



# Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP)

## January 26, 2015 Meeting Minutes

### Attendees:

Keith Allred, Wendy Fitch, Elaine Shannon, Jill Mathews, Bill Morriss, Angela Lindig, Stephanie Hoffman, Ted Oparnico, Brian Darcy, Charlie Silva, Grace Dehner, Melissa Carver, Ruth Garfield, Robin Greenfield, Amanda Pena, Sue Shelton, Toni Wheeler, Dina Flores-Brewer

### Welcome:

- Charlie asked to start off with the viewing of the People First YouTube video
- Charlie asked each member of SEAP to introduce himself or herself
- Wendy Fitch introduced the new nominee – Elaine Shannon

### November Meeting Minutes Review & Approval: Keith Allred - Chair

- Add page numbers
- Early Childhood Indicators – Clarification that Keith did not declare a unanimous decision – some members were in agreement
- Change Keith's comment (near the end of the minutes) Focus has been **Academics** in Education
- **Keith will meet with Grace to discuss changes and clarifications of the meetings**
- Brian Darcy – Take out “not Many programs” from within his member update
  - Free for parents to attend trainings
  - We are providing a training for the new Braille Code
- **Brian Darcy made motion to hold to approval of the minutes until a meeting with Grace for clarification. Robin seconded the motion. All in favor.**
  - *Keith suggests a meeting with Grace before the next meeting*

### Directors Comments: Charlie Silva – Director of Special Education

- Since the last meeting – November 10<sup>th</sup>:
  - New Superintendent and Staff have taken office (lots of changes)
  - New head of IT & New head of Communication
  - All changes in the Department were done with transparency
  - Lester's retirement – back under contract
  - Richard O'Dell – resigned in December
  - We have positions still open in the Division of Special Education
  - Wendy Lee is to fill the Funding & Accountability position
- Huge priority to “fix” our data
- Annual Performance Review (SPP/APR) due to the Feds next week
- Melanie Reese and team have completed the new Special Education (SPED) Manual
  - Send one hard copy to every School District
  - Outlining document included that breaks down all of the major changes and updates to the manual
  - Discussion of potential trainings to accompany the distribution of the manual
- Dispute Resolution's (DR) move to BSU has been put on hold. This was Sherri Ybarra's decision – she is wanting to have a better understanding of the purpose and how the program works within the Special Education Division
- Keith would like an update on the State Performance Plan / Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) that we will be presenting to the Feds
- Status regarding the level of support from Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)
  - Charlie has had more contact, but the subject has been on the APR/SPP and getting it ready for the deadline (February)
- OSEP Leadership Conference – August/July?
- Shannon Dunstan reported about The Early Childhood Behavior Conference (All In: Achieving Results Together)
  - 2 days on the subject of behavior in a Preschool Setting
  - Debbie will be accompanying Shannon
  - There will be a training in the fall that covers the Common Core
  - July 27<sup>th</sup> through the 29<sup>th</sup>

- Questions
  - Keith would like to sit down with Charlie and chat about her long-term vision
    - For the Division of Special Education
    - For SEAP
    - Better collaboration, within SPED, between SPED groups such as SEAP and Directors Advisory Council (DAC), also within the different Divisions within the State Department
  - State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) due date is April 1, 2015

