

**COUNCIL ON EDUCATIONAL SERVICES
FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN
Department of Corrections
2020 Yonkers Road, Raleigh
March 18, 2015
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present

Chad	Barefoot	(Meredith Benson)
Dale	Carpenter	
Jennifer	Grady	
Brent D.	Greene	
Katie	Holler	
Susan	Humbert	
Nicole	Jimerson	
Mary	LaCorte	
Carla	McNeill	
Rob	McOuat	
Teresa	Mebane	
Tim	Montgomery	
O. Martin	Pharr	
Vicki	Simmons	
Greg	Singleton	
Rick	Smith	

Members Absent

Katherine	Allison
Tammy	Holland
Bryan	Holloway
Daphne	Peacock
Lisa	Phillips
Gina	Smith

DPI Staff

Melvin	Diggs
Greta	Harris
Carol Ann	Hudgens
Lauren	Holahan
Bill	Hussey
Lynne	Loeser
Leigh	Mobley
Laurie	Ray

Visitors

Kari	Alberque
Cheryl	Posner-Cahill
Leanna	George
Cynthia	Daniels-Hall
Eric	Hall
Georgia	Gannasik
Gerri	Smith
Jennine	Vlasty

Welcome, Review Agenda, Review December Meeting Minutes

Nicole Jimerson welcomed the Council and visitors. Nicole reviewed the Bylaws and purpose of the Council with all members. Council reviewed December 2014 Meeting Minutes, but Nicole recommended edits regarding MTSS in the meeting minutes. Melvin Diggs has accepted a position with NCDPI. The Council voted/nominated Vicki Simmons to be co-chair for the Council on Educational Services for Exceptional Children.

NC's State Advisory Panel

Nicole discussed the framework of the Council. Nicole reminded Council members that they represent parents and stakeholders across the state. Nicole informed the Council that the regions have moved from 5 to 8 districts. Bill Hussey advised regions are changing to match the prosperity zone.

Nicole suggested the Council have committees such as the Unmet Needs, Policies and Procedures, Reports and Data, and Executive Committee. Nicole would like to know how other states are using the committees. Members mentioned that other states focus on the topics of membership, dispute resolution, family engagement, public comment, public relations, vocational/post-secondary, and transition. They also suggested including an acronym book for the website or providing a session at special education conferences.

Goals

Nicole revisited the Council goals of increasing the visibility of the Council, updating website content, participation in local activities, providing sessions at the EC conference, and establishing methods for public input with the Council.

Policies and Procedures Committee should focus on a policy statement regarding the current policy changes being proposed for SLD students, as well as a statement regarding charter schools and EC students. They should also review proposal for amendment of Bylaws. Nicole wants to add language about the voting procedures.

The Executive Committee's goal is to make a presentation to the State Board of Education in June 2015. The annual report is due by September 1, 2015. The Executive Committee would like to see an increase in Council's presence at the State Board meetings. The Executive Committee is responsible for presenting the annual report to the Board. Nicole will send out email reminders about the State Board meetings to the Executive Committee members. There is a handout available with the dates/times and contact information for the Board members.

Today is D. Brent Greene's last meeting, he is moving to Tennessee April 2015.

Agency Updates

Bill Hussey, Exceptional Children Division Director, provided the Council updates on the following:

1. The Exceptional Children Accountability Tracking System (ECATS): Proposal is going out to vendors for bid after it goes to ITS.
2. New IEP forms will reflect a singular present level of performance and be more descriptive of the child due to the access to more data that will be collected. This will

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help to provide a natural flow and help parents with understanding the sequence. There will be drop down boxes to make it user-friendly.

3. The State System Improvement Plan (SSIP) focuses on graduation rate. This is the first time Indicator 17 is being done as the State Identified Measurable Result (SIMR).
4. DPI is hiring two monitoring consultants and two regional consultants for Regions 3/4 and 5/6 to help with monitoring charter schools.

Proposed Policies Changes

Lynne Loeser, Specific Learning Disabilities Consultant, explained the definition of evaluation and identification of students with Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD). The SLD Task Force includes representation from policy consultants, regional consultants, literacy consultants, charter schools, school psychology, and the RtI Consortium. The SLD Task Force took all of the information from Directors Advisory Committee, Exceptional Children Assistance Center and Special Education Stakeholder Collaborative into consideration in forming the policy. The policy change will be presented to the State Board in May 2015.

A multi-tiered system of support process is not about SLD identification and eligibility. However, SLD identification and eligibility includes a multi-tiered system of support process. The disability must not be the primary result of a visual, hearing or motor disability, intellectual disability, or emotional disability.

Medicaid and Private Providers

Laurie Ray and Lauren Holahan, Medicaid Consultants, explained the history of Medicaid to the Council. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) states Medicaid will pay for some Individual Education Program (IEP) services. The law encourages school systems to recover costs of certain services provided to Medicaid-eligible children. Each local school system determines how the money is used. Many schools use money from Medicaid to fund training, equipment, or materials to support programs for children. NC Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) encourages schools to use Medicaid dollars for Exceptional Children programs.

Schools are required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and IDEA to get informed parent consent before releasing personal information about students. Parents need to understand why and when schools provide information about their child to the state Medicaid agency. Schools need parental consent to help offset the cost of required IEP services. Schools must provide all IEP services, even if the school does not recover cost from Medicaid. Medicaid services received outside of school are authorized separately from IEP services. If outside services have been affected, families are encouraged to contact their local EC Director.