

Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

MEETING MINUTES

October 5, 2017, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
5708 Cornerstone Drive, Lansing, Michigan

Participation

Delegates Present:

Jim Corr*, Robert Dickinson, Terie Elbers, Jill Fennessy, Kenya Harper-Black, Annette Hobrecht, Michele Israel, Nancy Jaskiw, Andy Kowalczyk, Kathleen Kosobud, Kathy Krause, Kanika Littleton, Lois Lofton-Doniver, Craig McCalla, Sara Park, Teri Pettit, Heidi Ransom, Amy Sanderson, Anne-Marie Sladewski, Mark Smith, Nancy Spanski, Lori Tavgigian, Amy Trahey

Alternates Present:

Amy Barto* for Debra Houde, Melisa Burch for Anna Dusbiber, Rebecca Gibson, Laura Griffith, Courtney Halbower

Ex-Officio Present:

Janet Kaley, Amy Schelling, James Thomas, Cynthia Wright

MDE Staff Present:

Jessica Brady, Aaron Darling, Ashley Kemmer, Deb Maurer, Julie Trevino, Jan Weckstein

Facilitator:

Fran Loose

Guests Present:

Roshell Bowerman, Tina Cole, Stacie Rulison

*Participated via phone.

Minutes

- I. Call to Order

The Chairperson, Mark Smith, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. Roll Call

The SEAC Secretary, Deb Maurer, read the roll call. A quorum was present.

III. Introduction of Guests

Guests were introduced.

IV. Approval of Proposed Agenda

Amy Trahey moved, seconded by Rob Dickinson that the SEAC approve the October 5, 2017 agenda. The vote was taken on the motion. Motion carried.

V. Approval of June 7, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Rob Dickinson moved, seconded by Amy Trahey that the SEAC approve the June 7, 2017 minutes. The vote was taken on the motion. Motion carried.

VI. Chairperson's Report

a. Today's Focus

- i. Michigan Department of Education Update
- ii. Member Reports – three organizations, one member-at-large and one ex-officio
- iii. State Performance Plan Graduation Indicator 4 or 6 year cohort discussion and small group work.
- iv. Significant Disproportionality and small group work.

b. Action Items

- i. A roll call vote will be taken to adopt the SEAC Meeting Norms
- ii. A roll call vote will be taken on the State Performance Plan Graduation Indicator 4 or 6 year cohorts

c. Report from Executive Committee Meeting

- i. Feedback was provided regarding the Retreat survey. Comments were positive.
- ii. SEAC is forming a Membership Committee. Chairperson Mark Smith asked members to consider being on this committee.

VII. Public Comment

- a. No Public comment.

VIII. MDE, Office of Special Education (OSE) Report by Jan Weckstein

- a. New Accountability System Design
 - i. The Office of Special Education will work with Jane Nell Luster to review general system components and discuss monitoring obligations for a new accountability system.
 - b. ISD Director's Meeting was held on September 13, 2017
 - i. The discussion included framing the work/setting and context/system alignment effort, data exploration. There was a Grounding Assumptions Activity.
 - c. Due Process Hearing Reports
 - i. From July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017, 72 Due process complaints were filed. There were 16 expedited complaints, 56 were dismissed or withdrawn, 1 final decision and order was issued. There are currently 15 due process complaints pending.
 - d. In August, the OSE information line answered a total of 181 calls. Some common topics included: teacher certification, seclusion and restraint, child find, placement, complaint information, placement, rule interpretation, schools of choice, suspension/expulsion/discipline and home school/Nonpublic .
- IX. Preparation for State Performance Plan Graduation Indicator by Jessica Brady and Julie Trevino
- a. SEAC's input is needed for Indicator 1: Graduation – currently a 4-year cohort earning a traditional high school diploma.
 - b. Data was provided to the SEAC which can be found in the PowerPoint.
 - c. The Indicator 1 Team recommends to change the existing four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate to an extended-year adjusted cohort graduation rate for the FFY 2016 SPP/APR.
 - d. The Indicator 1 Team recommends using the 6-year adjusted cohort graduation rate.
 - e. The rationale for this change is in line with the IDEA which provides services until age 21. Michigan has never met the 80% target.
 - f. Members broke into small groups for discussion and reported out to the entire group.

