

**MINUTES**  
**November 30, 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.	N
<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>Lisa Kovacs</b> , Director, Guide by your Side	Y
<b>Becky Kirk</b> , Parent Representative	Y
<b>Dr. J. Bret Lewis</b> , Superintendent, South Montgomery Community School Corporation	Y
<b>John Nally</b> , Director, Indiana Department of Correction	Y
<b>Toni Maley</b> for Jenny Ridao, Indiana State Department of Health, ICF-DD	Y
<b>Dr. Jane Swiss</b> , Dean, University of St. Francis School of Professional Studies	Y
<b>Kristi Tesmer</b> , Parent Representative	N
<b>Thelma Wyatt</b> , Parent Representative	N

**Also Present:**

**Nicole Norvell**, IDOE  
**Melinda McGinley**, IDOE  
**John Hill**, IDOE  
**Tracey Shriver**, ICASE

**Call to Order**

Chair Karol Farrell called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Eleven of eighteen members attended the meeting.

**Informational Items**

State Director of Special Education Nicole Norvell discussed Indiana's Part B Annual Performance Report, discussed council members' input and responded to their questions. There was additional discussion regarding targets set for Indicator 6, preschool LRE, and the plan to adjust those targets pending receipt of more accurate data. Nicole also discussed and responded to council member input and questions regarding plans for LEA technical assistance contract renewals, which will be decided by the incoming new IDOE administration. Nicole then shared information that she recently presented to the Indiana Council of Administrators of Special Education (ICASE) concerning the potential impact of automatic federal budget cuts (also referred to as "sequestration") if Congress fails to prevent these from taking effect next year. Afterward there was general discussion between council members and the chairperson regarding potential impacts of the upcoming DOE administration changes on the role of the council as well as anticipated short and long term impacts to families and children with disabilities.

Karol Farrell shared copies of the SAC Legislative Committee update prepared by Kim Dodson, who was unable to attend the meeting. In subsequent discussion, council members expressed appreciation for Kim's work and speculated about changes and challenges they anticipate during the coming legislative session.

Karol Farrell presented information concerning the annual review of SAC membership and the summary prepared by DOE showing entities named in the applicable statute but not represented. Lisa Kovacs will chair a Membership Committee charged with making recommendations at the council's next meeting. John Hill will represent DOE on this committee.

**Action Items**

These items were tabled due to lack of quorum at this point during the meeting.

**Recommendations and Concerns of the Council Members**

Jane Swiss offered an update concerning changes in teacher licensing standards. Further discussion ensued regarding potential impacts on teacher effectiveness and accountability, especially with regard to special education.

**Public Comment**

There was none.

**Adjournment**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:18 a.m.

Special Education Advisory Council  
Legislative Committee Update  
November 30, 2012

The 2012 election cycle brought with it 28 newly elected legislators. In 2012, 19 new legislators were elected. Together, that makes 47 legislators with less than 3 years of legislative experience making up the Indiana General Assembly in 2013. We also have a new Governor's Administration and as we all know, a new Superintendent of Public Instruction.

As far as education issues, Senator Dennis Kruse will continue as chairman of the Senate Education Committee. Though not yet official, it is anticipated that Representative Bob Behning will continue as chairman of the House Education Committee. A change we will see on the House Education Committee is the democrat ranking member will be Representative Vernon Smith from Gary rather than Representative Greg Porter from Indianapolis. The full roster of the House education committee is not yet released.

With 69 republican members in the House, it can be expected that the makeup of the House committees will change to make more room for these new members. Whether that means larger committees or keeping the committees the same size and decreasing the number of democrats on each committee is unknown. We should know more next week.

Bills are starting to be filed and should start being released within the next week. As bills are released, I will be keeping the legislative committee informed of the bills being introduced that may be of interest to the committee. A few issues that will be introduced in bills this session are: (1) the misuse of seclusion and restraints in schools; (2) anti-bullying efforts; and (3) waivers for general diplomas.

Again, as issues come up, the legislative committee will be advised and take action to keep the full committee informed during the legislative process.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Dodson