

Indiana State Advisory Council
on the Education of Children with Disabilities (SAC)

PENDING APPROVAL

August 13, 2010

H. Dean Evans Community and Education Center
8550 Woodfield Crossing Blvd.
Indianapolis, IN, 46240

Advisory council members present:

Rich Burden, Director, IN*SOURCE
Dr. Dawn Downer, Director, First Steps
Christina Endres, McKinney-Vento State Coordinator, Indiana Department of Education (IDOE)
Dr. Karol Farrell, SAC Chairperson, Director of Special Education, MSD of Washington Twp.
Jan Huffman, Attorney-at-Law, Office of the Attorney General
Becky Kirby, Executive Director, About Special Kids (ASK)
Lisa Kovacs, Program Coordinator, Guide by Your Side
Kathy Mears, Assistant Superintendent, Archdiocese of Indianapolis
John Nally, Director, Indiana Department of Correction
Dr. Jane Swiss, Dean, University of St. Francis School of Professional Studies
Kristi Tesmer, Parent Representative

Advisory council members not present:

Shirley Amond
Dr. David Geeslin
James Hammond
Cathlene Hardy Hansen
Julie Havill
Bessie Henson
Marcia Johnson
Becky Kirk
Dr. J. Bret Lewis
Jenny Ridao
Thelma Wyatt

IDOE Personnel Present:

Ryan Brown, Office of Special Education
Anne Davis, Director, Office of Special Education

Meeting:

Welcome:

K. Farrell called the meeting to order at 9:10:04 a.m. and called for present Council members to introduce themselves.

Announcements:

K. Farrell called for announcements from the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) and introduced A. Davis, Director of Special Education from the IDOE.

A. Davis said she presented to the State Advisory Council (SAC) at the May 7, 2010 meeting on the Indiana Resource Network (IRN) and was happy to be back before the Council.

A. Davis said she had 18 years of experience in educational positions from the teacher to building to state level and is looking forward to serving all students in her capacity as Director of Special Education.

K. Farrell asked if the Council had any questions for A. Davis, none were presented.

A. Davis said Michael Craciunoiu, an educational specialist from the IDOE, accepted a position as project director with the Special Olympics of Indiana. She said the IDOE is hiring an education specialist to fill the vacancy and is currently accepting applications.

R. Burden asked how many individuals were employed by the IDOE in the Office of Special Education.

A. Davis explained that there are two position vacancies but a new employee starts on August 23, 2010.

Approval of May 7, 2010 SAC Minutes:

K. Farrell asked the Council to accept the minutes from the May 7, 2010 meeting of the SAC.

J. Nally said that the Council requested LRE data and drop-out data during the May 7, 2010 meeting. A. Davis said the IDOE would e-mail the data to the Council members.

K. Tesmer said the materials e-mailed to SAC members should be sent in protected document format (PDF) as well as regular form so all individuals may view the materials.

ACTION:

K. Farrell called the Council to vote on the minutes. Motion proposed by J. Nally, seconded by K. Mears. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the Recommendations from the By-Laws Committee:

K. Farrell introduced M. Tusing as an advisor to the Council on the adoption of by-laws. She said M. Tusing would lead the Council's discussion on the proposed by-laws.

M. Tusing introduced himself and explained his qualifications to serve the Council in an advisory capacity.

M. Tusing said that three-fourths of the proposed by-laws mimic what is previously established by Indiana statute.

M. Tusing said SAC membership responsibilities, as explained in the proposed by-laws, are established in State statute.

J. Nally asked if member responsibilities and influence extend to charter schools.

C. Endres said in Indiana, local educational agencies (LEAs) include both school corporations and charter schools.

M. Tusing said the more guidance the Council gives fulfills its statutory obligation. As long as the group is providing policy guidance regarding special education, the SAC can also advise the IDOE about charter schools.

K. Tesmer said it did not make sense to leave the section on comprehensive plans in the by-laws because the corresponding requirement was removed from Article 7.

J. Huffman said the Council should advise the IDOE and the state legislature to remove the requirement of comprehensive plan reviews from the statute that establishes the SAC.

M. Tusing said the Council could possibly suggest the comprehensive plan review removal be included in the next legislative package from the IDOE.

