

**COUNCIL ON EDUCATIONAL SERVICES  
FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN  
Department of Corrections  
2020 Yonkers Road, Raleigh  
June 10, 2015  
Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present**

Chad	Barefoot	(Meridith Benson)
Dale	Carpenter	
Jennifer	Degen	
Jennifer	Grady	
Katie	Holler	
Susan	Humbert	
Nicole	Jimerson	
Carla	McNeill	Darlene Timmons
Rob	McOuat	
Teresa	Mebane	
Tim	Montgomery	
Daphne	Peacock	
O'Martin	Pharr	Cynthia Trickel
Lisa	Phillips	
Vicki	Simmons	
Gina	Smith	

**Members Absent**

Katherine	Allison
Heather	Grant
Tammy	Holland
Bryan	Holloway
Mary	LaCorte
Greg	Singleton
Rick	Smith

**DPI Staff**

Arianna	Dunne
Greta	Harris
Lauren	Holahan
Bill	Hussey
Leigh	Mobley
Laurie	Ray
Tracy	Riddle
Sherry	Thomas
Keisha	Walker

**Visitors**

Cynthia	Daniels-Hall
Sarah	Harrington
Ben	King
Maggie	Pearce
Gerri	Smith
Jennine	Vlasaty

**Welcome, Review Agenda**

Nicole Jimerson welcomed everyone and reviewed the agenda. Vickie Simmons took a roll call. Nicole informed the Council that a go-to-meeting would be set up to review the meeting minutes for December and March. The Council will review the meeting minutes during a go-to-meeting on June 26, 2015.

These are meeting minutes from the June 2015 meeting and are not intended to be a transcription of the meeting.

### **State Funding Model Presentation - Sherry Thomas, Assistant Director of EC, and Tracy Riddle, Section Chief of Special Programs & Data**

Bill Hussey introduced Sherry Thomas and Tracy Riddle and stated that in July the EC Division is bringing together a stakeholder group to talk about EC funding. LEAs are getting less funding per child. Tracy explained it is a great time to talk about funding because it is the end of the fiscal year. The goal is to provide appropriate educational opportunity to all children with disabilities who reside in North Carolina.

The purpose of funding is to assist the LEAs, which includes state operated programs and Charter Schools, in providing for the education of children with disabilities; and to assess and ensure the effectiveness of efforts to educate children with disabilities. State funding basic allotments for children with disabilities and preschool disabled state funded allotments are calculated separately and then combined into one allotment (PRC 32). Bill Hussey stated the EC Division allocates 90%+ of federal funds to LEAs. NC's overhead is relatively low compared to other states.

### **Medicaid Funding - -Lauren Holahan and Laurie Ray, Medicaid Consultants**

Medicaid works from a medical model and guidelines and policies must be followed. Division of Medical Assistance (DMA) has authority to audit, DMA can recoup funds from audit findings. Many LEAs don't have expertise in filing Medicaid claims. Most contract with third party vendors, and vendors must comply with Medicaid policies, rules and billing practices. In order for LEAs to claim Medicaid in NC, students must be Medicaid-eligible, the services must be included in student's IEP, the student must have a signed physician's order for services, and the services must be medically necessary. NC has no requirements or restrictions as to how local school districts spend recovered costs. NC DPI recommends LEAs use Medicaid recovered costs for special education.

### **Division Update - Bill Hussey, Director Exceptional Children**

- EC Division will work with the eight SSIP (State Systemic Improvement Project) pilot sites to learn and identify practices that strengthened their areas of Academics, Behavior and Transition for students with disabilities. The pilots were chosen because of strengths in one or more of these areas to help build the statewide plan.
- School-Based Mental Health Stakeholder group met to focus on the issues related to the need for school-based mental health services. The group will move forward in trying to get good data about mental health services in the schools and making proposals to the legislature in the future.
- Nicole provided a handout regarding questions on the proposed *Policies* changes to SLD evaluation and eligibility.
- The EC Division is looking at turning the Occupational Course of Study (OCS) program into a five year model as an option for LEAs. Project Search is a program aimed at developing internships for students with disabilities to prepare them for employment. There are some concerns about Project Search and OCS. The idea was we get the children out in the community and they will be hired, but that does not always happen. There is a need for different types of

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communication to get the children working. As we move into the career and college ready, there are students that are not capable of doing community college-level work.

### **Review Initial Draft of Council Position Statement - Nicole Jimerson, Chairperson**

During the last conference call meeting there were a lot of questions and much discussion about the policy changes for SLD definition, evaluation and identification. The initial proposal was being amended and it went to the Board the following week.

Nicole asked why is the change being done now and what is the hurry? She advised that the State Board of Education is also asking questions. There is a wide range in how schools are implementing RtI right now. Nicole is concerned that the change in SLD was not brought to the Council in time to have enough discussion before it was presented to the Board. Nicole does not agree with taking the IQ test out of the picture. DPI reminded her that a parent can still request an evaluation at any point in the process.

Nicole is also concerned that by giving LEAs five years to implement the change, it may be difficult to see how it is working. From a policy position, Nicole would like to see consistency.

### **Discussion Revisions, Bill Hussey**

MTSS is a multi-tiered framework which promotes school improvement through engaging, research-based academic and behavioral practices. MTSS schools are encouraged to use interventions and use them early. It is not the same as a un-identifier. Some tests only look at standards. Universal screening data is looking at skills. MTSS gives a structure of how to go back and compare what the student actually needs.

DPI sent out a Readiness Survey to LEAs: How ready are you to implement MTSS? 92% of the 115 surveys that came back state that they are ready to move forward with MTSS. The Rules Committee is a process that the policy has to go through. MTSS is moving forward. IDEA and research supports the process. There are three areas for feedback in the legal aspects, language, and implementation of the process.

### **Review of CESEC's Annual Plan - Nicole Jimerson**

For the 2015-16 Committee Work: Nicole reviewed upcoming priorities for the Council.

She wants to think about the topics that they want to hear a little more about at the Council next year. The position statement needs to be finalized. The Board meeting dates are available. Nicole wants the Council to make it to the next Board meeting.

In September 2015, she would like to work on a vision statement for the Council. Nicole will be talking to the committee chairs about their goals. Nicole is trying to schedule a conference call to vote on the minutes/edits that need to be made meeting minutes for December and March.8.

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