

SUMMARY
June 9, 2016 Meeting
Indiana State Advisory Council (SAC)
on the Education of Children with Disabilities
Central Indiana Education Service Center
Indianapolis, IN

<u>Council Members:</u>	<u>Present</u> <u>(Yes/No)</u>
Tiffany Ball , parent representative	N
Sirilla Blackmon , Division of Mental Health & Addiction, FSSA	N
Rich Burden , Council Chair, IN*SOURCE and parent representative	Y
Michael Dalrymple , Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired	N
Kim Dodson , ARC of Indiana	Y
Gina Fleming , Archdiocese of Indianapolis	N
Melaina Gant , Department of Child Services	Y
Carol Guess , parent representative	N
James Hammond III , Indiana Assoc of Rehabilitation Facilities/INARF	N
Kylee Hope , Division of Disability & Rehabilitation Services, FSSA	N
Jan Huffman , parent representative	N
Latha Joseph , Indianapolis Public Schools	Y
Lisa Kovacs , Hands & Voices International and parent representative	Y
Jodi Logman , community representative	N
John Nally , Indiana Department of Corrections	Y
Danny O'Neill , parent representative	Y
Shirley Payne , Indiana State Department of Health	Y
Patty Reed , About Special Kids and parent representative	Y
Dr. Sharon Johnson-Shirley , Lake Ridge Schools	Y
Kristi Tesmer , parent representative	Y
Dr. George Van Horn , Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation	N
Lucy Witte , Indiana School for the Deaf Board	Y
Dr. Pam Wright , Indiana Department of Education	Y

Also Present:

Veronique Beuoy, Becky Reed, Kristan Sievers-Coffer and Tracy Brunner, IDOE
Mary Dant, Department of Child Services
Christine Moody, Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education

Call to Order

Chair Rich Burden called the meeting to order at 9:34 a. m. Thirteen of twenty-three members were present.

Action Items

K. Tesmer moved and K. Dodson seconded to approve the summary of the March meeting. The motion passed.

Information Items

1. Council Member Reports

SAC Legislative Committee Update: Committee Chair Kim Dodson referred to the legislation summary included with the meeting materials and highlighted details of bills of interest to the Council, noting items assigned for legislative study committee review this summer. She gave a brief update regarding the state

work group reviewing alternatives to Indiana’s standardized assessment known as “ISTEP” and advised members that she will forward additional information as that becomes available.

Department of Corrections (DOC) Report on Schools and Juvenile Justice: The Council’s DOC Representative John Nally and his colleague Dr. Susan Lockwood presented information on their joint Indiana-focused research and recent publications on the phenomenon occurring throughout the U.S. that’s commonly referred to as the “school to prison pipeline.” Describing some of her experiences while collecting public testimony for the Educational Outcomes Task Force of the Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana, www.in.gov/children, Dr. Lockwood summarized the Task Force’s findings to date, noting concerns about increasing numbers of students involved with the State’s correctional system. She discussed the Task Force’s objectives to address student truancy, transition from incarceration back to the community, failure of returning students to re-enroll in school, and identified disconnects in cross-agency collaboration to track this population and include related data in such K-12 education accountability metrics as graduation rates and standardized test score outcomes.

Noting the rising number of students ages 18-24 without high school diplomas who are enrolled in adult basic education and the data indicating that approximately half of students in DOC facilities qualify for Special Education, Dr. Lockwood and John Nally described efforts currently under way in some locales to improve interagency work with local courts and other community partners to help keep such students in schools and reduce offender recidivism by providing culturally competent instruction and facilitating smooth transitions to adulthood with appropriate supports to increase the students’ chances for success. Council DCS Representative Melaina Gant contributed details on the Department of Child Services’ involvement in the work of the Task Force, including efforts to identify and implement system-wide coordination among such entities as the state Workforce Development agency as well as local juvenile justice, community mental health and educational systems. The speakers took questions on this topic and responded to council member’s comments about their experiences with differing school policies and approaches for educating and engaging parents regarding absenteeism, truancy and other issues identified via root cause analysis for school-to-prison pipeline trends in Indiana and nationwide. Additional discussion followed regarding various state agency data collections, meaningful use thereof, and barriers to cross-agency data sharing for program coordination and analysis purposes.

