

SD ADVISORY PANEL ON CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES MINUTES



Date: April 7, 2021

Time: 9:00 AM – 4:00 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, Brad Otten, Peggy Waltner, Kim Wadsworth, Steve Hegleland, Marie Ivers, Katie Gran, Larry Ayres, Elizabeth Welfl, Dawn Smith, Brian Poelstra, Jennifer Carda, Larry Puthoff, Angela Brown

Board Members Absent

Heather Trefz, Stacy Nemec, Stephanie Caron, Dr. Donna Johnson, Kaitlyn Ryan,

Call to order:

- Chairperson Erin Schons called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

Approval of the Agenda:

- **Angie Brown** moved to approve the agenda and **Brian Poelstra** seconded
- Motion Carried

Approval of April meeting minutes:

- **Jennifer Carda** moved to approve the minutes and **Larry Puthoff** seconded.
- Motion carried

Public Comment:

- None

DOE Updates:

- **Session Update**

Linda Turner discussed legislative session and the funding that was approved for Special Education and General Education. This legislative session was primarily about redistribution of funds to history, the education certification system and updating of the virtual school program website. Also, SB46: Secretary of Education can hold some power on states of emergency and education.

- **Federal Budget**
 - The budget has been put together and made available for public comment through the month of April. The funding will be used for both required activities and authorized activities of the state.
 - Linda discussed the ARP (American Rescue Plan). It included specific IDEA funding. The Supplemental Grant Allocations to South Dakota will be 611--\$8,428,174; 619--\$746,270; Part C--\$1,040,479. The ARP funding is allocated by the usual calculation for funding. This funding can be used for curriculum if it is not already put in the budget for the school district (especially for students that are transitioning). There is funding set aside for all education: private, cooperatives, specialty schools, etc.

- **Upcoming Resignations**
 - Resignations for this panel: Stephanie Caron, Marie Ivers, Larry Puthoff, Peggy Waltner.
 - Applications for new members can be found on the boards and commissions website for those interested in being members. Three specific groups are being sought: parents of children with disabilities, individual with disabilities and Administrators or Special Education teachers.

- **Stakeholder Groups**
 - The state needs volunteers for the Stakeholder group to set new targets for the new SPP Package. If there is an interest, please let Wendy know as soon as possible.

- **Mental Health:**
 - There are programs to help with mental health with the students and aiding school counselors with the issues that are coming up. Isolation is impacting the student's socialization. Dawn Smith discussed the Title I programs that have been offered for social and emotional assistance to others.
 - Dawn Smith discussed a guidance and paperwork from Connecticut that would help schools reach out their communities to find those who are dropped out.

State Systemic Improvement Plan (Indicator 17):

- Brandi Gerry discussed Indicator 17, State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP). Reading proficiencies among children with disabilities have been the focus since 2014. This year is the planning year, which integrates it with the SD MTSS (emphasis on providing instructional coaching supports to K-3 teachers; updated Theory of Action—February 2021). So, 2021 and on, MTSS+ Implementation: coaching support. The main goal is to improve performance in the interventions.
- Brandi discussed the student impact, family engagement, sustainability, and end of year student data (grade 3 students with SLD) data. This data shows some impact from the COVID pandemic.
- She discussed the MTSS/Data-Driven Decision Making, Literacy/Instruction, coaching and family engagement and how it is being implemented through the Theory of Action.

Priority Area: Improve Communication & Resource Gap:

- Wendy Trujillo discussed the information they gathered since the last meeting and made breakout groups.
 - Discussing where and how to distribute the information within these small groups.
 - Useful format, how to prioritize the information
- Panel members discussed the use of a “hub-type” website to allow parents the ability to find all the valuable information already available about disabilities and groups to help those with disabilities. The SD DOE website would host it under a “Parents” tab.

- Panel members discussed how to reach those that do not have easy access to the internet or those with disabilities themselves by one pager(s) in WIC offices, pediatrician/doctor's offices, PSA's on the radio, billboards, etc. All would get the parents to contact their local school districts and/or Parent Connection.

DOE Secretary Introduction:

- Tiffany Sanderson discussed the priorities of the department. The department is on the nexus of responding to the emergencies of COVID and how to go forward from those. She discussed about professional development, social/emotional impact, early intervention, data infrastructure revamping, COVID-funding for retaining staff, Civics and History funding, teacher certification system revamping. Dealing with medical marijuana, changes in alternative instruction (streamlined process) and other impacts of legislation.
- Tiffany discussed the administering of a year-end survey to discuss the affects of COVID on schools in South Dakota (month by month): special education services, English-language learner services, virtual vs. in-person vs. hybrid teaching methods, etc. The state assessments that are being given at this time will be used as a benchmark, but not for accountability.
- Tiffany stated that she is quite proud of what South Dakota has done with school administrators, nurses, teachers, nutrition staff and their efforts.
- Tiffany and the panel discussed how DOE can communicate with those within the community. They discussed with her the possibility of utilizing the huge amount of information onto a website. The panel, also, stated they talked about making sure those parents that seek out for information on their child are properly trained on who to go to for more information.

Boards and Commissions Site Overview:

- Wendy discussed the boards and commissions site. The boards and commissions website showcases different aspects of boards and commissions across the state.

CDC's Act Early Presentation, Lisa Sanderson, SD Parent Connection:

- Lisa Sanderson presented on the Learn the Signs and Milestone Moments application. She states that early intervention is the best way to improve the outlook for each child. When developmental milestones are given to parents, families, childcare providers, grandparents, they can get in the habit of monitoring and move to the next step in necessary.
- Lisa discussed the milestone checklist: four domains of development, developmental "red flags" and activities to build skills. She went through an anecdotal story about going through that checklist and making sure the child is being adequately taken care of.

Panel Priority:

- The panel discussed the subheadings within each heading: Birth-to-Three, Preschool, Elementary, Middle School, High School and Transition.
- Discussion on the use of Google docs and utilizing the website to narrow down to age specific.

Next Meeting:

- Agenda Items for June 9th meeting:
 - Priority Area: List of resources
 - Statewide Family Engagement Center
 - Panel Member changes

Take away noted from this meeting:

- Parent Connection and Tiffany Sanderson's presentation on the
- Ideas for the webpage to address the priority area
- Stakeholder group volunteers: Marie Ivers and Erin Schons.
- Speaker ideas to date

Meeting Adjourned at 2:58 PM:

- Peggy Waltner motioned to adjourn, and Katie Gran seconded.
- Motion Carried