

STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL MEETING MINUTES
January 18th & 19th, 2023

January 18, 2023

8:08am-Chairperson Marisa Britton-Bostwick called the meeting to order and led introductions

Members Present: Marisa Bostwick, Chad Berg, Ester Kirsch, Deva McNiven, Lindy Thomas, Theresa Baldry, Serena Wright, Sandy Cade, Rebekah Serrine, Kyla Rock, Mildred Armstrong, Jennifer Schoffer-Closson, Christa Gabriel, Vena Dagnell

OPI Members Present: JP Williams, Anne Rainey, Kelley Brown, Danni McCarthy, John Gorton

Guests Present: Lisa Fant, Michelle Weltman

Members Absent: Opal Besaw, Norah Barney, Stephanie Brunner, Cindy Galbavy, Angel Turoskie

We have a quorum

First Order of Business

Review and approve the proposed Agenda and changes – (Action Item)

Motion to approve: Theresa Baldry with correction of presenters

2nd Lindy Thomas

Motion approved

Review/Approve Minutes of October 13th & 14th, 2022 Meeting – (Action Item)

Motion to Approve: Lindy Thomas

2nd: Theresa Baldry

Motion Approved

Welcome: Call the Meeting to Order- Marisa Britton-Bostwick, Chairperson

Announcements

Directors Meeting – LEA 1% 2pm , January 25, 2023

Performance Plan

JP went over terms and when someone can become an officer.

Bylaws

Added links. Reviewed membership, decided not to lock in para member, but to stay with a parent who is a para. Ester is a para.

Let's wait until tomorrow to vote on Bylaws so everyone has a chance to look at them. Anne put the bylaws in the chat for members to grab and review. Give everyone until 8:50am to look at Bylaws and then vote on them.

Vote on Bylaws

Motion: Jennifer Schoffer-Closson

2nd: Chad Berg

Do we need 2/3, Chad said just of the members present.

Motion Approved

Overview of State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report – Anne Rainey

Anne responsible for submitting this report

Questions: No questions

Break-9:10-9:20

Anne continues – Indicator 1- Graduation rate

Looking at a graduation event.

Questions? How does this apply to HISEP? This is just for those who graduate from school. Not, corrections, or other modes of groups. Adult corrections have never been included. We can have a discussion offline about this. There is no reason why we cannot include the adult population.

Indicator 2- Dropout Rate- 7th-12th drop out rate- 14 -21.

Questions? None

Indicator 3 has four parts.

3A-Participation rates, 4, 8 and HS only

Baseline set at 2018.

3B – Proficiency rates, 4, 8 and HS Must be at or above to meet

3C-Alternate assessment

3D- Proficiency rate GAP

Any Questions?

Indicator 4A-rates of suspension and expulsion – rate of s/e >10 days

Indicator 4B- Significant Discrepancy by race/ ethnicity in the rate of s/e >10 days

Targets must be 0%- OSEP sets this

Questions: Is student being protected if they had long term absence. Does not have to be reported in report.

Difference between in school or out of school suspension. Believe they are looking at both.

Know number of districts showing N number

Feds are given all the data-we report all the raw data.

Indicator 5 – Education Environments-
No questions

Indicator 6 – Education Environments (ages 3 thru 5 and not in kindergarten)

A-in a regular early childhood program (i.e. Preschool, head start, daycare center) and receiving the majority of their services in that classroom (at or above to meet)

B. Student receives services in a separate special education class (i.e. special ed preschool, separate school (i.e. MSDB), or residential facility (i.e. Shodair).

New C. Student received services in the home.

Indicator 7 – Positive social-emotional skills

Two parts

1. Of the children who entered or exited the program below age expectations, the percent who substantially increased their rate of growth by the time they turned 6 or exited the program
2. The percent of children who were functioning within age expectations.

Questions? None

Indicator 8 – Parent involvement

Current Data

-Parents report via a survey whether they feel that the schools facilitated parent involvement

-Survey sent out by OPI each spring to the districts that will be monitored in the upcoming year

-Must be at or above to meet

What is the percentage of surveys returned? 9.4%. Usually between 11 and 14%. Ours is one of the highest returns in the country.

The OPI wants to look at creating an electronic option for the survey. The panel feels that would be a good option and will potentially help increase the response rate.

Indicator 10 – Disproportionate Representation-Race/Ethnicity in Specific Disability Categories

-Current Dat

-Data comes from Child Count and the Fall Enrollment Count

-Use a weighted risk ratio and minimum N

-Target must be 0%

Indicator 11 – 60 Day Timeline

-Current Data

-Number of students who had parental consent to do an initial evaluation, and had the assessments completed within 0 days from the date of that consent

-Data comes from our Monitoring system

-Target must be 100%

The numbers are in the other document Anne sent as well as a spreadsheet.

Indicator 12- C to B Transition

-Current Data

-Did children who were receiving services under IDEA Part C (birth through 2) that were referred by Part C to Part B have their initial evaluation determination and IEP written and implemented by their 3rd birthday?

