

# SD ADVISORY PANEL ON CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES MINUTES



**Date:** October 20th, 2020

**Time:** 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

**Location:** McKay Building-Library Commons/Virtual ZOOM Meeting

Recording located at <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=16>

## **Board Members Present**

Erin Schons, Linda Turner, Dr. Donna Johnson, Kaitlyn Ryan, Brad Otten, Peggy Waltner, Kim Wadsworth, Steve Hegleland, Marie Ivers, Katie Gran, Larry Ayres, Elizabeth Welfl, Brian Poelstra, Jennifer Carda, Angie Brown

## **Board Members Absent**

Heather Trefz, Larry Puthoff, Stacy Nemec, Laura Johnson-Frame, Stephanie Caron

## **Call to order:**

- Chairperson Erin Schons called the meeting to order at 8:31 AM.

## **Approval of the Agenda:**

- **Brad Otten** moved to approve the agenda and **Steve Helgeland** seconded
- Motion Carried

## **Approval of April meeting minutes:**

- **Steve Helgeland** moved to approve the minutes and **Peggy Waltner** seconded.
- Motion carried

## **Public Comment:**

- None

## **Orientation by Norm Ames, TAESE:**

- Norm Ames discussed his position at TAESE and how TAESE works with states across the country.
- Norm provided orientation on being a part of the Advisory Panel:
  - The Governor's Office appoints the members and the panel is required by federal law.
  - Purpose of the Panel is to make policy advisements to the Governor's Office.
  - The panel functions as a panel, not as a committee.
  - The by-laws and procedures of the SD APCD were explained to the panel members.
- Norm addressed the annual report that the panel reviews and sends to the Governor's Office.

### Priority and Goal Setting, Norm Ames, TAESE:

- Norm discussed the leading/hot topics for Children with Disabilities across the nation. Some of the topics include provision of services during the pandemic; mental health; leadership in Special Education; dyslexia; recruitment/retention; implementation; vouchers, private & charter schools; differentiated monitoring; FAPE; dispute resolution.
- The panels task for today is to identify a priority for the year to pursue and develop goals on how to achieve it.
  - Marie Ivers proposed the priority of preparing a summative list of resources for mental health to give to the school districts; Dr. Donna Johnson seconded.
  - The panel discussed the priority and came to the conclusion that a better apt priority would be dealing with communication. Marie Ivers withdrew her initial priority setting proposal.
  - Kim Wadsworth proposed the priority area for the year will be improving information dissemination and the communication gap between State Education Agency (SEA), school districts and parents for students with disabilities; Katie Gran seconded.
  - Motion carried.
- The panel decide their plan of action would be to contact a couple of parents and ask them: “If you were concerned that your child had a disability, how would you start to get information? Where would you go?”
  - The panel came to a consensus that they would be asking these guiding questions to gain information on how parents look for information.
  - The panel will bring back the information at the next SDAPCD meeting and determine next action.

### Election of Officers:

- **Larry Ayres** motioned to nominate Erin Schons to the appointment of Chairperson; **Kim Wadsworth** seconded.
  - Motion carried.
  - With no other nominations, **Linda Turner** proposed to close nominations and cast a unanimous vote for Erin Schons as Chairperson; **Brad Otten** seconded.
  - Motion carried.
- The panel opened the floor for nominations of Vice Chairperson.
  - **Erin Schons** motioned to nominate Larry Ayres to the appointment of Vice Chairperson; **Marie Ivers** seconded.
  - Motion carried.
  - With no other nominations, **Linda Turner** proposed to close nominations and cast a unanimous vote for Larry Ayres as Vice Chair; **Peggy Waltner** seconded.
  - Motion carried.

### DOE Updates:

- **Starting Well Guide**
  - Linda Turner presented on the DOE Starting Well Guide the state has been working on since the start of the pandemic. This guide holds information that deals with school districts, parents and students. It has the recommendations from the CDC, OSEP and DOH guidelines.

- **Federal State Education Agency (SEA) Monitoring**
  - Linda discussed OSEP's new structure for differentiated monitoring system.
  - OSEP uses a 5-year rotating system with three main phases in a cohort.
  - Year one is pre-site and preparation; year two is monitoring; year three is post-monitoring, correction & technical assistance.
- **SPP Package**
  - OSEP has released a new SPP package and a few indicator requirements have changed. SEP will be reviewing these changes and presenting the information during the January meeting.
- **Annual Report:**
  - Wendy has drafted the annual report.
    - Looks different than previous years to reduce the repetition.
    - New cover
  - Panel members will review and provide comments to Wendy by November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.
  - Annual report will be sent to the Governor's office in December.

**Code of Conduct Forms:**

- Each member must review and sign Code of Conduct agreement annually.

**Personal Assistant Rate:**

- Each year the panel must review the personal assistant rate to determine rate paid if a panel member needs a personal assistant.
- Recommendation to the panel is to use the rate from Vocational Rehabilitation.
- Katie Gran motioned to use the rate from Vocational Rehabilitation, \$13.12; Steve Helgeland seconded.
- Motion carried.

**Dispute Resolution Report:**

- Wendy provided information on the four dispute resolution options available to parents/districts for students with disabilities and results for 19-20 that will be submitted in the February federal report.
- Information was shared on the Navigator contract with SD Parent Connections and the option for parents/districts to utilize this service as a less adversarial option to resolve disputes.

**Next Meeting:**

- The panel discussed having Pierre as the hub for all of next year's meetings and the dates.
- Linda Turner motioned we continue meeting in Pierre for the coming year due to the uncertainty of the pandemic; Marie Ivers seconded.
- Motion carried.
- Consensus was made to have the following dates for meetings:
  - Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021
  - Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021
  - Wednesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- Agenda Items for January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting:
  - Panel Priority Guiding Questions
  - Part C Program Dissemination Information
  - SPP/APR Review

**Take away noted from this meeting:**

- The priority area has been set and the panel will go ask some guiding questions to their stakeholders.
- The orientation presented by Norm Ames for the panel's functions and duties.
- The panel elected the officers for the standing executive committee.

**Meeting Adjourned at 3:21 PM:**

- Kim Wadsworth motioned to adjourn, and Katie Gran seconded.
- Motion Carried