M. Tusing said that utilizing the appointment of a vice-chairperson was decided by the by-laws subcommittee. The vice-chairperson serves as chairperson for the Council in the event the chairperson is not present. The vice-chairperson may also serve as chairperson if one has not been appointed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

M. Tusing said the Council requires a majority of members appointed to the SAC in order to decide action, which would consist of nine (9) of seventeen (17) SAC members.

M. Tusing said meeting at least four (4) times a year is a statutory requirement and is therefore required by the proposed by-laws.

M. Tusing stated that, at the time of the meeting, the SAC can vote to accept the by-laws as written or vote to accept the by-laws as amended.

J. Huffman said the concerns and issues of the by-laws as discussed by the SAC should be e-mailed to the SAC members.

L. Kovacs asked if the IDOE tracks data on parent questions and concerns and if any particular issues could be identified.

A. Davis said the IDOE and INSOURCE tracks the data and release information gathered in a frequently-asked questions document.

K. Farrell said the IDOE usually can provide such information to the SAC. L. Kovacs said it would be a good idea for the SAC to continue reviewing the data.

K. Tesmer said that the proposed by-laws should include the references to other documents, such as Article 7 and the statute establishing the SAC, in the proposed by-laws.

K. Mears asked if SAC members could remotely participate in Council meetings. M. Tusing said that nine (9) members are required to be present in order for the Council to take action.

K. Mears asked if SAC subcommittees could meet remotely. M. Tusing confirmed that subcommittees are not required to take action, so meetings could take place remotely.

L. Kovacs asked how members remotely participating would be counted for attendance purposes. M. Tusing said they would be marked present but could not be counted for voting purposes.

J. Nally said that requirements regarding remote participation be added to the by-laws.

K. Farrell said in summation the Council suggested two revisions to the by-laws.

M. Tusing said the Council could vote to accept the minutes as amended and at the next meeting vote to approve the content as written.

ACTION:

K. Farrell asked for a motion to approve the by-laws as amended. J. Swiss so moved, J. Nally seconded. Motion unanimously carried.

State Performance Plan (SPP) Improvement Activities Update:

A. Davis said the SPP is updated every February by the IDOE with input from the SAC.

A. Davis said that in the May 7, 2010 meeting of the SAC, she introduced the Council to the Indiana Resource Network (IRN) resource centers and the multi-level tiered support the IRN will provide.

A. Davis said each LEA selected for technical assistance (TA) and professional development (PD) based on data scores has been notified by the IDOE.

A. Davis said selected districts are developing action plans in coordination with the resource centers. She said that action plans are very varied. A. Davis said one resource center may be working with three different LEAs and the action plans developed could focus on completely different outcomes.

A. Davis said the selected districts will have action plans completed by the November 5, 2010 meeting of the SAC and she would update the Council on the plans on that date.

A. Davis said that the IRN would develop and deploy online resources for the universal support of any LEA, SEA or entity to access the resources. She said the IRN would look at how to make the information readily accessible to the public.

K. Farrell asked the Council if they had any questions regarding the SPP or IRN.

L. Kovacs asked if resources developed by the IRN would be beneficial to parents of students with disabilities. A Davis said that the universal supports will be available to the public via a universal learning community and developing further parent resources was worth considering.

K. Farrell asked for additional questions. None were presented.

Electronic Individualized Education Program (IEP) Vendor Selection Process:

A. Davis said vendors have been notified as to the results of the IEP vendor selection process but the general public was not yet aware of the decision. She said Public Consulting Group (PCG) was the selected vendor to develop the electronic IEP.

A. Davis said PCG has extensive experience creating and supporting electronic IEPs. She said the group was selected by a panel that reviewed proposals for the project. The panel consisted of directors of special education, information technology specialists, special education teachers, IDOE employees and members of the Effective Evaluations resource center.

A. Davis said the panel geographically represented the entire State.

J. Huffman asked where the vendor would be located.

A. Davis said PCG has offices all over the nation, but there would be a team setup in Indianapolis to support Indiana's electronic IEP.

L. Kovacs asked what the timeline would be for implementing the electronic IEP.

A. Davis said the program had to be in place by May, 2011. She said the IDOE is going to accept and create pilot sites in mid-spring. A. Davis said the pilot sites will be identifying program glitches so the glitches may be corrected before statewide rollout.

