

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL MINUTES**  
**UNIVERSITY OF MONTEVALLO**  
**Wills Hall Station**  
**Montevallo, AL 35115**  
**9 a.m. – Noon**  
**August 20, 2025**

**IN-PERSON**

Mercy Pilkington, LaDonna Rudolph, Katie Stuart

**ZOOM**

Jennifer Blakely, Valencia Curry, Wanda Dial, Jason Fisher, Shanquail Horton, Jean Marzullo, Kate Simmons, Danielle Sylvester, Richard Templeton, Shenika Weatherly, Tranesia Williams, Rebecca Zanotti

**NOT PRESENT**

Kameron Carden, LeAnna Feely, Tasha Harrison-Betts, Evandra Jackson, Lane Lamb, Holly Knott, Carin Mayo, Ashley McLeroy, Tiffany Moore, Jessica Pelt, Hank Poore, Kathy Poore, Lisa Powell, Shana Smith

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Alabama State Department of Education, ALSDE, Special Education Services (SES) Section Special Education Advisory Panel (Panel) representatives – DaLee Chambers, Latasha Kendrick, Michelle Zeigler, Brian Dunn, Stephanie Bear

Latasha Kendrick called the meeting to order on behalf of Chair, Carin Mayo. LaDonna Rudolph moved to approve the meeting minutes from April 9, 2025; Mercy Pilkington seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Latasha Kendrick conducted roll call.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES PRESCHOOL PRESENTATION:**

Stephanie Bear, ALSDE, SES Preschool Specialist, presented on Preschool Indicators 6, 7, and 12:

- Indicator 6 Preschool Environments
- Indicator 7 Preschool Outcomes
- Indicator 12 Early Childhood Transition

**FEDERAL PROGRAMS PRESENTATION:**

LaDonna Rudolph, ALSDE, Federal Programs Homeless Coordinator, presented on *McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act*:

- The role of the local liaison
- Student eligibility
- School selection
- Enrollment
- Transportation
- Dispute resolution

**BREAK**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment received

### **ALSDE, SES DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Dr. DaLee Chambers, ALSDE, SES Program Director, provided an overview/update on the following:

- State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) 2025 Feedback
  - Participation and Proficiency
  - Regular Statewide Assessments
  - Reading and Math
  - 4th and 8th grades
  - National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP)
  - Indicator 10: Disproportionate representation of racial and ethnic groups in specific disability categories due to inappropriate identification
  - Longstanding noncompliance
  - Percentage of 4th grade children with disabilities scoring at basic or above on the NAEP
  - Percentage of children with disabilities who graduated with a regular high school diploma & percentage of children with disabilities who dropped out

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **MEMBERSHIP (Committee Chair: OPEN)**

- Latasha Kendrick asked the panel to consider becoming the chair of the Membership Committee
- Panel members were provided with the application of a potential new member to review in advance
- The panel voted unanimously to recommend the new member to Dr. Mackey for appointment
- Current vacancies: Representative of Charter Schools; parents or individuals with disabilities

#### **BYLAWS (Committee Chair: Wanda Dial)**

- A meeting will be scheduled toward the end of September

#### **STAKEHOLDER AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT (Committee Chair: Katie Stuart)**

- A meeting will be scheduled soon

#### **OLD BUSINESS: (Latasha Kendrick presented on behalf of Chair, Carin Mayo)**

- No old business to discuss

#### **NEW BUSINESS: (Latasha Kendrick presented on behalf of Chair, Carin Mayo)**

- No new business to discuss

#### **PANEL MEMBER or STAKEHOLDER NEWS (Latasha Kendrick)**

- September 16-17, 2025: 2025 AT Alabama Conference in Birmingham, AL
- October 27-29, 2025: Early Intervention & Preschool Conference in Mobile, AL
- November 14, 2025: Central Alabama's 10<sup>th</sup> "Unlocking the Mystery of Developmental Disorders" Conference in Birmingham, AL

#### **ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM THE PANEL:**

No additional questions or comments

The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 AM

#### **NEXT MEETING:**

December 17, 2025

Location: Virtual