

Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) Meeting

Montgomery, Alabama – Auburn Montgomery Library

MINUTES:

January 30, 2018

9:30 am- 2:30 pm

Panel Members in attendance: 15

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|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Jeana Winter- Chairperson | Todd Tomerlin-Vice Chairperson | Gwendolyn Brown |
| James Williams | Karen Jenkins | LaDonna Rudolph |
| Dustin Chandler | Amy Blakeney | Rosie Edwards (by proxy) |
| Jewell C. Pitts | Graham L. Sisson, Jr. | |
| Amy Williamson | Lori Skidmore | |
| Corrie Merchant | Pamela Fossett | |

Panel Members attending via webcast: 00

Panel Members NOT in attendance: 05

Individuals from the general public: 16

Invited guests: 00

Participating by webcast: 05

ALSDE staff: 06

Interpreters: 04

Call to Order- Jeana Winter, SEAP Chairperson

- Welcome to panel and the public; Ask everyone to sign in; If you wish to make a public comment please be sure to sign in at the registration table; Also want to welcome everyone participating by WebEx and ask that they also be sure to register online to make a public comment; Interpreters are available. Let us know if you require interpretation.
- Roll Call- Quorum established.
- Review of October 18, 2017, SEAP minutes; Motion to accept the October 18, 2017, minutes made, seconded, and passed without objection.
- Restrooms are available in the side hall.
- All panel members should have received an email with links to the disproportionality webinars; Review of the webinars will assist us in providing public comment to the Department of Education on proposed disproportionality revisions. Special Education Services (SES) will review our input through the Systemic State Improvement Plan (SSIP) meeting; The SSIP meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 13, 2018, however because many you may have scheduling conflicts SES will be looking at possible alternate dates and will get back to us when a specific date has been set.
- Ask that all panel members check in with me to confirm his/her preferred contact information.
- Be sure to check in with the registration table to verify travel expenses.

Public Comments- Please review the format and process for submitting public comment. We ask that comments be limited to three minutes and also summarized in written form.

Comment 1:

An advocate for people with disabilities- Invitation extended to everyone to attend the People First National Conference June 7-9, 2018, in Birmingham. This conference is a first for Alabama and will spotlight self-advocacy for people with disabilities. We would like for SEAP to help us get information out about this national conference. We would also like for SES to find a way to make public notice of SEAP meetings easier for the general public to locate on the ALSDE website.

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Comment 2:

Special Education Coordinator- Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of mine and several other smaller districts in the state. We need support for preschool programs. We do not have the full funding to meet IDEA requirements and need additional support from the Department of Early Childhood Programs. Please give sincere thought to funding that will be in *Senate Bill 165* and what can be done to support preschool services and initiatives.

SEAP Chairperson: Public comment time remains open if anyone wishes to use it during the remaining time; Unless further public comment is needed, we will have the committees report.

Committee Reports-

Bylaws- Graham Sisson, Jr.

We amended bylaws a year ago and we have no additional information to report. Please let me know if you have any questions or comments about the Bylaws.

Membership- Jeana Winter

We have been very active looking at membership over last several months; Continuing to recruit in needed membership areas; Want to ensure diversity and move away from dual area membership; We must add at least 04 standing positions and need 08 more parents of students with disabilities or individuals with disabilities; Also would like to see representation from the southern region of the state; Have established a formal online application process and hope to make the application form fillable online; Targeted recruitment continues; As of end of December inactive members have been removed or resigned; 20 members are active on the panel; 07 are parents of children with disabilities; 02 are individuals with disabilities; none are teachers; 01 higher education; 01 state or local official; 01 administrator of programs for people with disabilities; 01 representatives of other state agencies; 00 representatives of private schools; none are charter school representatives; none are vocational programs; 01 representative of community business that works with transition services.

Public Relations-Dustin Chandler

Will focus on getting the word out about SEAP; the panel needs to take it upon themselves to get out information about SEAP; Commend the efforts of membership committee finding out who we are and what we need

Comment & Input- As a panel

We now have a *Written Input* form and want to work with subcommittees so we can rubric and track trends and respond to data in real time.