A. Davis said that ISTART7 IEPs would be rolled over into the new program.

K. Tesmer asked if funding would be available from the IDOE to pay for summer training for the individuals using the program that are not on contract during the summer. A. Davis said the resource

centers would provide funding for the training, but the LEA would have to work with teachers to get individuals to the training.

J. Huffman asked for the reasons spurning Indiana to establish a new electronic IEP.

A. Davis said the program would be the replacement for ISTART7 and would be more reliable. She said the request for proposal requirements were very detailed and contained all the functionalities of ISTART7. High scoring vendors were required to provide evidence supporting the assertion that the services could be provided.

J. Swiss said institutions that train teachers, such as universities, might be interested in using the program as teacher preparation and training.

L. Kovacs said the most difficult section of ISTART7 to use was the progress monitoring tool. She said the utilization of the tool was difficult but it provided quality data.

L. Kovacs said that progress monitoring tools are accessed on a frequency consistent with the user's comfort in the program. She said training on using the new electronic IEP for instructional progress monitoring would be useful.

A. Davis said the Effective IEP resource center staff would be training individuals on using the program for both clerical and educational purposes.

L. Kovacs said she worked with the IDOE to develop a communication plan for Deaf or Hard of Hearing students and asked if the functionalities of the plan could be built into the new system.

R. Burden said projecting IEP images up onto a screen is important to families. He said having the IEP on a screen allows the Case Conference Committee (CCC) to make changes in real-time that everyone can see.

R. Burden said that an electronic IEP helps parents understand that the CCC is a critical juncture. He said using the electronic IEP give parents an understanding of how the CCC will operate and makes the development of the IEP easy to follow.

J. Nally said that the Department of Correction (DOC) has used three different electronic IEPs over the past several years. He said that migrations into new electronic IEP systems get much easier for districts over time.

D. Downer said the IDOE should possibly use FFY 2010 (SY 10-11), while the electronic IEP is being developed, to train LEAs on the best practices that will be available in the new system.

A. Davis said required data collections can be taken directly from the IEP in the electronic IEP system as live data to eliminate reporting burden.

L. Kovacs said that INSOURCE and About Special Kids (ASK) should also be trained together on the electronic IEP because they are often present to help parents. A. Davis said the training should be possible.

R. Burden said the IDOE should also post training on the web and share the information with stakeholders.

Establishment of Subcommittee on SAC Communication:

R. Brown asked that the SAC form a subcommittee on improving SAC communication. L. Kovacs, K. Mears and J. Nally agreed to join the subcommittee. L. Kovacs shall be chairperson of the subcommittee.

Establishment of Subcommittee on Local Determinations:

R. Brown said the IDOE was required to make Local Determinations in the near future. He asked the SAC form a subcommittee on Local Determinations to help develop the process. He also asked the Council meet in mid September to help the IDOE finalize the process. R. Burden, D. Downer, K. Farrell and K. Tesmer agreed to join the subcommittee.

The Council established September 17, 2010 as the date for the SAC meeting to discuss Local Determinations. The meeting will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. at the IDOE.

Comments from the Public:

No comments were presented.

K. Farrell asked if there were any additional issues or concerns from Council members.

J. Huffman stated that funding is at a critical point for special education in the LEAs.

K. Tesmer said there are severe budgetary issues in education that, as a parent, she sees primarily affecting special education. She said that districts are stretching special education teachers to fill in, especially in rural areas.

D. Downer said that as a parent of a general education student, she is aware that funding is now a hardship for all districts. She said with the state in financial crisis, the public needs to be aware and ready to do more to get children what is needed.

D. Downer said the Council was a body that could look at data to examine how funding cuts impact special education students.

K. Tesmer said that many parents do not have the background or means to advocate for their children and the students of such parents suffer from funding cuts.

R. Burden said it is the responsibility of the CCC to examine if diluted or reduced services are not meeting the educational needs of the child.

D. Downer said that as a society, communitywide advocacy is no longer present. She said having strong community leaders to advocate for everyone's kids could help influence LEAs.

Adjournment:

ACTION:

K. Farrell asked that the Council move for adjournment. J. Swiss made said motion, K. Mears seconded. The meeting adjourned at 10:49:31 a.m.