**Monitoring Update:** Bill Morriss – Special Populations Coordinator

- General File review taking place in the Spring
  - Looking at Independent Education Program (IEP) eligibility
    - Compliance Tracking Tool (Compliance Monitoring)
  - 2 regional coordinators and 2 contracted individuals will accompany Bill Morriss will be going out into the Districts to provide technical assistance and training to help clear up this issue
  - Process will hopefully take until the end of the school year
- Dr. O’Dell had indicated that there was no suspensions or expulsions of kids on IEPs – there was a disagreement from the members of SEAP
  - All attention has been toward the data sets for the APR/SPP
    - Suspensions & expulsions are a part of those data sets –
    - The people that will be taking over are very competent in this area and will be able to verify or correct this issue
  - Sue – the data is what it is – mainly because that is the data that we have and this is what we need to use – we are not able to manipulate the data
  - Schools report most of the data that we use – there is a large margin of error in this reporting method
  - Ruth - There is a disconnect between the State Department of Education (SDE) and the administration of smaller districts
  - SUE - Is there a need in the Districts for training in this area?
    - YES
  - Angela – we should look at how this data is reported
  - Bill to discuss this topic with Charlie
    - Looking at the data
    - Training in the data reporting area
    - Checklists in reporting and links
    - Training in the Districts to bring awareness as to why this is a problem
  - Ruth – refers many individuals to DR – a very beneficial resource.
  - In the future, we are hoping to change the method of compliance tracking
    - Wanting to go in the area of results driven accountability
    - Wanting to up the quality of our technical assistance
    - Keith – Richard stated that he wanted to turn to a 5 or 6 year cycle for data reporting
      - Bill stated that this is a model used in other states for elementary – some schools do not receive visits, but all schools do fill out a survey of sorts, or self-evaluation and the results of their survey will determine if they get technical assistance or visits from the State Department
      - Bill – This is definitely a concern and it is on SPED’s radar - We want the best compliance and monitoring department possible. There is a problem with our system currently, this needs to be addressed
    - Wendy – There is contact and communication between the SDE and the school district while using the 5-year monitoring plan (many benefits)
- Bill – Person-to-person communication is very important in this area

**Alternate Assessment:** Toni Wheeler – Special Education State Wide Assessment Coordinator

*Presentation PowerPoint available for further review*

- National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC) Partner Organizations
  - Help teachers understand standards
  - Communicative Confidence
  - Trainings (extended resource teachers and the school district reaches out)
    - Exploring the NCSC Resources

- What to teach (common core state standards, core content...etc.)
- How to teach
- Understanding the standards
  - Example: Reading Informational Text
  - Creating access points for students
  - How are we going to support our students to get to the point of understanding the standards
- Instructional Planning using the NCSC Resources
  - Menus of supports for all kids based upon different styles of communication
  - 5-step process (always starts with a general education lesson)
    - Identify the standards in the Gen. Ed lesson
    - Identify the outcomes or learning objectives for all students
    - Examine the instructional activities for all students
    - Determine supports for SCD
    - Use NCSC curriculum and instructional resources as needed
  - Stephanie – Broken down differentiation for teachers
    - The core standards are for all. Want all kids to be able to access grade-level content
  - Keith – what will alternate assessment look like under common core?
    - Pilot project was initiated last spring
    - There will be a writing prompt
    - Remember statements
    - Open responses
    - Do not have to be verbal to take the assessment – kids that are unable to be verbal will be able to take the assessment
    - Stopping rule – if there is not a way to communicate with the kids, there is no point dragging the kids through the 40 question process

**Aligning IEPs with Common Core:** Sue Shelton - Regional Special Education Coordinator

- Trainings – overview of the core standards. How does that relate to kids with Individual Education Programs?
  - General education standard
- Compliance monitoring compliance needed to be included
- Talked about how to write goals
- Component that related to how instruction touches everybody. All students are important – education of all students
- Universal design for learning
- Trainings took place in November, February, and May throughout the State
- Training on writing goals so that they are oriented slightly more towards kids that have a higher level of needs in order for all kids to be equally successful in school
- The ultimate goal is that special education students are just as successful as Gen. Ed students
- Trainings were geared towards all teachers – SPED teachers and Gen. Ed. Teachers (mainly provided to SPED teachers)
- Bill – there are trainings that offer credit (not all trainings) potentially make this a bigger reward for teachers so that they feel that it is worth their time to attend these trainings
  - University credit
  - Substitute reimbursement
  - Angela - Inclusive Education (INED)– Already in place with some Idaho Universities provides credit for these teachers

**SEAP Priorities:** Keith Allred - Chair

- Keith asked for a general consensus from the group as far as goals to present to Charlie and Sherri's administration
- Robin – Bringing Charlie up to speed with what has been done in the past

