christina would be noted in Title 14 as the leader of the statewide programs. Dale was asked to represent the concerns to Secretary Bunting and ask for her response. It was requested that she attend an upcoming meeting to listen to the concerns of this group.</p> <p>Annalisa also mentioned that none of the autism areas were not funded. The DNEA funding was removed from the governor's budget and epilogue and the two training specialists which were supposed to be added (making the total funding for 4) was removed also. Please contact JFC to let them know of the importance of these initiatives. The SESPAC will be writing a letter in support of this.</p>
K-3 Update	<p>The K-3 bill was successfully heard and released from committee. Many additional legislators have signed on as sponsors. Rep Williams thanked all who wrote letters and reached out in support. It is now in the House Appropriations Committee. Last year the state did provide 2.8m. There will be a letter writing campaign with a</p>

Special Education Advisory Council Meeting
March 15, 2019

	<p>specific request to the House Appropriations Committee members. This worked for the K-3 last year.</p>
IEP Taskforce	<p>IEP Task Force Work was sent out to all members by Bill. We are asking for all members to share any barriers they see to making this a collaborative and functional process. We will then aggregate the information and share at the next meeting.</p> <p>Conversation ensued regarding some of the prior results of the task force work—such as the requirement for the draft IEP to get sent home in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>What is the status of the IEPPlus system now that PowerSchool is the vendor (instead of Sunguard)?</p>
Next Steps	<p>The group will reconvene on April 12 from 9 until noon at Delaware School for the Deaf.</p> <p>The Agenda items include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome • Goal Area Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Statewide Program Update ○ IEP Task Force Progress Update ○ Mental Health Update • Committee Member General Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Early Childhood Updates/Info sharing/Legislation • Old Business • New Business • Public Comment • Adjournment
Adjournment	<p>Dr. Marinucci adjourned the meeting and dismissed the council.</p>

Special Education Advisory Council Meeting
March 15, 2019

Goal Area	Goals	Sub-Group Members
Students	To increase the success of students with disabilities by improving their ability to become active, valued, and participating members of their community, today and in the future	Ed Emmett-Lead Lisa Lawson, Bill Doolittle, Sonya Lawrence, Wendy Strauss
Staff/ Partners	To have a highly engaged and effective workforce with appropriate values, skills, and knowledge for today - and tomorrow's - work.	Elisha Jenkins-Lead Mark Campano, Annalisa Ekbladh, Josette McCullough, Kristin Dwyer, Kathie HereI
Delivery Structure/ Systems	1) To make available the same array of evidence based practices and models of service deliveries regardless of a student's placement. 2) To modify delivery system to facilitate the achievement of other goals.	Mark Campano-Lead Vince Winterling, Dafne Carnright, Sarah Celestin, Jon Cooper, Kristin Pidgeon, Sonya Lawrence, Dawn Alexander
Parents / Families	To increase the engagement with parents and families as partners in collaboration to support their children at home and at school with access and knowledge of the resources they need.	Josette McCullough-Lead Annalisa Ekbach, Kristin Pidgeon, Kathie HereI
Resources	To acquire more resources as needed and maximize the efficiency in use of our existing resources	Kristin Dwyer-Lead Michele Marinucci, Teresa Avery, Laurie Kettle-Rivera, Mary Ann Mieczkowski
Policy/ Regulations	To add, delete, and modify policies and regulations to support our current and future goals and objectives.	Dafne Carnright-Lead John Marinucci, Mondaria Batchelor, Michele Marinucci, Kim Williams, Bill Doolittle, Mary Ann Mieczkowski, Dawn Alexander
Community	To increase the levels of support and collaboration through engagement and education.	Kendall Massett-Lead John Marinucci, Teresa Avery, Lisa Lawson, Elisha Jenkins