

# Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP)

## September 14, 2015 Meeting Minutes

**Attendees:** Robin Greenfield, Angela Lindig, Jill Mathews, Lisa Perry, Amy Clark, Stephanie Hoffman, Brian Darcy, Tina Naillon, Keith Allred, Richelle Tierney, Tonya Maestretti, Marni Porath, Brandy Funk, Charlie Silva, Robin Greenfield, Becky Maldonado, Jen Halladay, Guest Speaker: Norm Ames.

### **SEAP Welcome : Dr. Robin Greenfield, SEAP Chair**

- SEAP Chair Dr. Robin Greenfield, called the meeting to order at 8:43 am.
- Director of Special Education Dr. Charlie Silva, made remarks regarding SEAP, its role and vacancies in the department - alternate assessment, special populations, and secondary transition coordinator.
- Dr. Silva also announced that SESTA has been re-established at BSU with six instructional coordinators to assist all LEAs throughout the state. The co-directors are Cathy Thornton and Renee Miner. Cathy has created a toolbox for new teacher training for first year teachers on the Idaho Training Clearinghouse.
- Dr. Greenfield introduced the new executive committee:
  - Brandy Funk, Vice Chair
  - Angela Lindig, Secretary
  - Keith Allred, Past Chair, & Historian
  - Jill Mathews, Family and Community Engagement Coordinator at the SDE.

### **New Member Orientation : Norm Ames**

- Norman Ames, Associate Director, Center for Persons with Disabilities (CPD), Utah State University, Center for Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education (TAESE), presented and facilitated new member orientation.
- Discussion attached – not part of the official SEAP meeting minutes.

### **Approval of the May 11, 2015 Minutes:**

- Minutes stand as corrected – Motion: Brian Darcy, Second: Brandy Funk
- Corrections:
- Under ***SEAP Executive Committee Elections***: Angela Lindig first name spelled Angel. Correct.
- Under ***Strands of Action***: Remove the three question marks.

- Under **Member Updates**: Brian Darcy reported that there are currently 1865 students **received** services from IESDB. Should state: **Receiving**.
- Under **Member Updates**: Amanda Pena described a parenting program and child/adolescent needs assessment the Department of Health and Welfare. Missing word – **used**. Should state Amanda Pena described a parenting program and child/adolescent needs assessment **used** the Department of Health and Welfare.
- Under **Member Updates**: Ruth Garfield reported that **Denis** Wetzal is the new director for Families Together and Ruth will do more outreach. Denise’s name is spelled wrong, correct to **Denise**.
- Under **Discussion of SEAP By-Laws**: Dr. Greenfield stated “SEAP members are able to participate **in the committee** for two consecutive terms.” Correct to state, “SEAP members are able to **participate on the panel** for two consecutive terms.”

**Familiarization With the SEAP Binder:**

Robin Greenfield explained that any new member is able to request a SEAP mentor by contacting her, and if panel members would like labels for their binder, they are available.

The panel reviewed the meeting schedule and agreed to change the start and end times to 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.

Panel members discussed keeping the binders themselves; printing responsibilities; and/or leaving the binders with the SDE. It was decided that panel members are responsible for printing their own materials except for the agenda. Additional print copies will be made available for public attendees.

A discussion of the Idaho Open Meeting laws took place. Brian Darcy made a suggestion that the panel adopt a particular amount of time for public comment. Additionally, the agenda needs to be posted 24 hours in advance of the meeting. Minutes, meeting notices, and agendas need to be posted on the SDE SEAP website. They should also be posted on the Idaho Parents Unlimited website calendar.

**Member Update:**

Stephanie Hoffman shared information about a presentation taking place on Monday the 21<sup>st</sup> of September at the Boise School District regarding 2E children (Twice Exceptional).