## Member Updates: All Panel Members

- *Angela – Idaho Parents Unlimited (IPUL)*
  - IPUL has moved to a new location
  - *University of Idaho and IPUL would be able to host a SEAP meeting in the future.*
  - Parent leadership Development – Conference will be April 14-16<sup>th</sup> in Pocatello
    - Nancy Thomas will be speaking – expert in reactive attachment disorders
    - SPED from birth to three all the way up to adulthood
    - Capacity building IEPs
    - Melanie and Shannon will be presenting
    - Would like to get the presentations from Toni and Sue to be present in order to create a connection for parents
  - Hiring part-time parent education coordination (second interviews)
- *Ruth – Families Together*
  - Families together is partnering with IPUL
  - Tools for Life
  - 57 families
  - Helped 179 families through outreach and support
  - 8 parent trainings
  - Hosted 22 family development webinars
  - Ruth resigned as Executive Director
  - Several facilitated IEP meetings coming up
- *Ted – Department of Corrections (IDOC)*
  - Overall – 35/40 offenders as of December, 2014
  - Newly hired teacher
  - Took over the private prison last year
  - 7-8 facilities across the State
  - Hiring instructional assistants soon
- *Brian – Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf & Blind (IESDB)*
  - Present to Joint Finance – Appropriations Committee (JFAC) – *Friday January 30<sup>th</sup> 10:30*
  - 1784 total services provided state-wide
  - Campus programs = 84 students
  - Do not currently have an elementary teacher for the Blind
  - Homecoming week on campus – Basketball game
  - New Chairmen of the Board – Ybarra was able to attend the occasion
  - Have partnerships – trainings with the SDE.
    - The three agreements with the SDE:
      - Paraprofessional training
      - English Braille Code training & Implementation Workshop
      - Summer Symposium
- *Robin – Associate Director: Center on Disabilities and Human Development*
  - Providing technical assistance for dual sensory impairment
    - 5 year cycle grant (2<sup>nd</sup> year of this cycle)
    - Modules with the infant toddler group to learn more about Deaf/Blindness
    - Collaboration with California and Montana – interveners one-to-one support with those students
    - 3-part webinars:
      - Thursday January 29 on the topic of Literacy and autism
      - April on Universal Design For Learning
    - Phil Schweigert is presenting at the summer institute on communication for children at the pre-symbolic level of communication, June 15-16 in Boise.
- *Stephanie – Division of Behavioral Health*
  - 34 year-old Jeff D. lawsuit mediation has concluded and promises a much more robust system of care for children with behavioral health concerns in Idaho. The actual settlement agreement has not yet been publicized and it will take several years to implement all of it

## Member Updates Continued:

- *Dina - Disability Rights Idaho*
  - Public hearing at health and welfare on Friday the 30<sup>th</sup> from 8-11am
    - Medicaid expansion
    - Questions
  - Providing technical assistance to parents and students involving suspension and expulsion
  - Tools for life at the Capitol
  - Grants for transitioning kids in high schools to life after school
  - Coordinating with IESDB to implement a pilot program that involves post-school outcomes of kids who are deaf
  - Keith would like Dina to provide perspective on the role(s) that relate to SEAP & SPED Division within the SDE
- *Jill Mathews – Family and Community Involvement Coordinator*
  - Idaho Training Clearinghouse (ITC) – Multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) modules – parent involvement module will launch today
    - Three total modules – how to get parents involved
  - Keith would like Jill to send out a link to the modules
  - Grace will link up with Jill to provide SEAP Member contacts
  - 13 schools that are within the MTSS program (*2 schools – one school is the host and the other is the guest school*) parent involvement
  - Angela – would Jill have access to new updated improvement information that tracks from the beginning stages to now (parent involvement vs. parent engagement) how many of these schools would rate themselves as more successful in this area
  - Idaho State Prevention and Support Conference in Sun Valley April 8-10<sup>th</sup> 2015. Jill will be speaking at this conference
- *Wendy Fitch – Parent: Payette Schools*
  - Local schools are gearing up for spring testing
  - 18-21 year old program – these kids are considered dropouts – *this is upsetting to schools – working with part C*
- *Amanda Pena – Department of Health and Welfare*
  - Next round of Federal Reviews – state-wide quality assurance and data collections
  - 4E – federal funding sources
  - Nurturing parent programs
  - Bringing families together to help keep kids in their own homes and increasing family services
  - Working with same populations
- *Keith Allred – Associate Professor, Department of Special Education: Boise State University*
  - BSU beginning the second 5 weeks of this summer BSU will launch MIT program which will be a 1 year program 9 semester hours in special education resulting in a certification and a Master's degree, as well as early childhood resulting in a blended degree.
  - Limiting numbers to 30 in each program. Cohort based. Focus on meeting the requirements for the state of Idaho. So out of state students will need to make certain that the program will meet their state's certification requirements.
  - Discussion about what the program will offer and what the students will do when they become teachers in the districts. Keith discusses how districts will implement different processes.
  - Stephanie – disagrees with the idea that districts can do whatever they want to do. Why have a State Department of Education if Districts can do whatever they want after students graduate.
  - Keith – depends on whether the teachers are entry level or conditioned/experienced.

