

Utah Special Education Advisory Panel (USEAP)
Minutes
June 23, 2017
Summer Workshop

Present: Mallory Poole, Janell Locke, Christina Guevara, Karla Stirling, Amy Nicholson, Amanda Powell, Emma Borrmann, Maggie Crockett, Aimee Langone, Allyson White, Suzanne Crowe, Karen Lancaster, Karen Conder, JoAnn Plant, Emily Nordfelt, Glenna Gallo, Summer Gunn, LauraLee Gillespie, Tanya Albornoz, Michelle Sanchez, Julia Hood, Echo Cunningham, Kathy Chisholm

Guests: Betsy Sutherland, Leah Voorhies, Shauna Crane, Superintendent Sydnee Dickson

Excused: Rebecca Peterson, Deanne Shields, Teryl Young, Natalie Hilbig, Jennifer Howell, Nicole Howell, Amy Weyrich, Amanda Longwell, Charity Diven, Christine Evans

Absent: Jeff Ojeda, Carrie Burton, Elizabeth Banner, Jan Watson, Sundie Goulding, Suzanna Crowe, Kathryn McKenzie, Rebecca Smith, Christy Johnson

Welcome and Introductions: Mallory Poole, Chair, welcomed everyone and asked for introductions as new panel members were in attendance. All attendees introduced themselves. Glenna Gallo asked Emily Nordfelt to share a PowerPoint presentation of current USBE Special Education Services staff.

Public Comment: Mallory asked for public comment. No one had any.

Utah Parent Center – Amy Weyrich

Amy was not present at the meeting.

Part C Update – Betsy Sutherland

The Baby Watch Program, as it is currently named, is part of Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) through the Department of Health. They serve children with disabilities ages 0-3 in the home. They just moved to CSHCN and are in the process of changing their name. Lisa Davenport was the interim director during the move and has now been named as the program manager. They are looking for a parent and a legislator for their Board.

Two days of preschool training at the Utah Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (UMTSS) conference just wrapped up with approximately 55 people in attendance. The training focused on social-emotional outcomes and effective practices for creating and completing goals. RP2 training is continuing with help of ECTA. Barbara Smith and Phil Strain will be coming back to provide more training on inclusive practices. The state Indicator 6 percentages have improved since the inception of the project. Head Start has started RP2.2 in Head Start programs and private programs throughout the state.

Vocational Rehabilitation – Aimee Langone

There is no longer a waitlist for the SD (significantly disabled) category. They are still working on opening the D (disabled) category. There are five pre-employment transition contracts now in place – Ability First, Independent Living Center, Columbus Community Center, Logistic Specialties, Inc. (LSI), and Easter Seals. They are working on getting contracts with other agencies throughout the state, such as Red Rock in southern Utah, to serve more kids. More information is available on the [Voc Rehab website](#). These contracts provide pre-employment transition services (pre-ets) to students ages 14-21 receiving SPED services or 504 accommodations who are enrolled in an educational program or a post-secondary program that's 100+ hours or a minimum of 1 month in length that results in a building vocational skills. Students who are potentially eligible for services can also be referred to Voc Rehab.

Juvenile Justice Services (JJS) – Michelle Sanchez

Now that kids are being served at home thanks to HB 239, JJS is downsizing staff and finalizing new observation and assessment procedures.

Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) – Tanya Albornoz

DCFS is getting more kids due to HB 239 because of opioid use, so consider adding a DCFS update as a standing agenda item. Also because of HB 239, schools will need to develop restorative justice programs. Glenna suggested considering providing guidance on these programs when setting priorities for 2017-2018.

Advisory Panel Training – Shauna Crane, Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education (TAESE) Associate Director

- Context for the Panel.
- Purpose for the Advisory Panel under IDEA.
- IDEA regulations regarding the Advisory Panel.
- Required membership of the Panel.
- Functions of the Panel under IDEA.
- Working as an advisory council, not an advocacy group.

