Utah Special Education Advisory Panel

Minutes

January 7, 2010

Present: Taryn Nicksic-Springer, Kris Rice, Tanya Albornoz, Jean Mecham, Connie Crosby, Leslie Buchanan, Melanie Hatch, Michelle Griner, Aubrey Shepardson Goodell, Eric Stoker, Karla Stoker, Leonard Dunn, Mark Thompson, Kay Clark, Lisa Wade, Neesha Rutledge, Caralee Earl, Eden Gillespie, Joy Jensen, Steven Louis, Angela McLean, Susan Loving, Nan Gray, Rebecca Donovan

Welcome: Nan Gray welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

Mentor Guidance: Roz Welch reported that the leadership team has been working to put together a set of mentor guidelines to help mentors as they work with new panel members.

Public Comment: Melanie Hatch reported that she has received negative input regarding how teachers are treating students with ADHD, Michelle Griner commented that there is a resistance to placing students with ADHD on a 504 plan.

College & University Disability Resource Centers (DRC): Steven Lewis, Salt Lake Community College, and Angela McLean, Weber State University, made presentations to USEAP on services available through DRCs. The DRCs exist because of the law and are there to help students succeed in higher education. Students need to apply and be admitted. The DRC provides assistance to help the student with supports allowing them to better access to education but success or failure in school depends on the student. Parents, high school counselors, and teachers can help the student prepare for the transition to higher education by teaching them how to speak for themselves, keep track of their paperwork and what is in the paperwork and to know their limitations and weakness/es. There is no outreach, the student needs to self-disclose, provide documentation and be otherwise qualified. Some disabilities are obvious, while others, like ADHD and psychiatric disorders require diagnostic testing and documentation within six months or less of application for DRC services. Although the there are many services the DRCs can provide based on student need; there are services that the DRCs do not provide which include: tutoring services, personal aides and services, transportation, and diagnostic evaluations.

Transition Action Guide: Susan Loving reported on the new multi-agency transition guide that is in its final stages of development. The draft of this document shows it to be an easy-to-follow guide with explanations of benefits and actions for each key player in the transition process; whether it is the student, parent, teacher, counselor, Disability Resource Center counselor, etc.

USOE Update:

- **APR Update -** The USOE Special Education Staff are busy working on the Annual Performance Report (APR) and the State Performance Plan (SPP). This year the SPP has to be posted online the same day the APR has to be submitted to Washington, DC
- **ARRA Update –** As we continue the approval/reimbursement process we continue to develop and refine our methods recording keeping and forms to help in the process. We are currently developing an ARRA Manual. Utah will be having a federal audit for ARRA in the near future.
- The legislative session is about to begin and we are expecting that all State agencies will be facing some budget cuts.

USEAP Business:

- **Nominations for USEAP Vacancies** – Discussion was held and the following names will be presented to Superintendent Shumway for appointment to USEAP:
    - Private School Representative: Dawn Armstrong
    - Individuals with Disabilities/
    - Parents of Students with Disabilities Laura Anderson
      Heidi Johnson
      Amy Weyrich

- **Summer Workshop Date –** July 13, 2010 was decided on for the Summer Workshop.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting April 13, 2010