

**SD ADVISORY PANEL ON
CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES
MINUTES**



Date: September 29th, 2021

Time: 9:00 to 4:00 p.m. CT

Location: Library Commons in the MacKay Building

Board Members Present

Elizabeth Welfl (Virtual), Erin Schons, Dr. Donna Johnson, Alex Anderson-Kahl, Meaghan Neuberger, Stacey Meyer, Brian Poelstra, Steve Helgeland, Katie Gran, Angie Brown, Kim Wadsworth, Jennifer Carda, Eric Grover, Michelle Martin, Darcy Peterson, Linda Turner, LeAnne Bawek, Tami Fite, Dawn Smith

Board Members Absent

Kaitlin Ryan and Kim Wadsworth

Call to order:

Chairperson Erin Schons called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM.

Approval of the Agenda:

- Erin informed the panel of two changes to the agenda.
 - Election of officers moved to 2nd day
 - Tiffany Sanderson will join the panel to introduce herself at 9:15am
- Jennifer Carda moved to approve the agenda and Alex Anderson-Kahl seconded
- Motion Carried

Approval of January meeting minutes:

- Katie Gran moved to approve the minutes and Dr. Donna Johnson seconded
- Motion carried

Public Comment:

- None

Panel Orientation:

- Norm Ames discussed the role he plays with Technical Assistance center for Excellence in Special Education(TAESE) and how TAESE works with states across the country.
- Norm presented an orientation on being a part of the Advisory Panel:
 - The Governor’s Office appoints the members, the panel is required by federal law.
 - Purpose of the Panel is to make policy advisement to Special Education Programs to improve outcomes for children and families for students with disabilities.
 - The panel functions as a panel, not as a committee.
 - The by-laws and procedures of the SD Advisory Panel for Children with Disabilities (SDAPCD) were explained to the panel members.

Annual Business Items:

- Wendy discussed the annual report, she asked the panel to review the annual report and provide feedback to her by November 1st, 2021.
- Wendy reviewed the by-laws with the panel, if there are any questions they should be directed to Wendy.
- Wendy talked about the Code of Conduct, she asked the panel to sign the Code of Conduct located in their folders and return those to Wendy or Melissa Manning. Wendy also talked about the Conflict of Interest. If you would have any conflict of interest, please talk to Wendy and she will help you through it.
- Wendy discussed the service rates; we will provide payment for the personal attendant. We will use the rates of the Department of Health and Human Services. Katie moved to approve the rate of \$13.24 and Erin seconded, all were in favor.
- Wendy went over the Department of Education’s organizational chart.
- Linda discussed the addition of Student Wellness to DOE re-organization and answered questions from the panel.

Lunch – 11:45-12:30

State Performance Plan Proposed Targets Presentation:

- Wendy discussed the State Performance Package, this is a 6-year package and has 17 indicators.
 - 17 indicators Compliance vs. Results
 - Compliance Indicators have set targets by Office of Special Education
 - Results Indicators have new requirements and SEP must set new baselines and targets
 - SEP is looking for feedback on the proposed targets
- Each staff member presented the indicator that they worked on.
 - Indicator 1: Graduation Rate presented by Melissa Bothun.
 - Indicator 2: Dropout Rate presented by Melissa Bothun.
 - Indicator 3: Assessment Participation Data presented by Linda Turner.
 - Indicator 4: Suspension and Expulsion Rate presented by Melissa Flor.
 - Indicator 5: School Age (5-21) Least Restrictive Environment presented by Deb Willert.

- Indicator 6: Preschool Least Restrictive Environments (3-5 in preschool) presented by Deb Willert.
- Indicator 7: Preschool Outcomes presented by Deb Willert.
- Indicator 8: Parent Involvement presented by Wendy Trujillo.
- Indicator 9: Disproportionate Representation presented by Melissa Flor.
- Indicator 10: Disproportionate Representation in Specific Disability Categories presented by Melissa Flor.
- Indicator 11: Child Find Initial Evaluations presented by Deb Willert.
- Indicator 12: Early Childhood Transition presented by Deb Willert.
- Indicator 13: Secondary Transition presented by Beth Schiltz.
- Indicator 14: Post-School Outcomes presented by Beth Schiltz.
- Indicator 15: Resolution Sessions presented by Wendy Trujillo.
- Indicator 16: Mediation presented by Wendy Trujillo.
- Indicator 17: State Systemic Improvement Plan presented by Brandi Gerry.

