

**MINUTES**  
**September 14, 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	N
<b>Rich Burden</b> , Director, IN*SOURCE - here	Y
<b>Kim Dodson</b> , ARC of Indiana	Y
<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>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	N
<b>Kristi Tesmer</b> , Parent Representative	Y
<b>Thelma Wyatt</b> , Parent Representative	N

**Also Present:**

**Nicole Norvell, IDOE**  
**Jana Baker, IDOE**  
**Tracy Brunner, IDOE**  
**Sarah Henry, IDOE**

**Call to Order**

After a quorum was evident, Chair Karol Farrell called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m. Twelve of eighteen members attended the meeting.

**Informational Items**

Before addressing the first item listed on the agenda (proposed new Special Education Compliance Monitoring Cycle), State Director of Special Education Nicole Norvell shared of copy of the State Determination Letter Indiana recently received from the U.S. Department of Education. Nicole responded to questions and requests for clarification regarding the content of that letter then outlined details of the U.S. DOE's findings and the federal agency's process for arriving at the determination. Nicole explained how various monitoring approaches can affect calculation and reporting of State compliance and highlighted reasons for changes IDOE is considering to streamline its process for reviewing, calculating and reporting compliance. She emphasized her commitment to continue monitoring all LEAs' compliance with specific indicators yet switch to monitoring others on the basis of sampling to allow the State to focus its limited resources on identifying, reporting and correcting actual systemic rather than isolated incidences of noncompliance. Noting that our regional resource center will provide technical assistance with preparing the proposed new monitoring methodology, Nicole briefly reviewed details on how compliance data is currently obtained and reported for specific indicators and current

compliance trends based on recent data. Nicole requested council members' timely input regarding new targets that the Department must set and submit for federal approval this spring. Members were asked to e-mail their questions or requests for additional information to Tracy Brunner then come prepared to give their suggestions at the next meeting of the State Advisory Council on November 30, 2012.

#### **Action Items**

Karol Farrell requested and received a motion and second to approve the minutes of the April Meeting. Following the favorable vote, she announced there has been no movement yet on State Superintendent appointments to the council; and there is nothing new to report regarding council membership status.

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

Chair Karol Farrell requested future discussion on what makes for good community preschool placements and how preschool placements affect funding for required services to nonpublic schools. She noted this may be information the council will want to share with the General Assembly to inform discussions about preschool funding in Indiana.

Lisa Kovacs recommended that the SAC include among its members the new Director of the Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education established by House Enrolled Act 1367 and scheduled to open in July 2013.

James Hammond noted there is currently a work group examining needed updates to an existing agreement among agencies involved with transitions from early childhood to K-12 and from high school to post-secondary education.

Long-time council member Dr. Bret Lewis announced his plans to retire at the end of December, 2012.

#### **Public Comment**

Becky Kirk inquired about contact information for a former council member.

#### **Adjournment**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.