

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)**

December 5, 2007

Hampton Inn, Okemos, Michigan

10:00 am — 3:00 pm

MINUTES

Delegates Present: Beverly Baroni-Yeglic, Michael Beach, Frederick Cromie, Julie Daggett-Lawrence, Tina Densmore, Judith Dorsch-Backes, Jonelle Gillette, Robert Hove, Jill Jacobs, Teri Johnson, Maggie Kolk, Christopher Korbel, Kathleen Kosobud, Sheri Kraft, Shari Krishnan, Tom Langdon, Diane Lanham, Sharon Melko, David Overly, Susan Peters, Richard Spring, Debbie Squires, Susan Steinbacher, Chuck Stockwell, Jan VanGasse

Alternates Present: Michelle Driscoll, Barbara Stork

Ex-Officio Present: Mark Larson, Valerie Lange

MDE Staff Present: Karen Filliez, Meredith Hines, Matt Korolden, Ann Omans, Krista Ried, Chuck Saur, Pat West

Guests Present: Beth Alberti, Lori Irish, Kelly Orjinski, Michele Robinson, Craig Wiles

SEAC Consultant: Sandi Laham

- I. Call to Order occurred at 10:00 a.m.
- II. Roll Call was taken.
- III. Guests were introduced.
- IV. The December 5 agenda was approved with one exception. Item XIII was deleted and moved to the January agenda.
- V. The November 7, 2007 minutes were approved.
- VI. There was no public comment.
- VII. Chairperson's Report
 - The Chairperson requested that members send their Email ideas to the Executive Committee mailing addresses rather than to the listserv.
 - The chairperson divided the SEAC into three balanced groups consisting of administrators, advocates and service providers to formulate the SEAC collective comment.

- The Chairperson asked members to consider being on the Executive Committee next year.

VIII. State Department Reports – Ann Omans

- OSEP Verification Visit – November 13-16, 2007

The OSEP visit focused on finance, data, and general supervision; desk audits were done prior to the visit. The exit interview went well; OSE-EIS received positive feedback from OSEP. OSEP formal report is expected in January.

- Determinations are done and will be sent to districts soon.
- Public Hearings are completed. Period of Public comment ends on December 28.
- The SPP/APR will go to the OSEP at the end of January.
- Krista Ried from the Office of Professional Preparation Services (OPPS) presented on Highly Qualified Teachers (HQ). Her PowerPoint is attached and on website www.michigan.gov/teachercert.

A FAQ Sheet is being prepared by OPPS and will be provided to SEAC members.

IX. There were no Ex-Officio reports.

X. Ad Hoc Committee Reports

- a. SEAC Bylaws and Procedures Committee: No report.
- b. SEAC Ad-Hoc E-Meeting/Technology Committee Report:

- How many transmissions can the state facilitate?
- Are you assigned to a virtual group?
- What would be the procedure to contact the ISD?
- How to deal with flipcharts
- What if denial for access to ISD?
- How would Executive board meetings be handled?

XI. Subcommittee Reports – There were no subcommittee reports.

XII. Information Items ¹ -There were no information items.

XIII. SEAC Learning on SPP Indicator #1 was moved to the January 2008 agenda.

XIV. Facilitated Dialogue

SEAC Consultant, Sandi Laham lead discussion on the strategies to be used to complete the SEAC comment process.

¹Items requiring action by the SEAC are presented first as Information Items and then again as Action Items for the following month.

XV.

Action Items

a. SEAC Public Comment: Standards & Guidelines for Extended School Year (ESY) Services

- As presented, the document needs clarification and revision
- Standards are not sufficiently clear
- Three areas of consideration for ESY services need to be defined, articulate what constitutes meeting them and state if any one or all of the areas need to be met
- Standards need to be more clearly defined
- Guidance portion of the document needs to be consistent with the standards and be developed, clarified and edited so it does provide guidance
- SEAC would welcome the opportunity to be involved in further discussions regarding the development of the document

The following suggestions for improvement will be incorporated in the final SEAC public comment:

- The Standards are already articulated as Standards and include definitions
- The Standards clearly state which requirements or combination in the three areas determine eligibility
- The Guidance document is separate and consistent with the standards document
- A decision-making process is included for applying the Standards during the IEP process
- Updates in Michigan Revised Administrative Rules for Special Education Rules and the Model IEP form need to be developed to implement the Standards
- The FAQs are in a separate document
- Last sentence be modified to read, "If clarity is not achieved, students may not receive the services needed to be successful."

