

COUNCIL ON EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN
State Board of Education Room
NC Dept. of Public Instruction
September 14, 2016
Meeting Minutes

New Member Orientation

Carol Ann Hudgens provided a general overview of Council's purpose and responsibilities.

Welcome, Call to Order, Introductions, Review of Agenda

Chairperson Leanna George called the meeting to order and welcomed members and visitors. Council members provided self-introductions and reviewed the agenda.

Review of Meeting Minutes

The Council approved the June 2016 meeting minutes.

New and Improved for 2016-17

The Council received a presentation by Carol Ann Hudgens announcing new items from the Policy, Monitoring and Audit Section of the Exceptional Children Division, including:

*New parent-friendly "Parent Rights & Responsibilities" publication is available to LEAs and online. The Spanish version is also available online.

*MTSS – a guideline for evaluation and decision making to determine special education eligibility. The Council did express concerns as to the timeframe LEAs may be using for interventions within the MTSS framework.

*SLD Intent to Implement – LEAs have the option to adopt the policy prior to July 1, 2020, but must sign assurances.

*Class Size/Caseload Waiver – is a state policy, not federal. The purpose of the new process/form is to assist LEAs with problem-solving on master scheduling for students with disabilities. There are guidelines, but ANY time a class size composition occurs a reporting is required. Related Service Provider caseload is also included within this submission requirement.

*Family Engagement – Parent Involvement – Exceptional Children Division sent a statewide email inquiry, via survey, regarding interest in parent advisory/liaisons within their LEA.

Parent Liaison

Heather Ouzts provided a presentation regarding LEA interest in parent liaison/parent councils within the LEAs. From a survey, 69 LEAs responded as interested in more information on parent liaison/parent councils or advisory boards; 34 responded they wanted to be involved in Cohort 1. Interest from LEAs and Charter Schools was very close in number regarding parent liaison/council interest. There is a large interest in family engagement and tools to do so.

DRC Report

Council reviewed 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 data regarding state complaints, mediation, facilitation and due process.

Agency Updates

ECATS – still in processing, then it goes to state IT Dept. which will take a couple weeks. Hopefully, a vendor announcement will be forthcoming in the near future.

SMHI – This is not a DPI stakeholder group. It's a statewide coalition including DHHS, private providers, universities and many others. SMHI has developed a white paper that needed some streamlining. Currently, SMHI is in the process of reviewing the white paper to develop a concise paper with specific recommendations. Hopefully the final white paper will be presented at November SBE meeting. Via a legislative suggestion, the paper will include how to create a portal.

Medicaid – sent data to DHHS Division of Medical Assistance regarding study of expansion of services; transportation (spec ed only), personal care assistance, and billing for OT, PT, SLP for Charter Schools were included.

MTSS – starting Cohorts 3 and 4; only four LEAs statewide that are not participating (111 out of 115); Exceptional Children Division will start talking with remaining four; 70 Charter Schools are already engaged; MTSS is working.

ESSA – EC Division piece already put forward.

EC Funding – have contract with Friday Institute to wrap up the research for legislature long session (funding formula same since 1993). Average cost to serve kids is \$18-20K; current funding is \$3,900.

LEA-SA – starting yesterday, EC Division is having regional meetings after the LEA-SA reviews. EC Division has determined common pieces – progress monitoring, etc. - ended up with five core pieces for everyone; creating PD plan with each LEA, all of EC Division's PD is centered around the LEA-SA and the five core pieces.

Teacher recruitment – reconfigured contract to a “match” situation, universities/student teachers/schools, like “Match.com” rubric. Also, trying to focus on retention as well.

Public Comments

Council took Katie Cornetto's opinions into consideration. Council approved Public Comment Procedures with minor edits.

Bylaws

Minor change to Bylaws; Council approved Bylaws.

Overview of Council Purpose / Responsibilities

Vicki provided a general overview of the Council's purpose and member responsibilities.