
Special Education Advisory Panel

Draft Meeting Minutes

Meeting Place: Virtual Teams meeting

Date: November 5, 2024

Present: Amy Knight, Ana Russo, Emily Simmons, Teagen Comeau, Cammie Naylor, Kaite Ballard, Susan Aranoff, Regina-Ann Cooper, Lindsey Wells, Ashely Converse, Krista Siringo, Summer Stelter, Sandra Chittenden, Caitlin Chisholm, Alison Amidon, Kelly Bushey, Brandon Dall

Agenda:

- 4:30 – 4:35 Call to order, approve minutes (10/1/24, 5/9/24), agenda adjustments
- 4:35 – 4:40 Public comment
- 4:40 – 5:00 Open Meeting Law Presentation with Emily Simmons **PURPOSE:** To provide all members with clear understanding as it relates to our work and communication
- 5:00 – 5:30 Indicator 8 Parent involvement: survey results presentation and data with Ana Russo and Caitlin Chisholm **PURPOSE:** understand current updates and trends as well as clarify any questions before considering feedback
- 5:30 – 5:45 Discuss next steps for Indicator 8 **PURPOSE:** Decide if group will provide feedback or questions at this time
- 5:45 – 5:50 Break
- 5:50 – 6:50 Special Education Data Presentation and the Continuum of Placements in VT with Ana Russo: **Purpose:** To understand Vermont Special Education Data and the continuum of placements and LRE options
- 6:50 – 7:15 Discuss areas of potential feedback related to indicators 3,17. Purpose: to decide next steps as a group
- 7:15 – 7:25 Membership update, introduction and potential new member vote **Purpose:** potential new member vote and introductions
- 7:25 – 7:30 Public comment
- 7:30 Wrap up and adjourn

Call to order, approve minutes (10/1/24, 5/9/24), agenda adjustments:

Move to Move all voting items (CN), (TC) Second – Moving adjusting agenda.

10/01/24 Meeting minutes – TC move, CN second – Approved.

5/09/24 Meeting Minutes – CN move, TC second – Approved.

New Member Vote – Ashely Converse, DOC seat. CN Move, KB second

Public comment:

Susan Aranoff – Document shared, DD Counsel. Counsel every 5 years comes up with a 5-year plan of issues to focus on and annually (legislative platform). For long time, lots of counsel members serve. Inviting council members to join on November 18th (Disability Power Hour). What is on your mind and what should be the top of your mind for the legislative platform. The information about the timing is on the website.

Open Meeting Law Presentation with Emily Simmons

PURPOSE: To provide all members with clear understanding as it relates to our work and communication:

Presentation on open meeting and public records laws.

Indicator 8 Parent involvement: survey results presentation

and data with Ana Russo and Caitlin Chisholm PURPOSE:

understand current updates and trends as well as clarify any questions before considering feedback:

Caitlin Chisholm – review results of the Parent Involvement Survey

Question – How can the AOE support parents in completing and returning surveys? Alternative methods of contact, barrier to completion and distrust. Request advisement of who will speak to collaborate with regards to parent survey. Importance of informing and empowering parents.

Disenfranchised parents are deterred from participating.

Question, is the survey in plain language/accessible? Is there a babble notice included.

Discuss next steps for Indicator 8 PURPOSE: Decide if group

Feedback? Work Group? This an area the panel wants to take action on. The Executive Committee will discuss to determine next steps.

Break

Special Education Data Presentation and the Continuum of

Placements in VT with Ana Russo: Purpose: To understand

Vermont Special Education Data and the continuum of placements and LRE options:

Presentation on LRE and Placements.

Questions: Within separate school; what is the break-down between in district separate school vs out of district? Appropriate Continuum: What is the Agency doing to support districts in developing in-district programs, and their position on moratorium?

Discuss areas of potential feedback related to indicators 3, 17. Purpose: to decide next steps as a group:

Indicator 3 participation and proficiency rate (general or alternative) assessment. (access to accommodations, opt out (no specific indicator) will use work sheet.

Questions:

Input: Discrepancy rates/Proficiency Rates need to flatten. Underserving our special education students. Is the education truly appropriate?

Indicator 17 State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) will use work sheet.

To provide/finalize feedback at December meeting.

Membership update, introduction and potential new member vote Purpose: potential new member vote and introductions:

Agenda item moved to earlier.

Public comment:

No public comment.

Adjourn:

Adjourn 7:17

Meeting Schedule (hold the dates):

December 3, 2024 (In-Person), 10:00am-4:00pm

January 7, 2025, 4:30pm-7:30pm

February 4, 2025, 4:30pm-7:30pm

March 5, 2025, 4:30pm-7:30pm

April 1, 2025, 4:30pm-7:30pm

May 6, 2025 (In-Person), 10:00am-4:00pm

June 3, 2025, 4:30pm-7:30pm