

COMMISSION ON SECLUSION & RESTRAINT IN SCHOOLS

February 16, 2017
 IDOE Offices, 6th Floor, PNC Building
 115 W. Washington Street
 Virgil Grissom Conference Room
 2:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Commission Member Name	Title	Organization	Present (Y/N); note if by phone
Kelly Whitman	Chair	Indiana Department of Education	Y
Dr. Denis Ward	Co-chair	Assoc. of Public School Superintendents	Y
Dana Renay		Autism Society of Indiana	N
Kim Dodson		ARC of Indiana	Y
Joan McCormick		ICASE	Y
Stephen McCaffrey		Mental Health America	N
John Elcesser		Nonpublic Education Association	Y
Nicole Hicks		Parent	Y
Paje Felts		Parent	N

ATTENDANCE: (NON-COMMISSION MEMBERS):

- Mike Moore-Office of Legal Affairs (OLA) Director for DOE
- Marsha Bugalla-General Counsel for DOE
- Pam Wright-Director of Special ED DOE
- Melissa Keyes-Indiana Disability Rights (formerly IPAS)
- Kara Kenney-RTV6 reporter
- Adam Baker-DOE Press Secretary
- Peter Balonon-Rosen-WFIU/WTIU-IPBS
- Maurcia Crutcher-Legal Assistant to OLA for DOE

AGENDA

A.DATA COLLECTION CONCERNS/ISSUES

Past School data was provided. There was still confusion from the schools on what data to collect what the data means. Joan called and visited several schools that had large numbers and/or zero reports from schools. Schools voiced to Joan that the commission needs to be clearer on how the commission wants data collected. The school's discipline reports now include the definitions of seclusion and restraint. This should help for next year's reporting. Joan has spoken with school boards and will be visiting them to better inform them on how data should be collected.

The question came up whether the data collected should be per student or per incidence. After much discussion on this issue it was decided to keep reporting per incidence, this would follow statute, which is how it is required to be reported. The chair did suggest the commission could put a statement out asking the schools to use best practice and include student, along with incidences. Kim for ARC of Indiana stated they would want incidences and other agencies agreed. It was noted that some schools were counting time out as an incident, which is inaccurate. While some schools just don't restrain they allow the children to just leave the class room.

B.REPORTING AND FUTURE ACTIONS FOR COLLECTING

Joan shared that a lot of schools have decided that principals or superintendents will collecting data instead for the next report instead of secretaries. This may help with the numbers for next year since they are the main staff that are involved when a seclusion or restraint takes place. Joan asked the group what is the purpose of our data? Consensus was to reduce the instances of S&R (Seclusion & Restraint) at schools. The commission will focus on higher instances, and see what help/resources the schools need. This should create a positive target support to the schools. Once the commission gets the data for this year they should ask the schools questions to better understand what is going on, then provide support/resources.

The commission knows that last year's data collection attempt doesn't truly reflect what was going on in the field, so it needs fixed. Kelly suggested to use Dr. McCormick's streamlined communication process with the weekly Friday communications that go out to everyone. It was agreed to start using the weekly Friday communications. The commission will put in the communication why the data is being collected, and remind the schools to reflect on their data so they can do better in this area. The commission will also add some bullet reminders on policies and when data is due. This is hoped to be more effective than a survey monkey.

Denis added that yearly reminders/training would also be good because of employee turnover. John agreed that training is the most important piece for this to be effective. Joan ended with the reminder that is should be for all children not just special needs, even though this is still not understood by all schools.

C.SENATE BILL 61

Joan asked why this is being proposed and if this data should be kept separate. It was brought up that some schools don't have SRO's (School Resource Officers). Joan couldn't find a principal or superintendent to support collecting this data the same way. Kim added that the bill does state if a RSO is used then the data should be included in the S&R data. Dana meet with Donald Sheff VP of SROs and he supports this bill.

Right now the data is inaccurate so we don't know if the zeros are SRO related. Everyone agreed if the bill passes it will require more meetings to better understand when an SRO is involved, and when is it considered a S&R incident. Discussion around while SRO's are embedded in schools, they are still police officers and follow those rules. Should this data really be included with S&R data? A suggestion was made that maybe the committee should define the action and record how many times it happens, rather than using the S&R definitions when it comes to SROs. The concern was will the committee get every arrest or police action instead of true S&R data? Will this data be useful for the schools, because SRO data will be very different than the S&R data? If the commission is required to collect SRO data using the S&R definitions, will there be more zeros because of the definitions?

The question was asked if the committee supports this bill. It was explained that the commission doesn't really have a say, but will need to support whatever bill is passed. It was shared that some schools don't feel like they are trained as well as an SRO, therefore they rely on SRO's more than they should.

Senator Head brought this to the commission because he was aware that the committee may have to re-evaluate their data collecting if this passes. Even if this is passes in the committee it still has several approval layers of the legislative system to go through before it can be enacted.

Therefore the commission is not going to take a position on this right now. There is a testimonial hearing on Monday, February 17, 2017 for the amendment of the bill.

The commission decided to have a meeting after the hearing to discuss more on this bill.

D.9TH MEMBER

The commission is in need of a parent who does not have a child with a disability. It was decided to give names and bios within two weeks to Kelly, the chair. Deadline date is March 2, 2017 by close of business. Kelly will gather and send out the choices to everyone.

E.NEXT MEETING DATE

Kelly will work on a doodle poll for an April meeting time.

MISC ITEMS DISCUSSED

Meeting minute's policy was reviewed. With a motion by to Steve to approve and 2nd motion by Denis to approve. A vote of 6-0 approving the policy. The meeting minute policy is now adopted.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15pm.