-Data comes from Part C and the AIM system

-Target must be 100%

Indicator 13- Monitoring that took place 2021-2022 – Secondary Transition

-Current Data

-Youth with IEPs aged 16 and above who meet all the secondary transition requirements of IDEA

-Data comes from our Monitoring System

-Target must be 100%

Indicator 14 – Post School Outcomes

Current Data

3 Parts

-A: students who were enrolled in higher education within one year of leaving high school

-B: students who were in A or competitively employed within one year of leaving high school

-C: students who were in A or B or in some other postsecondary education or training program or in some other employment within one year of leaving high school

-Data comes from the post school survey

-Must be at or above to meet

The OPI proposed changing the data set from the AIM Enrollment End Status data (the best data available at the time of the creation of the survey) to the Special Education Exiting Data. This will match to the data sets used for Indicator 1 and 2. It is also the data that is reviewed and certified by special education staff within the LEAs.

They are also proposing to remove current questions 11 and 12 on the employment section of the survey. These questions ask about how much the student is making compared to other employees and if they are receiving benefits such as social security and medicare. These questions are leading to confusion on the part of the questioner and the respondent. The answers can also be inferred based on the answer to question 10 – where is the student working.

The panel had a robust discussion and ultimately agreed and voted to approve the OPI to move forward with the proposed changes.

Indicator 15: Resolution Sessions

Current year

Percent of hearing requests that went to resolution sessions that were resolve

Indicator 16: Mediation Agreements

Indicator 17: State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSI)

Current/ongoing year

States required to create a State Identified Measurable Result (SiMR)

Montana's is: Increase the high school completion rate for Native American students with disabilities

Multi-Phase report

-Phase I: Analysis reported February 2015

-Phase II:

-Phase III: Implementation and Evaluation reported February 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020, 2021, 2022

Target LEAs

-LEAs on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation

LETTER OF SUPPORT –

Motion on Marissa signing it – Millie Armstrong

2nd – Jennifer Schoffer Closson

Motion passed

JP found an article that Chad Berg wrote and shared it in the Chat

(<https://www.bozemansepta.org/files/Alternate-Achievement-Standards.pdf>)

Motion to adjourn

Motion made by Chad Berg

2nd - Theresa Baldry

Meeting adjourned at 12:31pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Montana DeafBlind Project publicly thanked JP for the invitation to present at the November, Monthly Special Education Directors call. The activity provided the opportunity to update school districts as to the annual reporting of DeafBlind students and led to additional identification of a student in a rural area

Serena Wright would like to see reporting of special education students who are also experiencing homelessness/unaccompanied youth and special education students who are also English Language Learners, thank you.

Michelle Weltman- Data collection

Jennifer's question-hiring mental health staff. Maybe addressed in work groups. Behavioral support.

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Call to Order: 8:08am
Introductions

Jennifer Schoffer Closson-Put Work Groups on the agenda.

Angel made the motion
Lindy 2nd

Motion passed

Theresa Baldry voted no or opposed as the change in the agenda did not provide notification to prepare a presentation

Work Group presentations at 9:30

Executive Updates – JP – a member may call in a little later

Special Education Updates

Staffing updates- Kristie Sears of AIM left and Kristen Snowden who worked with Tammy moved out of state.

June 19-23 Summer Institute in Bozeman, spearheaded by Tammy Lysons
February 22-24 MCEC in Billings

Lisa Fant – She is a co-teacher in the regular education classroom where she helps students in English, Biology and Math. She has worked hard to make changes where the students do not know which students are Sped. This has been a positive environment. She works at Flathead High School

Monitoring & Compliance Updates – John Gorton

The monitors provide a blended approach both onsite and virtual 2023-2024 school year. Pre-monitoring trainings will be provided

Break-9:15-9:30

Work Group Discussions

Recruitment and Retention Group – Jennifer Schoffer-Closson reported Norah Barney reported as well

Mental Health – Christa Gabriel reported – If there is someone in the schools who could join this group that would be very helpful

Training Programs for providers for Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blindness – Theresa Baldry reported- felt it important to change the name to Deaf, hard of hearing, visually impaired and deaf-blindness

Deputy Superintendent Sharyl Allen

Ester would like to be on the Recruitment and Retention and Mental Health groups.
Lisa Fant would like to be in both groups as well.

Rebekah Serrine is on the Mental Health group and would like to be part of the Deaf, hard of hearing, visually impaired and deaf-blindness group.

Question asked if we could tour the prison. JP suggested that those who are interested could tour outside of a meeting time.

Jennifer Schoffer Closson mentioned that the March dates for the next meeting are during her spring break. She said it would be nice to tour the new Shodair building. JP will see if we can tour the building. Jennifer suggested at around 3:00.

May meeting is the 10th and 11th.
March dates are March 23rd and 24th

OSEP Monitoring update – They will come here to monitor. They would like to meet with the Advisory Panel

JP will see if we can have a Zoom option at other meetings

Marisa asked if anyone had anything for the March meeting. Danni said the Application Allocations and budget.

Kelley will send Renewal Unit form to those who email her.

Alternate Assessment work LEA Assurance Form – John Gorton

Work through break

Next agenda- items

Motion to adjourn the meeting

Jennifer made the motion

Rebekah 2nd it

Meeting adjourned at 10:46am.