## Discussion:

- Keith hopes that at the end of the day we collaborate as a team (SEAP)
- Dina Brewer – in her experience the SDE and SEAP struggled with how much guidance was too much. Determining the difference between advisory and advocate
  - Dina said they tried to reconcile by writing a letter but no resolution.
- Stephanie agreed and stated it was indicator after indicator after indicator being talked about
- Dina wants to know how much affect SEAP has on the SDE
- Keith replies – He agreed that the prior path was heading down a very micromanaging but with Charlie provides the impression that she will provide more latitude. And that Sherri Ybarra actually has the last say and everyone and

group is waiting to see how Sherri runs things. Keith went on to discuss two previous goals to focus on:

- Parent involvement
- New initiative focusing on social/emotional development of students on IEPs
- Angela – agrees and believes as SEAP they have identified priorities and feels they can move forward. And as Charlie and Sherri get settled then they have already began the work and reevaluate next year.
- Keith asks Jill what is the status of the parent survey results from last school year
- Jill – parent survey is part of a module discussed in early part of meeting. She is not sure where the data is. Angela is aware of the data and Amanda is aware of the data. They believe it was through Utah State University’s Training and Assessment Systems (TAESE) Educational Interpreters Program (TASK12). Angela believes Richard O’Dell shared the data with her in an informal conversation.
- Amanda believes that the meeting in June of 2014 would have been the time the data was shared. She wonders if it is in the minutes.
- Amanda would like the survey
- ACTION ITEM – committee wants a report on the parent survey! Jill will look into and talk with Lisa to find information. This will be a primary agenda item for the next meeting. Keith would like to have the data found sent out and everyone to please review it if they receive it.
- Three goals:
  - Parent survey involvement data
  - Charlie’s support of the coalition regarding social/emotional development
  - ?
- Jill shares that Tom Falash would like to participate on SEAP as a parent representation. He has applied.
- Keith will need to refer to the bylaws to determine how and if, but he isn’t sure if there is need for the representation on the committee
- Stephanie disagrees and feels the representation is necessary and would eliminate someone wearing more than one hat on the panel. A parent can represent as a parent and only a parent and then the professional can focus on the professional perspective
- Keith - NOTE: help from state department SDE personnel to follow up on Tom Falash application. Also follow the process outlined in the bylaws.
- Per bylaws: meeting is an open meeting so he can attend but he cannot participate until he is officially a member.

**Agenda** - March 2nd next meeting – confirmed; Angela will not be able to attend

- Report on Annual Performance Report – need update on this
- Keith suggests – would like a report from new data personnel of what their plan is with the data collection
- Brian Darcy – work with Charlie maybe to revamp SEAP Manual
- Legislative update re: education budget and priorities

*Meeting Adjourned at 1:43pm*

**Executive Committee Meet & Discuss Agenda for Next Meeting:**

- Robin – wants to know what they (Jill & Robin) are going to bring to discuss with Charlie
- Keith would like to propose to Charlie that the SDE take the lead on putting together a “summit” to access needs regarding the needs of Idaho students in the realm of social/emotional development.