

# Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP)

## November 9, 2015 Meeting Minutes

**Attendees:** Tina Naillon, Jill Mathews, Alison Lowenthal, Tonya Maestretti, Lisa Perry, Brian Darcy, Stephanie Hoffman, Ruth Garfield, Marni Porath, Amy Clark, Rebecca Maldonado, Ted Oparnico, Jen Halladay, Keith Allred, Brandy Funk, Charlie Silva, Angela Lindig, Robin Greenfield, Brenda Arnold

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

- Robin welcomed the group and introduced the agenda.

### **Announcement: Brenda Arnold, Special Education Administrative Assistant**

- Brenda Arnold announced a change in per diem rates for those traveling to SEAP meetings from out of the area.
- New requirement: Mileage reimbursement requires travel to be 50 miles each way.
- Submit paperwork within 30 days with receipts and the SEAP agenda.

### **Approval of the September 14, 2015 Meeting Minutes: Robin Greenfield, SEAP Vice-Chair**

- Corrections: Page 2 Ybarra rather than Ibarra

Amy Clark moved to accept the minutes as corrected. Lisa Perry seconded. Approved as corrected.

### **Update on Public Comment : Robin Greenfield, Chair;**

- An update was given regarding “public comment” and notice of SEAP meetings. The information is now located on the SDE Special Education section of the website: [https://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/special\\_edu/seap.htm](https://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/special_edu/seap.htm)
- Public comment can be made in person, via phone, or via an email.
- It was suggested that a line be added that anyone is welcome to attend the meeting even if they do not wish to provide public comment.



## **Update on Federal Laws and State Specific Information: Charlie Silva, SDE Special Education Director**

### *Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Reauthorization*

- Dr. Silva reported that ESEA has not yet been passed.
- Organizations have come together to write letters to Congress to ask them to pass the legislation.

### *Idaho State Department of Education – Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) audit from 2012 and Monitoring of Local Education Agencies (LEA's)*

- The ISDE received OSEP audit findings from 2012 that now need to be resolved within 90 days.
- Fiscal monitoring of LEAs, assurance that districts understand
- Include numbers of students and the amount spent by Health & Welfare per student.
- ISDE is revamping the monitoring system for LEAs which hasn't been looked at since 2007-2009. Accountability must look at results for students and not just compliance.
- Idaho is a bit behind compared to some of the other states. Charlie is speaking with other comparable states and TACE to determine if there is a model to use. Monitoring will begin in the spring, but the full system will not be in place. Some immediate changes will include simplifying the IEP forms, creation of the IEP handbook which is a tool for teachers, and looking at the SLD information in Idaho.

### *SDE Special Education Staff Positions*

- New Special Populations director is Jeff Brandt who replaced Bill Morriss.
- Alternate Assessment Coordinator position is still vacant.
- Secondary Transition Coordinator is vacant, but the position is not open – will be re-opened in the spring.

## **Update on Jeff D. Case: Patricia Martelle – Division of Behavioral Health - Department of Health and Welfare**

- Patricia gave a presentation about the reform of children's mental health services in Idaho as a result of the Jeff D. lawsuit.



- The presentation is attached to these minutes. Idaho will be adopting a new tool called CANS – Child Adolescent Needs and Strengths – somewhat of an adaptive behavior tool that derives a score to determine needs for a level of care and measures progress.

Contact: Pat Martelle: Children’s Mental Health Reform Project Manager 208-334-6660, martellep@dhw.idaho.gov

### **Professional Development Presentations:**

#### **State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP): Deborah Haley-Hughes, Results Driven Accountability Coordinator**

- Deb gave an overview of the plan for the state of Idaho. The presentation is attached to these minutes. Districts chosen will be Lewiston, Vallivue, and Twin Falls.
- OSEP has a website that shows all states’ determination, the SIMR, and their SSIP’s – visit: <https://osep.grads360.org/#program/ssip>
- SEAP members can provide information to Deb about literacy resources that they are aware of.
- Contact: Deborah Haley-Hughes, Statewide Results Driven Accountability Coordinator, Center for School Improvement and Policy Studies, Idaho SESTA, 208-426-1084, deborahhaley-hughes@boisestate.edu www.IdahoSESTA.org 1910 University Drive, Boise, ID 83725-1740.

#### **Parent Survey (Indicator 8) and Post-Secondary Outcomes Survey(Indicator 14): Alisa Fewkes, Special Education Program Specialist**

##### **Parent Survey (Indicator 8)**

- Alisa reported first on the data from the 2015 parent survey. 79 districts are surveyed per year with a sampling of approximately 5,000 parents. A full report is attached to these minutes.
- Correspondence occurs with district Special Education Directors to let them know about the survey as well as reports at the local level and regional level are sent.
- SESTA will provide TA to districts identified as needing targeted TA based on results. Training would occur through a regional coordinator.
- Surveys go out by mail. When there is no response, parents receive a phone survey.
- Survey results reflect a lack of diversity in respondents. This may be a topic for SEAP to address.