Breakdown of LRE by Setting			
LRE Category	Indiana FFY 2008 (SY 08-09)		United States FFY 2008 (SY 08-09)
Inside from regular class 80% or more of the day (5A)	100,295	63.77%	59.7%
Removed from regular class less than 40% of the day (5B)	20,357	12.94%	13.2%
Inside separate schools, residential facilities or homebound/hospital placements (5C)	3,813	2.42%	3.3%
LRE Category	Indiana FFY 2007 (SY 07-08)		United States FFY 2007 (SY 07-08)
Inside from regular class 80% or more of the day (5A)	100,206	62.81%	59.19%
Removed from regular class less than 40% of the day (5B)	20,830	13.06%	13.65%
Inside separate schools, residential facilities or homebound/hospital placements (5C)	3,990	2.50%	3.29%
LRE Category	Indiana FFY 2006 (SY 06-07)		United States FFY 2006 (SY 06-07)
Inside from regular class 80% or more of the day (5A)	98,870	62.29%	57.77%
Removed from regular class less than 40% of the day (5B)	21,196	13.35%	13.58%
Inside separate schools, residential facilities or homebound/hospital placements (5C)	3,310	2.09%	3.74%

Year	State	Exit Code	Age 14	Age 15	Age 16	Age 17	Age18	Age 19
2004	Indiana	Died	0	16	24	0	0	0
2005	Indiana	Died	0	0	0	10	11	0
2006	Indiana	Died			19	13	6	5
2007	Indiana	Died	14	0	17	11	7	0
2004	Indiana	Dropped out	540	881	1,279	1,395	786	243
2005	Indiana	Dropped out	186	533	1,080	1,130	672	195
2006	Indiana	Dropped out	140	348	611	982	614	175
2007	Indiana	Dropped out	105	248	583	1,097	669	198
2004	Indiana	Graduated with regular high school diploma			27	1,216	2,400	608
2005	Indiana	Graduated with regular high school diploma				1,417	2,685	519
2006	Indiana	Graduated with regular high school diploma				1,542	2,724	625
2007	Indiana	Graduated with regular high school diploma				1,741	2,993	635
2004	Indiana	Moved, known to be continuing	1,189	1,218	947	644	222	68
2005	Indiana	Moved, known to be continuing	1,514	1,509	1,453	932	351	126
2006	Indiana	Moved, known to be continuing	1,567	1,605	1,474	1,052	459	111
2007	Indiana	Moved, known to be continuing	1,685	1,720	1,716	1,215	447	96
2004	Indiana	Reached maximum age						
2005	Indiana	Reached maximum age						
2006	Indiana	Reached maximum age						
2007	Indiana	Reached maximum age						
2004	Indiana	Received a certificate				202	454	x
2005	Indiana	Received a certificate			13	275	556	221
2006	Indiana	Received a certificate				215	484	202
2007	Indiana	Received a certificate				283	602	234
2004	Indiana	Total exiting school	550	899	1,347	2,825	3,644	1,048
2005	Indiana	Total exiting school	2,076	2,321	2,819	3,965	4,368	1,084
2006	Indiana	Total exiting school	2,030	2,218	2,382	3,974	4,353	1,139
2007	Indiana	Total exiting school	2,147	2,300	2,641	4,548	4,792	1,180
2004	Indiana	Transferred to regular education	341	266	224	161	67	18
2005	Indiana	Transferred to regular education	360	260	253	201	93	
2006	Indiana	Transferred to regular education	311	251	252	170	66	21
2007	Indiana	Transferred to regular education	343	312	294	201	74	

Age 20	Age 21+	Total
0	0	66
0	0	75
		43
0	0	74
62	18	5,204
44	11	3,851
51	18	2939
		2,936
42	0	4,308
55	0	4,694
41	0	4,932
61	0	5,450
46	7	4,341
57	11	5,953
58	27	6,353
31	9	6,919
	84	116
37	82	119
31	68	99
55	69	996
71	73	1,211
70	67	1038
76	79	1,297
191	186	10,690
269	189	17,091
233	213	16,542
237	171	18,016
		1,080
		1,188
		1071
		1,241