State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) Phase III Update – Leah Voorhies

- The Department of Education added the SSIP as a 17th indicator to states' annual performance reports (APRs) for states to show they aren't just compliantly using Federal funds but are improving outcomes for students with disabilities.
- After a review of ELA and math criterion reference test (CRT) scores, the data showed largest achievement gap (almost 23%) to be in math. The data also showed that students with specific learning disability (SLD) scored the lowest in math, while students with speech-language impairment (SLI) scored the highest. These two groups of students were chosen as the focus of the five-year plan.

- Tremendous growth has been made in the nine LEAs that originally received intensive support from the State. The effective practices from those LEAs will be implemented into other LEAs this coming year.
- A cross-department implementation team (CDIT) was created at USBE with math-related people from instructional departments within USBE to review data and discuss implementation of the SSIP. This has been really effective, so CDITs are being created for behavior and literacy as well.

USBE Updates – Glenna Gallo

- Annual Performance Report (APR) FFY 2015
 - The report was submitted to the Feds, but no response has been received yet. An update should be available for the next meeting.
- State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG)
 - This is a five-year grant Utah has been receiving for the last 15 years that has been funding the Utah Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (UMTSS) project. The application has been submitted to the Feds, but no response has been received yet. An update should be available for the next meeting.
- USBE task force on high school diploma options for students with disabilities (SWD)
 - SWD currently have the option of obtaining a regular high school diploma (ends FAPE) or a certificate of completion (does not end FAPE).
 - Under ESSA, there is an opportunity to add an alternate diploma for students with significant cognitive disabilities (SCD), that does not end FAPE, but counts toward graduation.
 - Another option the task force is considering is a career development credential. This would be for students who do not meet graduation requirements and it focuses on career-readiness skills.
 - The task force is working on proposing classes that an IEP team could choose as a substitute for a class required for a regular high school diploma that would keep the student eligible to receive the diploma.
- Legislative discussion
 - The Extended School Year (ESY) Statute is out-of-date and is limiting beyond what can be limited for criteria for being eligible for ESY.
 - Technical assistance and the Board rules are up-to-date.
 - The RP2 project is currently being funded with IDEA funds because there is no state mandate for preschool. Glenna suggested the Panel may want to provide some written guidance to the Board to suggest legislative financial support if it aligns with the priorities that will be chosen later in the meeting.
 - The education services at the Utah State Hospital is under Board responsibility and has not had a budgetary increase in the last 10-15 years. Glenna suggested the Panel may want to consider this when setting priorities as this past year has focused on SWD in state care.

- The Special Education Services section of USBE has primarily not received any State funding, but 1.5 FTEs were awarded this past year to help with State fiscal work. Glenna suggested it stay on the Panel’s radar to make sure it continues.
- There is contradictory statute and Board rule around assessment. The Board rule is accurate as it states that parents can opt students out of State assessments, but the statute still states IEP teams can opt students out.

USEAP Business – Mallory Poole

- Awards and Recognition
 - Glenna presented a personalized clock to Maggie Crockett in recognition of her service as Chair of the Panel for 2016-2017.
 - Mallory thanked Echo Cunningham, former Charter Schools representative, for her many years of service; she has completed her second allowed term.
 - Mallory presented Glenna with Dr. Pepper and an honorary doctorate since she is leaving for the Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- Review Robert’s Rules of Order
 - Everyone should have a copy for review and reference. Mallory will work on following the rules more closely.
- Action regarding high school diploma options for students with disabilities
 - Questions
 - *Janell Locke: Alternate Diploma – what does complete during cohort timeline to count for LEA’s graduation rates mean?*
 - Glenna said the current State ESSA plan is out for public comment, and it is proposed that an extended cohort graduation rate be considered. The alternate diploma would need to be completed within whichever cohort timeline is chosen.
 - *Janell also asked Glenna to explain for the benefit of the new people why some of the options end FAPE and others don’t.*
 - Glenna said that under IDEA, only three things end FAPE: 1) student reaches the age of majority (22), 2) is no longer be eligible, or 3) graduates with a regular diploma. Therefore, any option that doesn’t meet one of the three exclusionary criteria, would allow a student to continue to attend school and receive services until one of the exclusionary criteria is met.
 - *Joann Plant: What guidance is available for LEAs on amending and substituting required options for graduation?*
 - Glenna said that the State has offered guidance that substitute classes have to have the same content and rigor, but the understanding of same content and rigor is not systematic

throughout the state because substitutions have not been monitored.