Dr. Lockwood concluded by assuring the council that various subcommittees and work groups of the Governor’s Commission are aware of the systemic challenges involved in addressing this pervasive concern and are focused on studying how best to address these. She explained that the goal is to put coordinated systems in place to meet students’ needs, regardless with what systems they are involved, and thereby ensure access to needed services and programs to support them in finishing their education and moving on to viable employment.

2. DOE Updates

Dr. Pam Wright spoke briefly about state agency involvement in Special Education compliance monitoring, pointing out the federal government’s changing focus, which emphasizes educational outcome results in addition to compliance with federal requirements. She then introduced the state staff presenting updates.

State Systemic Improvement Plan: Becky Reed, IDOE Special Education Specialist, presented slides and a brief update on the “SSIP,” a federal initiative involving identification and implementation of action steps to address a state-specific area of focus in Special Education monitoring. Becky reminded the council that Indiana has chosen to focus on improving reading outcomes for K-3rd grade students with disabilities. Becky gave a brief summary of Phase I, II and III implementation activities involving stakeholder input and collaboration with the IDOE “State Development Network’s” targeted efforts to improve educational outcomes for all students by providing concentrated technical assistance to failing schools. Becky responded

to member's questions and comments; and she advised them to watch for additional information that she will email to the entire State Advisory Council. Pam Wright noted and council members concurred that the success of Special Education in local educational agency ("LEA") settings relies heavily on strong quality instructional practices and supports with standards-based curriculum in General Education. Becky concluded her presentation by pointing out DOE's emphasis on helping LEAs understand the vital importance of implementation with fidelity, including training, coaching, and continual measurement/evaluation/feedback on use of evidence-based best practices.

Significant Disproportionality: Kristan Sievers-Coffer, IDOE Special Education Specialist and Veronique Beuoy, IDOE Special Education Complaint Investigator, shared written descriptions of federal requirements for monitoring LEA practices to identify students with disabilities and how local identification and discipline practices can have disproportionate impact on a variety of specific, targeted groups identified on the basis of ethnicity, disability, gender, etc. They discussed the LEA financial penalties associated with findings of significant disproportionality and the current rulemaking initiative to revise federal requirements on this. After discussion about the purpose and intention of the rule and how Indiana's targets for this compliance indicator compare with those of other states, the two discussed plans for related state technical assistance. Kristan and Veronique then responded to comments and questions.

ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act): To update the council on ESSA implementation, Dr. Pam Wright announced that the federal government's proposed regulations to implement the Every Student Succeeds Act were just issued and states are now providing formal comments on these proposed rules. She briefly summarized major provisions of the ESSA impacting instruction, assessment and multi-tiered systems of support for students. She also shared highlights of a recent letter to State Education Agency administrators issued by the U.S. DOE Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), which elaborates on expectations for special education under ESSA and examples of how the federal government intends for states and LEAs to address those. General discussion followed in which Pam fielded SAC members' questions.

Certificate of Completion Work Group: Pam Wright presented slides containing information about this collaborative effort with other state agencies to develop a meaningful certificate for students with disabilities to earn, through completion of required coursework, which will demonstrate their readiness for post-secondary employment. Pam explained that the work group's recommendations will be presented for review by the State Board of Education and that, thus far, reactions from school personnel have been positive. Council members expressed their hopes that this will soon be implemented, along with widespread training for schools, parents and employers.

Discussion Items

Due to time constraints and having held related discussion in response to Information Items presented earlier in the meeting, the Council did not hold further discussion under the standing agenda item for discussion regarding its statutory responsibilities under IC 20-35-3-1.

At the Chair's request, members engaged in discussion about establishing the meeting schedule for the next 18 months. By general consensus, members agreed to meet on the second Fridays of March, June, September and November, 2017. These dates will be posted online at the IDOE Office of Special Education's State Advisory Council web page at <http://www.doe.in.gov/specialed/state-advisory-council>.

Public Comments

Other than requesting, and obtaining, permission to ask questions during presentations of Information Items earlier in the meeting, guests at the meeting did not offer public comments under this agenda item.

Next SAC Meeting Date

The Chair noted that the Council's next meeting is scheduled to occur on September 8, 2016.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:13 p.m.