- There may be opportunities to improve the survey by adding an N/A option or in letting parents know that if there is something that isn't relevant to them, they can move past that question.

#### **Post-Secondary Outcomes Survey (Indicator 14)**

- Alisa reported on the data from the post-secondary outcomes survey.
- Surveys are first offered by phone, then followed up by a mailed survey when no one can be reached by phone. There are three initial calls before moving to the mail option.
- Protocol changed to allow for more selections of respondents.
- Idaho has not met any of the targets. The targets also increase annually. These targets were set by SEAP, and may need to be revisited. Alison mentioned that targets may not be able to be changed at this time.
- Only 10% answered that they had attended Tools for Life.
- A copy of the report and ppt are attached to the minutes.

#### **Inclusive Education Presentation - Toni Brinegar, Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities**

- Toni gave a brief overview and history of the Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities and the Developmental Disability Act that established DD Councils, Protection and Advocacy organizations, and University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities
- Toni presented about the Inclusive Education Project – an initiative of the ICDD – Her presentation is attached to the minutes.
- Feedback from SEAP members was requested and SEAP members responded:
  - More understanding of twice exceptional kids (2E) by educators
  - A 2E manual is on the State Department of Education website:  
[http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/gifted\\_talented/twice-exceptional/](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/gifted_talented/twice-exceptional/)

#### **Special Education Support and Technical Assistance (SESTA) Cathy Thornton, Associate Director of Statewide Operations**

- Cathy provided a presentation about SESTA for professional development for SEAP members. Her presentation is attached to the minutes
- Alison provided a technical assistance (TA) resource for paraprofessionals: The Paracenter – Colorado - <http://www.nrcpara.org/node/1365>
- Angela to provide the Orange County Public Schools Modules to Cathy and Toni for possible professional development opportunities.



- Amy identified a need for better understanding of how to use and interpret assessments to inform teaching and instruction.

**University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) University of Idaho – Center on Disabilities and Human Development : Robin Greenfield, SEAP Vice-Chair**

- Robin provided a presentation on the UCEDD at the University of Idaho and its programs and services. She further presented on professional development opportunities in low incidence disabilities and the Idaho Project for Children and Youth with Deaf-Blindness.
- Robin provided a resource called Design to Learn - <https://www.designtolearn.com/>
- For professional development, three part webinar series are available. The next webinar series will be in January – webinars are archived for two years.
- A summer institute is also offered. This year it will be held June 13-14 will include alternative and augmentative communication (AAC), apps on iPads and a make n' take with Theresa Wilcomb from the UCEDD in New Hampshire.

**SEAP Potential Priorities Discussion**

- SEAP priorities should advise and support the SDE in their activities.
  - Universal Design for Learning (UDL) in relationship to the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) could be a priority.
  - Deb asked SEAP specifically for literacy resources.
  - The SSIP core team at the SDE will have a two day conference in June on literacy.
  - A SEAP subcommittee will meet in January to discuss action items on SSIP, professional development for teachers to include all kids, UDL, and literacy.
    - Robin, Jen, Rebecca, Ruth, Alison, Angela, Brandy
  - As discussed during the Indicator 8 and 14 surveys, SEAP further discussed the following as priorities:  
The parent survey and post-secondary surveys have targets that are set by SEAP. We may wish to revisit the targets to determine if they're realistic or attainable.
  - Alison mentioned that we may not be able to revisit the targets based on the SPP five year plan. Targets might not be able to be adjusted based on new data.
  - Review the questions of both of the surveys and tie the postsecondary outcomes survey to input regarding the Tools for Life Conference in small groups at the February meeting.



## **SEAP Panel Presentations: Tina Naillon, SDE, McKinney Vento Homeless Act Program and Angela Lindig, Idaho Parents Unlimited**

- Angela described the focus areas of IPUL – Parent Training and Information Center under section of 671 of Part D IDEA; Family to Family Health Information Center under the Health Resources Services Administration for Children with Special Health Care Needs, and VSA Idaho, the State Organization on Arts and Disability. She explained that in order to best serve families, there needed to be a greater understanding at the district and school levels of what IPUL provides, why it is provided, and how partnering is the key to training parents, reducing disputes, and increasing parent involvement (family engagement). <http://www.ipulidaho.org>.
- Tina gave a presentation about the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and program requirements. She stated that every district has a homeless liaison.
- Districts must set aside ¼ of 1% of their Title I funds.
- Students are to be educated in their last school of origin unless the team decides that it would not be in the best interest of the child.
- A copy of the Powerpoint presentation is attached to the minutes.

### **Other:**

- 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IDEA – stories and information will be shared: <https://www.osep-meeting.org/ideaanniversary>

### **Next Meeting**

- February
  - Agenda Items
    - Small Work Groups to Discuss Priorities
    - Professional Development – Incarcerated Youth
    - Agency/Individual Presentations – Ted Oparnico– Department of Corrections and Stephanie Hoffman – Division of Behavioral Health
    - Draft By-laws for Review

### **Meeting Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn – by Brian Darcy and seconded by Keith Allred. Meeting was adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