- *Karen Conder: Are other states doing similar work on graduation options?*
 - Glenna said that many states are looking at changes in light of ESSA, but there is no common factor with what states are doing.
- *Summer Gunn: As more programs open up at universities for individuals with intellectual disabilities or developmental disorders, how might this diploma discussion impact that?*
 - Glenna said that admission to a community college or university generally requires a regular diploma or GED, so some of these options, by themselves, may not allow admittance. There are plans to bring institutes of higher education (IHE) personnel in to the discussion down the road to discuss this issue.
- Christina Guevera motioned to mark this issue as informational at this time and to discuss it again at the next meeting.
 - Emma Borrmann seconded the motion.

Special Education Director Position – Superintendent Sydnee Dickson

- The Special Education Director position will be elevated to an Assistant Superintendent position over student support. This person will also serve as Special Education Director. Then the organization is about project management and converging with other departments with the Assistant Superintendent in being responsible for carrying out the SSIP. The position will have more authority and more collaboration with other departments.
- Dr. Dickson asked the panel what skills, knowledge set, and characteristics they feel are important moving forward with the position.
 - *Kathy Chisholm: listen to concerns, try to change things, and come back with the change or an explanation on why things can't be changed.*
 - *Emma Borrmann: an understanding of how decisions made at the State level are applied in the classroom, and an understanding of what teachers need and how to provide the resources they need.*
 - *Tanya Albornoz: be collaborative with other agencies outside of education.*
 - *LauraLee Gillespie: will there be enough support for this new role?*
 - *Janell Locke: need knowledge of SPED law.*
 - *Echo Cunningham: present USBE as a support to schools and parents.*
 - *Summer Gunn: someone who understands things in a contextual way and how the different pieces fit together.*

USEAP Business – Mallory Poole

- Priorities for 2017-2018
 - *LauraLee Gillespie*

- *Teacher shortage and alternatives to licensure – are SPED endorsements enough?*
 - *Uniformity in grad requirements across the state*
 - *Child Find – how often do parents refer? Pushback rather than moving forward with evaluation*
 - *Need for preservice PD and behaviorists to support LRE*
 - *Awareness – being represented in this population*
- *Emma Borrmann*
 - *Teacher retention – how best to prepare SPED teachers from ARL and APT – sped endorsement needs better job security*
 - *Diploma options*
- *Karla Stirling*
 - *Transition – K-12 transition from placement to placement, school to school, LRE change – be more sensitive to the structure and formalize processes*
 - *Targeting all of the pieces involved in transitioning to post-school life*
- *Janell Locke*
 - *Restorative justice/changes to JJS structure*
 - *Child Find – what are the processes?*
- *Tanya Albornoz*
 - *Parent outreach and awareness*
- Suggested priorities:
 1. Teacher education and retention
 2. Transition w/diploma options
 3. Guidance for communication and coordination of services from location to location
 4. Parent awareness and Child Find uniformity
 5. Potential - Restorative Justice, disproportionate disciplinary practices (HB 239)
- Janell Locke motioned that the Panel wait for Glenna to return and review suggested priorities before finalizing.
 - Emma Borrmann seconded the motion.
- Approval of minutes from February 23, 2017 meeting
 - Maggie Crockett motioned to approve the minutes as written.
 - LauraLee Gillespie seconded the motion.
- Glenna has reviewed and approved the priority selection.
 - LauraLee motioned to finalize the priorities.
 - Karen Conder seconded the motion.
- 2017-2018 Meeting Dates
 - September 20, 2017 – teacher education and retention
 - November 15, 2017 – diploma options/requirements, transition

- January 10, 2018 – guidance on communication and coordination of services, APR
- April 18, 2018 – Child Find uniformity and parent awareness
- June 22, 2018 – if needed to discuss any remaining issues

Adjourn

- Janell Locke motioned to adjourn the meeting.
- Michelle Sanchez seconded the motion.

Action Items for Next Meeting

-  APR FFY 2015 update
-  SPDG update
-  Diploma options – bring feedback from stakeholder groups