

DRAFT MINUTES

Meeting Place: Microsoft Teams platform (Virtual Meeting)

Date: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 (4:30 p.m. to 7:35 p.m.)

Present: Sara Kruk, Sandra Chittenden, Karen Price, Crista Yagjian, Scarlett Duncan, Barbara Joyal, Mary Barton, Katie Ballard, Jamie Crenshaw, Joy Wilcox, Molly McFaun, Kristen Bigelow, Scarlett Duncan, Tara Howe,

AOE: Jacqui Kelleher, Tristan McNamara, Linda Moreno

Guests/Potential New Members: Susan Aranoff, Alison Amidon, Dawn Campbell, Wendy Lynde, Deb Sanders, Kimberley McNamara

Agenda:

4:30-4:35 Come to Order, Review Meeting Expectations, Approve Minutes

4:35-4:45 Story Share

4:45-5:55 Discussion: Restraint & Seclusion, and Exclusionary Discipline

5:55-6:15 Addressing the Success Gap (Part 1: Report from the field, review unmet needs document with success gap lens)

6:15-6:20 Break

6:20-7:00 Addressing the Success Gap (Part 2: Develop recommendations / advisement)

7:00-7:10 SEA OSEP Budget Update

7:10-7:20 Public Comment

7:20-7:35 New Member Nominations

7:35 Adjourn

Come to Order, Review Meeting Expectations, Approve Minutes, Public Comment:

Katie Ballard brought the meeting to order as the Chair, Rachel Seelig and Vice Chair, Carrie Lutz were not in attendance. Katie went over the meeting norms, expectations, and meeting roles PowerPoint slides, discussion if the Panel had quorum. Katie acknowledged the chat messages regarding potential members and the process. The Panel has quorum and voted to adjust the agenda to add membership and potential new members.

Story Share -

No Story Share this month and has been tabled.

Introduction about SEAP (Special Education Advisory Panel):

Reviewed what the panel was about and how to be a member of SEAP. Jacque provided federal regulations around SEAP. Every State is required to a Special Education Advisory Council – Vermont calls their' s Special Education Advisory Panel which is comprised of 51% or higher of parent or guardian representation of a student up to 26 year of age who have a disability, members of other inter agencies, teachers of Corrections, Vocational Rehabilitation, Parent Training and Information Center representative. The critical work of the Panel is to advise the Agency of Education.

New Member Nomination:

The Panel lists out the process of nomination to appointment for membership to the Panel. Alison introduced herself to the Panel. She works at the Community School House in Brattleboro and has worked there 17 years. The Panel members motion 10/0 was made to have Alison Amidon a member of the Panel as a representative from an Independent School and to move her application forward to Secretary French to Governor for appointment.

Karen Price asked what professional roles remain open for the Panel. Katie announced a transition as Panel members/positions are ending their role with the Panel and are working on that. Present positions/representatives needed are: 1 representative teaches Higher Education or Continuing Education, 2 Teachers (teaching in classroom is desired), 2 Special Education Directors, (especially with the focus of identifying 2 folks to help with the McKinney Vento focused), 2 professionals' financing / provision of related services, 2 individuals with living with a disability. A vote for a potential professional for Corrections and the Independent School representative. A document will be shared soon with the Panel that highlights what positions need to be filled.

Discussion: Restraint & Seclusion, and Exclusionary Discipline:

The Panel would like to the Agency to address the following "Think Tank" questions:

1. Why is there disproportionate restraints/seclusion or other exclusionary discipline for students with disabilities?
2. How can the AOE Monitoring and General Supervision responsibilities be used in addressing concerns over how and when for restraint and seclusion and exclusionary discipline are applied?

Backstory- In November the Panel reviewed the Rule 4500 data and made a very thorough set of recommendations for the AOE to consider which are under review by those that are involved in Rule 4500. This is not a Special Education Law but for all students.

Panel members gave their perspective and experiences with their children with disabilities being held at a higher standard.

Jacque and Tristan McNamara provided how data is collected around restraint and seclusion within the state

- Discussion around concerns around monitoring and schools not reporting
- Discussion occurred around what opportunities the state provides to train educational staff around de-escalating techniques

Addressing the Success Gap (Part 1: Report from the field, review unmet needs document with success gap lens):

Postponed discussion until April SEAP meeting. Discussed the Unmet Needs document that was worked on last year.

Break

Break occurred from 5:47 to 5:52.

SEA OSEP Budget Update:

Jacque discussed OSEP budget update. By using the Vermont Special Education webpage [public comment](#) section. AOE is required to have posted for 60 days and public comment is for 30 days. March 16 to April 16. OSEP has not given our projections for funds for this year, they should not change too drastically for this year. Once this is given we will update our [Interactive spreadsheet](#).

Panel member asked Jacqui about EdBenefit- Jacqui discussed what happens at the training- EdBenefit training consists of discussions of presented IEPs for alignment of smart goals. [Betty Roy](#) and [Ana Kolbach](#) are the trainers. Presently 10 districts are required, and we promote all districts to participate. It's free!

Public Comment:

No public comment

Other Business:

Some panel members attended the COPA conference in Boston with Ross Greene- the Developmental Disabilities Council paid for some of the Panel to attend.

Office of Special Ed programs conference- July 18-22, 2022.

Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.

Meeting Schedule (hold the dates):

April 18, 2022, from 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

May 17, 2022, from 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

June 9, 2022, from 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.