A motion was made to accept the above revisions to the SEAC public comment. Motion was supported. Motion passed. A final version of the SEAC Public Comment on Extended School Year Services in Michigan: Standards and Guidance for Educators Service Providers and Families will be developed and submitted prior to the December 28, 2007 deadline for public comment.

b. SEAC Public Comment: Resolving Special Education Disputes – Motion: To approve the SEAC Public Comment on Resolving Special Education Disputes as written and submit it to the Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services.

- SEAC supports a collaborative approach focused on resolution of disputes
- SEAC firmly supports the adoption of a single tier system for

- resolving resolution of disagreements
- SEAC supports language change regarding the inclusion of the requirement that the complainant “must also forward a copy of the complaint to the LEA or public agency serving the child at the same time the party files the complaint with the SEA.”
- SEAC recommends additional clarity for all glossary terms used in the document
- SEAC would like to see information added with regards to providing support and/or assistance to a complainant who is unable to write or submit a written complaint including how and from whom the support and assistance might be received. Also the inclusion of references from federal or state law
- Need to clarify who initiates the local resolution
- SEAC believes the document must clearly state what rights the complainant has if the mediation and/or resolution agreement is not implemented by the district.

Motion was made and supported to approve the document and forward to the Michigan Department of Education prior to the December 28 deadline for public comment.

c. State Performance Plan (SPP)/Annual Performance Report (APR), Indicator #14, Post School Outcomes

Baseline data was reviewed and discussed regarding the meaning of those data. Definitions of paid work, vs. competitive work were discussed. The current definition of paid work is broader than that of competitive work. SEAC believes the data and target set for SPP #14 should be disaggregated. The following targets were advised:

- Paid Work
 - Baseline 66%
 - 2008 67%
 - 2009 68%
 - 2010 70%
 - 2011 72%
- Competitive Employment
 - Baseline 49%
 - 2008 50%
 - 2009 51%
 - 2010 53%
 - 2011 55%
- Enrollment in Post-secondary Education
 - Baseline 66%

- 2008 68%
- 2009 70%
- 2010 72%
- 2011 74%

Given SEAC's understanding of definition used for these data categories, the above numbers present an inflated picture with regard to postsecondary outcomes for students with disabilities. SEAC would like to see qualitative details with regard to duration of employment or post-secondary education, the number of hours per week, and the rate of pay.

SEAC believes the use of more rigorous employment and/or post-secondary education definitions may decrease current post-secondary outcome rates as well as improvement targets on these more rigorous quality indicators would likewise be lower than the above recommendations.

SEAC believes a longitudinal study to assess what happens to students who exit the post-secondary system is needed to determine to what extent high post-secondary outcome levels correspond with long term success.

A motion was made and supported that SEAC adopt the following recommendations with regard to SPP #14 and forward them to the MDE.

- To advise MDE to report both competitive and paid employment data and targets.
- To set post-school outcome targets for paid employment as stated above in these minutes.
- To set post-school outcome targets for competitive employment as stated above in these minutes.
- To set post-school outcome targets for enrollment in post-secondary education as stated above in these minutes.
- To expand data collected for SPP #14 for state level reporting to include information on the following:
 - Length of time employed
 - Hours per week employed
 - Rate of pay
 - Employed in area of training if applicable
 - Extent of parent involvement
 - Disclosure of disability to employer
 - Contact with police/law enforcement
 - Contact with mental health agencies
 - Number of credits attained in post-secondary education
 - If not in work or school, was they by choice or due to lack of availability

- To conduct a longitudinal study to determine to what extent these post-secondary outcome indicators align with future success.

XVI. Member Announcements

- MASP – Bob Hove introduced SEAC to SB 842, a Bill that states students who have a reading disability are not exempt from a literacy test at the end of 4th grade.
- Kathleen Kosobud – Finnie’s Friends kits are available.

XVII. Future Agenda Considerations

- a. SPR/APP Indicator #1, Graduation Rate - resetting of target
- b. SEAC 08-09 Executive Committee Nominations – January 2008
- c. Personal Curriculum – February/March 2008

XVIII. Process Check showed the majority of SEAC members with a thumbs up sign for a positive meeting.

XIX. Adjournment at 2:45 p.m.