X. SEAC Member Reports

- a. Reports from SEAC Members regarding their work relative to SEAC's annual priorities and their requests from SEAC relative to the priorities. Details of the following reports are available in the Google Docs site, and some are on the October PowerPoint.
 - i. Nancy Jaskiw, Michigan Reading Association
 - ii. Jim Corr, Michigan Association of School Psychologists
 - iii. Amy Trahey, Autism Society of Michigan
 - iv. Rob Dickinson, Member-at-Large
 - v. Janet Kaley, Ex-Officio, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services – Education and Youth Services

XI. Presentation on Significant Disproportionality by Jessica Brady and Julie Trevino

- a. Statute requires States to annually collect and examine data to determine whether significant disproportionality based on race or ethnicity is occurring.
- b. OSEP indicated concerns with racial/ethnic disparities where nationally states identified 2-3% of districts as having significant disproportionality
- c. Black or African-American students are twice as likely to be identified as having an emotional disturbance; two times likely to be identified as having an intellectual disability and 1.4 times likely to receive services in separate settings.
- d. States have 18 months to prepare and work with their State Advisory Panel (SEAC) and make decisions regarding their methodology. States must comply by July 1, 2018. The first districts to be identified using the new methodology will take place in May of 2019.
- e. OSEP recommends a minimum cell size no greater than 10 and a minimum n-size of no greater than 30.
- f. States have flexibilities to use up to 3 years of data to identify an LEA with significant disproportionality and not identify LEAs if they are demonstrating reasonable progress.

- g. An LEA is required to provide for the review of policies, practices, and procedures to ensure compliance with the IDEA.
- h. LEAs identified with significant disproportionality are allowed to use comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS) funds to serve students, ages 3 through grade 12, with and without disabilities.
- i. A side by side comparison of the changes was presented along with Michigan's current rules. The comparison is available for review on the PowerPoint.
- j. Center-Based Consideration: The OSE would change the process to include center-based programs in the identification of Significant Disproportionality.
- k. The OSE would change to a two-year calculation of data for discipline. This allows the OSE to issue warning letters to districts and offer technical assistance.
- l. If the ISD is making 'reasonable progress' – there is a year-to-year decline in the risk ratio of at least 0.5 and within the ISD there are no locals above the threshold, the ISD would not be identified with Significant Disproportionality.
- m. The OSE Recommendations include:
 - i. Calculations at the ISD-level
 - ii. A risk ratio threshold of 3.0 in all areas
 - iii. A minimum cell size of 10
 - iv. A minimum n-size of 30
 - v. 2 years of data for all areas (discipline, identification & educational settings)
 - vi. Reasonable Progress
- n. The SEAC input is needed in the following.
 - i. A reasonable minimum cell size
 - ii. A reasonable minimum n-size
 - iii. A reasonable risk ratio threshold
 - iv. Number of Years to Use
 - v. Reasonable Progress

- o. SEAC members began small work group discussion.

XII. Action Item

- a. SEAC Meeting Norms. A motion by Sara Park, seconded by Craig McCalla to recommend the SEAC accept the meeting norms developed at the September Retreat. A roll-call vote was taken. The vote was unanimous in favor of the recommendation.
- b. Indicator 1: Graduation Rate. A motion by Lois Lofton-Doniver, seconded Lohren Nzoma to recommend the SEAC accept the 6-year cohort graduation rate. A roll-call vote was taken. The vote was unanimous in favor of the recommendation

XIII. Sub-Committee Reports

- a. Bylaws – Sara Park reported some of the areas the Bylaws committee will consider this year. This includes: If the delegate must be a defined member so shall the alternate; membership attendance; minimal membership for organizations to be eligible to have a seat on SEAC. Sara requested anyone who would like to be a part of this conversation please contact her.
- b. Communication – There was a review of previous work done by SEAC members in role-alike groups re: what is working well relative to communication between constituent groups and the SEAC table, and what needs enhancement.
- c. Family Matters – Stacie Rulison provided information on the following:
 - i. Family Matters is a new resource program rolled out this fall as outreach by the Michigan Department of Education Office of Special Education.
 - ii. This is a response to the parent engagement recommendation of the Special Education Task Force.
 - iii. The goal is to increase transparency from the OSE to parents and families.
 - iv. Make available resources to parents and families.
 - v. Special Education material will be both distributed and accessible online.

- vi. The OSE is working with the Michigan Alliance for Families to assure no duplication.
- vii. Next Steps include: building distribution lists/listservs, communicate with internal and external agencies, create, review and finalize content for fact sheets and continue adding and create fact sheets in Spanish and Arabic.
- d. Membership Committee - Chairperson Mark Smith asked for any members who would be interested in being on the Membership Committee to let him know. There was a brief discussion regarding issues that will be discussed during the year.

XIV. Member Announcements, Questions, Comments and Take-Aways

- a. CEC is holding a math event on October 23
- b. Michigan Reading Association Engagement Night – October 10
- c. Michigan Alliance for Families Mediation/Disproportionality and Mediation session in Oakland on November 16
- d. Learning Disability Association of Michigan awareness month on October 11

XV. Reminders and Forecast

- a. The Online Meeting Survey/Evaluation will be available on Google Docs after the meeting
- b. Communicate Take-Away issues with constituents.
- c. November Forecast
 - i. Wednesday, November 1
 - ii. OSE Updates
 - iii. Significant Disproportionality Action Item
 - iv. Google Docs small group work

XVI. Adjourn

Andy Kowalczyk moved and Lois Lofton-Doniver seconded to adjourn meeting. The meeting ended at 3:05 p.m.