Agenda items moved to day 2:

- Department of Education Updates

Meeting Adjourned at 4:30 p.m.:

- Darcy Peterson motioned to adjourn, and Angie Brown seconded
- Motion Carried



Date: September 30th, 2021

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. CT

Location: Library Commons in the MacKay Building

Board Members Present

Alex Anderson-Kahl (virtual), Larry Ayres (virtual), Elizabeth Welfl (virtual), Dr. Donna Johnson, Tami Fite, Meaghan Neuberger, Kim Wadsworth, Stacey Meyer, Brian Poelstra, Steve Helgeland, Katie Gran, Michelle Martin, Darcy Peterson, Linda Turner, LeAnne Bawek, Eric Grover, Angie Brown, Erin Schons,

Board Members Absent

Jennifer Carda, Dawn Smith and Kaitlin Ryan

Call to order:

Chairperson Erin Schons called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Election of Officers:

- The panel discussed the term limits and the length of tenure the current Chairperson has had.
- Dr. Donna Johnson motioned to nominate Erin Schons to the appointment of Chairperson; Katie Gran seconded.
- Motion carried.
- The panel opened the floor for nominations of Vice Chairperson.
- Erin Schons nominated Larry Ayres to the appointment of Vice Chairperson; LeAnne Bawek seconded.
- With no other nominations Linda Turner proposed to close nominations and cast a unanimous vote for Larry Ayres as Vice Chairperson.
- Motion carried.

DOE Updates:

- Wendy presented an overview of the top dispute resolution issues in school year 2020-21. She, also, discussed the continuation of collaboration with South Dakota Parent Connections Navigator Program to assist parents and school districts to resolve issues and provide support to improve communications.
- Wendy shared the draft of the new website for parents to get information. The things to keep in mind are:
 - Initial draft and we will need to do more work to get it where the panel wants it.

- Think about what you think would be helpful for this website and bring back to the January meeting.
- Linda discussed How the ESSR funds are used:
 - Districts had to list how they were using those funds and the district looked at the district plan.
 - The State is still working with stakeholders.
 - Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy provided services during COVID closures.
 - There will be a focus but is just not set yet.
 - Will work on the highest priorities.
 - Will work on Mental Health.
 - Will work on Engaging Students.
 - Will work on the learning loss from COVID.

Priority and Goal Setting, Norm Ames, TAESE:

- Norm discussed the leading/hot topics for Children with Disabilities across the nation.
- Panel discussed what would be a good priority for the year to pursue.
- Dr. Donna Johnson made a motion to continue last years panel priority by adding to the website to increase special education stakeholders creating public awareness. Brian Poelstra seconded the motion and the motion was carried.
 - Panel discussed having a handout for parents that could be given at IEP meetings with resources to include website.
- Norm recommends having the executive committee or subcommittee work on setting goals to reach the overall goal.
- The panel discussed a subcommittee for refining tasks for the priority area was set and consists of Katie Gran, Stacey Meyer, and Erin Schons.
- Each panel member will review the Administrative Rules of South Dakota and provide feedback individually.

Next Meeting:

- The panel discussed when and where to have the January meeting. There will be a poll sent out with a list of potential dates for SDAPCD to determine date and location of next meeting.

Take aways noted from this meeting:

- The orientation presented by Norm Ames for the panel's functions and duties.
- The panel elected the officers for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson
- The priority area goals have not been set yet and will be discussed at the next meeting in January.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:15 p.m.:

- Angie Brown motioned to adjourn; Katie Gran seconded.
- Motion was carried.