

**MINUTES**  
**April 20, 2012 Meeting**  
**Indiana State Advisory Council (SAC)**  
**on the Education of Children with Disabilities**  
H. Dean Evans Community and Education Center  
8550 Woodfield Crossing Blvd.  
Indianapolis, IN, 46240

<u>Council Members:</u>	<u>Present (Yes/No)</u>
<b>Shirley Amond</b> , Parent Representative	Y
<b>Rich Burden</b> , Director, IN*SOURCE - here	Y
<b>Kim Dodson</b> , ARC of Indiana	N
<b>Dawn Downer</b> , Director, First Steps	Y
<b>Dr. Karol Farrell</b> , SAC Chairperson, Director of Special Education, MSD of Washington Twp	Y
<b>James Hammond</b> , President/CEO, INARF, Inc.	Y
<b>Cathlene Hardy Hansen</b> , Parent Representative	N
<b>Julie Havill</b> , Parent Representative	N
<b>Bessie Henson</b> , Parent Representative	N
<b>Jan Huffman</b> , Parent Representative	Y
<b>Marcia Johnson</b> , Principal, Indianapolis Public Schools	Y
<b>Lisa Kovacs</b> , Director, Guide by your Side	N
<b>Becky Kirk</b> , Parent Representative	N
<b>Dr. J. Bret Lewis</b> , Superintendent, South Montgomery Community School Corporation	Y
<b>Kathy Mears</b> , Associate Director, Archdiocese of Indianapolis	Y
<b>John Nally</b> , Director, Indiana Department of Correction	Y
<b>Jenny Rida</b> , Indiana State Department of Health, ICF-DD	N
<b>Dr. Jane Swiss</b> , Dean, University of St. Francis School of Professional Studies	Y
<b>Kristi Tesmer</b> , Parent Representative	Y
<b>Thelma Wyatt</b> , Parent Representative	N

**Also Present:**

**Nicole Norvell, IDOE**  
**Tracy Brunner, IDOE**  
**Steve Yockey, IDOE**  
**Kristen Wikel, Riley Hospital for Children**

**Call to Order**

Chair Karol Farrell called the meeting to order at 9:30 a. m. Eleven of twenty members were present.

**Informational Items**

1. APR Review

Indiana Director of Special Education Nicole Norvell reviewed Annual Progress Report data which shows progress or slippage toward statewide compliance with federal indicators. She responded to questions, provided requested clarifications and identified IDOE Web site pages where the data are accessible. Nicole offered to e-mail copies of slides to council members. Nicole noted the State Performance Plan and State targets therein can be changed with the advice of the advisory council and reminded everyone she will need to get their input in the fall before next year's SPP is submitted for federal review.

## 2. Indicator 13 Review Procedures

Nicole Norvell explained the State's longstanding practice with regard to general supervision and the rationale for recent changes to this approach. Nicole explained new methods the State is adopting for Indicator 13 compliance monitoring as well as the IDOE's new approach to providing technical assistance to LEAs that need to make systemic changes to progress toward full compliance. Discussion ensued regarding variability and other impacts of previous and most recent approaches for gathering and reporting the data. Advising that the State obtained feedback from the Indiana Council of Administrators of Special Education (ICASE) and national Indicator 13 technical assistance groups, Nicole welcomed SAC member input as well.

In addition to informational items listed in today's agenda, Nicole Norvell introduced Steve Yockey, IDOE's new Special Education Specialist in Week Number Two of his employment at the Office of Special Education. In response to follow up remarks from council members, Nicole agreed to check with the IDOE Office of Communications about sharing the latest IDOE Organization Chart.

## 3. Summary of Due Process Hearing Decisions

Brian Simkins from the IDOE Office of Legal Affairs reviewed data available from IDOE, the processes in place to safeguard such data and recent changes to the Web site where these data can be accessed online. Brian explained who can file complaints, the various types of complainable issues, and then summarized incidence data in Indiana. After responding to members' questions on the steps and methods involved in complaint resolution, Brian touched on conclusions that can be drawn from the available data. He went on to explain (1) Hearing Officer appointment, compensation, duties and challenges when organizing and conducting hearings, as well as (2) IDOE's involvement in administering the Hearing process (scheduling, training, capacity building and monitoring implementation of Mediation Agreements and enforcement of Hearing Officers' orders). In response to SAC members' questions and comments, Brian agreed to look into problems noted with some hearing officers' billing practices.

### **Action Items**

#### 1. Approve Minutes of the January and February Meetings

Richard Burden moved and Jane Swiss seconded approval of the January meeting minutes; the motion carried. Marcia Johnson moved to approve the minutes of the February meeting; Richard Burden seconded, and the motion carried.

#### 2. Appoint Vice Chair for Calendar Year 2012

Chair Karol Farrell explained that, per its Bylaws, the State Advisory Council on the Education of Children with Disabilities conducts its business on a calendar year basis; and therefore, a vote was needed to extend the appointment of Bret Lewis as Vice Chair through the end of Calendar Year 2012 (December 31, 2012). Kathy Mears so moved; the motion was seconded by James Hammond. The motion carried.

#### 3. Chair's Review of Council Membership

Chair Karol Farrell briefly summarized her process for reviewing the composition of the current advisory council compared with the applicable statutory requirements, noting there are some gaps to be addressed and that some of the current council members' terms have expired. Dr. Farrell reported summarizing her findings in a memo to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction in accordance with SAC Bylaws, noting that she intends to follow up in May regarding the status of action take on her recommendations.

Following Dr. Farrell's remarks, Marcia Johnson submitted her letter of resignation from the council, announcing she will retire in June from her administrative position at a local school.

#### 4. Set Meeting Dates for Remainder of 2012

The Chair explained that additional 2012 council meetings are needed to provide input for federal reporting and to stay abreast of state legislative initiatives next fall. Based on input from SAC members and Nicole Norvell, the following schedule (which spans the close of the current council's business year/CY 2012 and the beginning of the SAC's 2013 business year/Calendar Year 2013):

Friday, September 14, 2012

Friday, November 30, 2012

Tuesday, January 8, 2013

[all agreed to reserve January 11, 2013 as an alternate/bad weather contingency for the January 8 meeting]

Tuesday, February 26, 2013

[all agreed to reserve March 1, 2013 as an alternate/bad weather contingency for the February 26 meeting]

Friday, May 17, 2013

#### **Recommendations and Concerns of the Council Members**

Various council members expressed interest in (1) updates regarding the status of interagency funding coordination/collaboration between IDOE and the Family and Social Services Administration's Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services, (2) how "dropout" is defined for reporting purposes, (3) general information on the State's plans for PARCC assessment implementation, and (4) explanation about how adoption of Common Core Standards and use of PARCC assessments will affect Special Education in Indiana. These were noted as items for inclusion in future SAC meeting agenda.

#### **Public Comment**

Guest Kristen Wikel from Riley Hospital for Children introduced herself and explained her interest in attending the SAC meeting. She supervises staff whose patients include many children receiving Special Education and Early Intervention services through Indiana schools.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.