

**Special Education Advisory Panel Meeting Minutes**  
**Radisson Colonial Hotel/Comfort Suites**  
**September 21-22, 2017**

Members in Attendance: Theresa Erickson, Corinne Turnsplenty; Tammy Hogan, Lisa Hufnagel, Estee Aiken, Stephen Morsette, Michelle Halberg, Josh Wigen, Kyla Rock, Erika Wimmer, Wendy Studt, Heather Denny (Friday), Mariela Certain

Excused Members: Robin Farrell, Wendy Studt (Friday), Heather Denny (Thursday)

Non-Members in Attendance: Frank Podobnik, Dick Trerise, John Copenhaver, Dale Kimmet, Susan BaileyAnderson, Anne Rainey, Marlene Wallis

**Thursday, September 21, 2017**

**Special Education Advisory Panel (Part B) and Montana Family Support Services Advisory Council (Part C) Training and Orientation**

The Panel members attended the Special Education Advisory Panel (Part B) and Montana Family Support Services Advisory Council (Part C) Training and Orientation.

John Copenhaver, Director, Center for Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education (TAESE), Utah State University, conducted the orientation.

He informed the Panel/Council members that the purpose for the orientation is to provide Montana Special Education Advisory Panel and Family Support Services Advisory Council members with training and information regarding their purpose and functions under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA).

John discussed the IDEA Regulations that relate to the Advisory Panel (Part B) and the Family Support Services Advisory Council (Part C), including the establishment of the membership, duties and functions. He also noted that it is important to know the acronyms associated with special education and the Panel.

The Panel was introduced to the Legislative History of Special Education. The Panel was asked to remember that...all students are general education students first...and special education is not a place or program, it is support and services for those who are eligible.

John discussed the appointments and terms of Panel members. The 51 percent majority of the members of the Panel must be individuals with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities. He also informed the Panel of the effective communication/coordination of efforts between the Panel and the Council for Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD).

Other areas discussed during the orientation were: Role of the State Special Education Director; Role of the Panel—Advisory versus Advocacy (not a panel role); conducting effective Panel meetings; setting annual priorities; and Annual Report to the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

John noted the “Hot Topics” in special education that could impact Advisory Panels. These include Leadership in Special Education; Individualized Education Program (IEP)/Individual Family Service Plan (IFSO); Dyslexia; Recruitment and Retention of Qualified Staff; Implementation Science; IDEA /Reauthorization; Mental Health; MTSS/RTI; and Disproportionality.

### **Friday, September 22, 2017**

The meeting was called together at 8:30 a.m. The Panel members and guests introduced themselves.

### **Election of Officers**

The following Panel members were elected:

Chairperson: Wendy Studt

Vice-Chairperson: Tammy Hogan

Secretary: Michelle Halberg

Wendy Studt became Chairperson when she was reappointed to the Panel. Wendy was the Vice-Chairperson.

### **Call for Public Comments**

The Call for Public Comments was issued. There were no public comments.

### **Special Education Division Report**

Frank Podobnik and Dick Trerise informed the new Panel members of their relationships with the Office of Public Instruction and the positions they have held within the OPI.

### **Revisit Orientation**

A question that came up regarding the Orientation was for the Panel to think about having the Orientation become a one-half day meeting. The Panel members that received the training previously felt there could be a shorter refresher training.

### **Division Structure**

Frank Podobnik informed the Panel members that there will be three replacements within the Special Education Division. Over the summer Erin Butts and Iris Ziegler returned to schools to again work with kids in school.

Susan Bailey-Anderson has struggled with health issues and made the decision to retire. Susan will be missed by the various programs she supervises. Annette Young has been filling in for Susan with the programs.

The Panel was reminded that monitoring is on a 5-Year cycle. Desk Audits will be used for monitoring.

#### Administrative Rule Revisions

The OPI will be looking at the criteria for identifying kids with disabilities. The rules need to be consistent. Visual impairment is an area to be reviewed.

There is concern that the criteria we have for Autism is confusing.

#### Additional Items

##### Meeting Dates

January 18-19, 2018

##### Agenda Items

List of Agreements with Other Agencies

APR—If new Targets

Elect Officers at May Meeting

(Better chance of having Quorum)

#### Adjourn

Heather Denny moved to adjourn the meeting; Josh Wigen seconded the motion and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.