Priority Committee Reports-

Leadership- Corrie Merchant

ESSA plan was priority; At January 4 meeting and we put information together using a Chief School State Officers template that identifies area of need and combined that with US Department of Education identified weaknesses; Copy is available for review.

Also looking at local Board of Education professional development and have reached out to Alabama School Board Association; There are no required modules for local boards to use for training; We have asked to review current modules being used; Have asked to be consulted with as new modules are being developed or used and want to know how money earmarked for training will be used.

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Mental Health- Jewell C. Pitts

Have followed up with DHR about school based mental health collaboration questions and are reviewing and revising list of Mental Health Collaboration school sites.

Preschool- Lisa Dorman

Unavailable to report because of jury duty.

Transition- Gwendolyn Brown

No report; Excited about the upcoming People First Convention; Seeing many successes taking place around the state; State Interagency Transition Team will meet February 28, 2018 in Birmingham; On April 10-11, 2018, there will be a Transition Conference at the Pelham Civic Center; On March 2, 2018 there will be a Transition Hot Topics conference at the Trussville Civic Center.

Using Rubrics- SEAP Chairperson

How will we work and coordinate together? You have received a draft form from me for us to use consistently working together. It uses a logic model to help us build better outcomes. We will need to use data we collect to back up our conversations and assumptions. Use these data rubrics to bring subcommittee information to the panel. I challenge you to use the data rubric to help us work together. This will provide distinct informational flow for Panel to consider and base recommendations. As you are working within your committees identify what areas of need you have for training and additional information resources. Please be cognizant about emails and keeping them concise. Please make sure that if subject changes to change the email subject line.

Break for Lunch

Announcements- Todd Tomerlin is willing to compile information for monthly newsletter that will be distributed internally to review status of current action items; Susan Williamson has provided APR data and will provide us with an overview of the APR data.

Other Information & Updates

Inclusion Week Proclamation- Nancy Anderson, Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program Associate Director-

A copy of the proclamation was presented and is a great testament to power of people working together; What will we do this year? It is not too early to start planning for December 2018 and to consider how SEAP may embrace inclusive school's week; Let's grow this.

ESSA Update- Nancy Anderson-

State ESSA workgroup met on January 4, 2018, to respond to clarification request from the federal government; Goal in responding to the questions from the federal government was to get the present ESSA plan accepted and then amend and incorporate needed improvements; Starting in March amendments will be offered to the ESSA plan; In reading through the ESSA plan and looking at the questions asked there were not a lot of questions strongly focusing on students with disabilities; This results in the state answers not addressing students with disabilities to same extent as other subgroups; What can we do to help the children with disabilities who come out on lowest line of the evaluation metrics?

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State Assessment Workgroup Nancy Anderson-

Attended a two day meeting about how an RFP would be created to bid on the new state assessment system; Next meeting is February 12, 2018, to make decisions about the new assessment system and how it will mesh with content standards and provide for accessibility and accommodation; This new assessment is not related to the current alternate assessment which was created under a separate bid;

Susan Williamson- Education Administrator, Special Education Services

Review of the Annual Performance Review (APR) data and how it can be used as a key piece of data for the SEAP Committees; The State Student Improvement Plan (SSIP) initiatives are resultant from the APR data; A great resource for understanding how to use data for improvement is *Trying Hard is Not Good Enough* by Mark Freedman; The panel engaged in a discussion and Q & A about the recent APR data.

Subcommittee Working Session-

SEAP Chairperson: Let's use the remaining time to give the Priority Committees the opportunity to break into working groups; If you have a question please ask; Begin the conversation and developing an action plan; How you are going to meet in the future and what resources will your committee need to move forward?

Final Comments & Wrap Up- Todd Tomerlin, Vice Chairperson

Thank you to the panel; Be safe heading home; If you need to wrap up your Priority Committee planning you are welcome to stay after adjournment.

Adjournment

Next SEAP Panel Meeting Date & Location- April 18, 2018. Location to be Determined.