

# COUNCIL ON EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

State Board of Education Room

NC Dept. of Public Instruction

December 7, 2016

Meeting Minutes

## **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**

A question/concern arose on whether the teacher name still appears on the class size waiver/caseload form. Carol Ann Hudgens answered that the teacher name does still appear on the form as an identifier but the teacher is not required to sign the form.

The approval of the September Summary of Actions was moved to the December meeting due to lack of quorum.

## **Agency Update (Bill Hussey)**

**Exceptional Children Accountability Tracking System (ECATS)** – EC Division is ready to send to state IT. IT reviews everything. The vendor and the Dept. have agreed to everything. Bill is hopeful the announcement will occur by the new year. Negotiations have been serious for the last four months. If complete by Feb, EC Division would be in position to start with full implementation with new IEP forms by August of next year. Otherwise, it would be January of 2018. Bill has been working on this for 3 ½ years. If complete, training will be provided at March Institute.

Every LEA will use the IEP forms within ECATS. MTSS and Medicaid are optional choices LEAs can make/pay for. There is a lot for free within the system, but there are optional upgrades for LEAs at a cost.

Piloting ECATS prior to the rollout depends on the approval timeline. Would really like to try and run parallel systems. Everything is really dependent upon how soon or far out ECATS gets approved.

**School Mental Health Initiative (SMHI)** – SMHI has a draft policy to present to the State Board of Education. This initiative is not DPI specific. There are many various stakeholders. It is anticipated SMHI will submit items for the January State Board of Education meeting, but in order to reach entire consensus, it will more than likely go the State Board in February. In general, the proposal is for each LEA/Charter School to have a policy/process on how to handle mental health issues. The goal is to ensure LEAs will have a response plan for students with mental health issues. If passed, NC will be the first state with a policy to guarantee that mental health services will be provided to students.

**State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)** – This is the third year and the year EC Division puts evaluation plans out to OSEP. EC Division is working with UNC-Charlotte to help collate all the data. The measurable result is graduation. NC is on the trajectory to meet the graduation rate of 77%.

**Specially-Designed Instruction (SDI)** - The EC Division will push to meet with other Divisions within the Department regarding specially designed instruction including Curriculum and MTSS. By the end of the year, Cohorts 1 and 2 will be ready for full implementation. We are looking at SDI within the MTSS framework and what regular education teacher training is needed, especially to increase reading and math scores. The message is going to sound like we no longer need special education, but that is not

correct. There needs to be a broader framework for proficiency. The goal is to make special education and regular education a much more integrated process to create better outcomes for children.

**Medicaid** –EC Division is working with the Division of Medical Assistance trying to expand funding for the free care on regular education side. This works in conjunction with the mental health component and billing.

**EC Funding** – EC Division met with Friday Institute regarding the funding model. It will drastically change allotments. We need to address the CAP. The short term goal is to negotiate the CAP and multipliers. The goal is to negotiate to help everyone. Bill feels positive about short term goals.

**State Performance Plan (SPP) / Annual Performance Report (APR) / Proposed Regulation Changes for Significant Disproportionality**

Nancy Johnson, SPP/APR Consultant, reminded the Council they serve as a stakeholder group for the SPP/APR. OSEP has asked state departments to look at cell size, the actual expanded use of CEIS funds, including special education, the use of risk ratios and defining reasonable progress as it relates to the proposed regulation changes for significant disproportionality.

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**Committee Work**

**Adjourn**