**SEAP and SDE Website Presentation and Review by Jill Mathews and Dr. Charlie Silva.**

Charlie discussed the funding routes for special education in Idaho and noted that Superintendent Ybarra’s budget request looks at a new budget formula to increase state funds

for special education with a ½% increase next year, and another ½% in the following year. The budget has been set based on an assumption that students with disabilities represent 5% of the entire student population which is sorely outdated. Idaho has approximately 10% of its student population receiving special education services.

She also explained Idaho's determination level of "needs assistance" and the impact of staying at that level of determination. If a state is not showing improvement, the Federal Government will step in to make changes. A presentation will be given at the November meeting.

The Idaho Training Clearinghouse – a joint project with of the University of Idaho – is being updated. All webinars and resources including both special and general education are on this website. It links with other resources as well – examples include Understood.org and the Iris Center out of Vanderbilt.

### **Public Comment Information:**

Robin provided examples of other state's SEAP public comment information. The SEAP Executive Committee will create a draft for Idaho and will submit it to the panel for comment prior to posting it by November. It will include a statement of "request for reasonable accommodation." The executive committee will meet Monday, October 26 to complete this task.

### **Priorities Discussion:**

*Responsibilities and by-laws:* Robin explained that in reviewing other states' SEAP's no two panels are doing things the same way. Idaho has two additional responsibilities in the by-laws that are not a part of the IDEA regulations: F – advising the SDE regarding incarcerated students who are in adult prisons, and G, advising the SDE on CSPD in recruiting, preparing, and retaining qualified personnel from page 2 of 7 in the bylaws.

*Dispute Resolution and Incarcerated Youth:* Charlie explained that OSEP will be looking at each state's dispute resolution process and will pilot a project with eight states. From there, they will begin looking at Corrections and incarcerated juveniles (potentially).

*Shortage of Special Education Teachers and Options for Pre-Service General and Special Education Teachers at IHE:*

- Charlie mentioned the concern about the shortage of special education teachers in Idaho and a potential article to be released in the Idaho Statesman. While it is not just SPED teachers where there is a shortage, but related services as well, the article may not include that due to its focus.
- Amy Clark discussed the need for recruitment and pre-service training for those who are training to become special educators while teaching. How to provide the support and

training to get them up to speed as quickly as possible.

- BSU has a new Master's program for SPED – one year program – July/June calendar according to Keith Allred.
- The Feds have required that each state submit an equity plan in order to ensure a high quality teacher is before every student – ELL, At Risk, SPED, etc. Idaho is looking at teacher retention – especially in rural areas – and how many may be on the alternate route.
- There are loan forgiveness opportunities for teachers who get their special education degree and then work in a Title I school.
- Salary may be an issue, but not always. Every state has a shortage and the reasons vary.
- North Carolina and some other states are exploring innovative practices such as recruiting high school seniors and covering their tuition with a time commitment.

*Parent Survey – Indicator 8:*

- SEAP needs a report on the 2015 Parent Survey to compare the data to 2014 for informed decision-making.

*Results Driven Accountability and State Systemic Improvement Plan:*

- Charlie stated that the SEAP needs to assist the RDA coordinator in hearing the voice of SEAP and our stakeholders regarding the SSIP. Also, how can SEAP assist with issues to get out of “needs assistance.” Idaho’s monitoring system also needs to be looked at.
- Nanna Hanchett stated that it might be necessary to touch base on issues by age.
- Stephanie added the need to advise about stakeholder issues using the Jeff D. settlement as an example. She further described the effects of mental health on the learning.
- Charlie suggested one or two stakeholder groups provide a presentation on their issues/trends/etc. at each meeting that could inform SEAP and the SDE.
- Toni Brinegar with the Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities was identified as a potential speaker about In Ed (Inclusive Education) and personnel development at the November meeting.

*Future Planning:*

- Robin recommended that for future agenda planning, the SEAP morning should be informational and updates in order to develop priorities with points of discussion. The afternoon will be used to develop the specific priorities.

**Meeting Adjourned:**

Brian Darcy moved to adjourn, Rebecca Maldonado seconded. Meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm.

**Next Meeting:**

November 9, 2015

