

# Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP)

## May 17, 2021 Meeting Minutes

**Attendees:** Charlie Silva, Jenn Halladay, Carly Saxe, Alison Lowenthal, Angela Lindig, Brian Darcy, Bryn Booker, David Vaughn, Debbie Siegel, Eric Lichte, Jacob Head, Jill Mathews, Kristen Nate, Laura Wallis, Robin Zikmund, Sally Brown, and Ted Oparnico

- Guests: Alisa Fewkes, Karren Streagle, Lisa Pofelski-Rosa, Shannon Dunstan, and Kailey Bunch-Woodson, SDE, Joey Ward (IDOC), and Sylvia Purcell (parent and SEAP applicant)

Not in attendance: Robin Greenfield

**SEAP Welcome and Roll call:** Jenn Halladay, SEAP Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:05 am. This meeting was held via Zoom.

- Ted Oparnico introduced Joey Ward, who will take his place as the representative on the committee from the Idaho Department of Corrections.

**Approval of the February 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes:** Jenn Halladay called for approval of the February 8, 2021 meeting minutes.

- Motion to approve was made by Ted Oparnico and was seconded by Eric Lichte. A vote was called, and all were in favor.

### **Federal and State Updates:**

#### **Dr. Charlie Silva, SDE Special Education Director**

- **Federal:**
  - **American Rescue Plan Act** – The Federal government has set aside funds for states. States are collecting stakeholder input for their state plan, which must be submitted by June 7, 2021. The SDE is working on a draft of our State's plan and hopes to get it posted very soon for public comment on our SDE website. **BRENDA** will email you with how to find the plan, and Charlie asked **EVERYONE** to review and provide feedback! Please share this with those you know, organizations, other parents, etc., and ask them to weigh in!

- Through the ARPA plan, the US Department of Education has a line item specific to IDEA, and \$13 million dollars for Idaho (a one-time fund) has been earmarked for Idaho for special education activities. The SDE sent out an email last Wednesday (5/12) to LEAs with their estimated allocation as we haven't received an official allocation amount from the US Department of Education. There will be 100% flow-through to LEAs.
  - A comment was made by a committee member that right now, several school districts have levies up for voter approval, and false messages are going out to voters that they should veto the levy because COVID monies are coming and will take care of everything.
  - Charlie responded that it is our job to educate people about the purpose, use, and expiration of the ARPA funds. That information will be captured and posted during the public comment period, so she recommended that committee members steer people to the SDE website to become more informed and to provide feedback regarding the State Plan. Suzanne Peck put a link in the chat to the SDE Federal Programs webpage for committee members to review information they have posted on ARPA (ESSER III) funds. The webpage is <https://www.sde.idaho.gov/federal-programs/american-rescue-plan/>

- **State:**

- Our State Application for monies we receive for IDEA is due this Friday (5/21), and we are close to having it submitted.
- Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) – We have monthly calls with our OSEP lead, and we, along with every other state, are being asked where we are at with COVID-19 resources. We've received positive feedback from OSEP on our resources for LEAs and families.
- Idaho Partners in Policymaking – Charlie shared information and handouts with committee members on this program offered through the Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD Council). This is an amazing program, and she encouraged **EVERYONE** to review the information; and if you don't qualify to apply, please share with those who do. Alison suggested that the BSU Peers program might be a great resource for the DD Council to link up with to share this resource. **CHARLIE** to give that suggestion to Karren Streagle for her to take to the DD Council.

**Cultivating Readers Project (SSIP/SpDg): Shannon Dustan and Kailey Bunch-Woodson, SDE**

- There are 21 LEAs and 31 elementary schools who are participating in the project.
- The SDE is seeking input on recruiting and retaining parents to be part of the leadership team. How do we approach parents and address concerns about the time commitment (Two years)? How do we support parents to be active participants? A question that the SDE has received has been, "can we use a teacher who has a child in SPED as the parent representative?" Although we understand the time commitment for parents attending team

meetings and the additional parent meetings and that it is much easier to recruit a staff member, we feel that defeats the purpose.

- Feedback:
  - As long as I'm given enough notice and there are funds to cover child care, it is great! If you can send the message to parents that this is a way to help your child and it will impact the other kids and families who come after them and that they can contribute to the greater good.
  - It's great that you are connecting with IPUL and are using their connections.
  - We speak a different language in education, parents need to know that they are a full member of the team instead of an add-on, that their voice is heard, and they are responsible for something.
  - You speak in acronyms which is very confusing for parents. Please use the full name instead of acronyms as parents don't know what they mean. Charlie noted that the SDE does have an acronym "cheat sheet" on our website, and we will share that at the next SEAP meeting.
  - Angela (IPUL) – I am happy to work with districts on how to recruit parents and provide training on how to engage, serving in groups, and leading by convening. Can districts in the project provide a list to Shannon of good candidates to reach out to? It is our hope that school districts will take the ball and run with it.
  - Invite SPED parents and parents with students who receive speech therapy services. Work with speech therapists to help identify those parents.
  - What a great idea to talk about the impact that parents can have and to focus on parents that have a student with speech delays. Also, work with parents who are currently on the leadership team, if they are willing, could they be part of the recruitment process to share how it was. What about incentivisation? A mentorship to mentor the new parents coming in?
  - I have a lot of parents that we communicate with that would want to be involved. I can put this on our website and send emails out to parents.
  - If you have parents in the elementary project who want to participate, tell them to reach out to their SPED director.
  - How do we find out which schools in those identified districts are participating? **SHANNON** to provide that list to Brenda to forward to committee members and to also create a parent flyer with all of the information to be sent to schools in the project to distribute to parents.
  - Make sure to notify principals so if they are interested, they can work with their SPED teachers to recruit parents.
  - Shannon asked, "What else can we do?" If committee members have other ideas, please reach out to her.

**Idaho Pyramid Model Collaborative: Shannon Dustan and Kailey Bunch-Woodson, SDE**

- This is a statewide social/emotional program for early childhood settings.
- Through coaching and technical assistance, Idaho early care and education environments will: (1) Address disparities in discipline practices; (2) Promote family engagement; (3) Use data for decision making; and (4) Foster inclusion of children with and at risk for developmental delays and disabilities.
- The SDE is partnering with Idaho Head Start, IdahoSTARS, Idaho SESTA, Center on Disabilities & Human Development, Idaho Infant Toddler Program, Idaho Department of Health & Welfare, and the National Center on Pyramid Model Innovations.
- We are just finishing up with Cohort #1 are reviewing the growth and strategies used as well as how COVID-19 has impacted implementation.
- We have tripled the number of participating program sites in Cohort #2.
- The SDE will report additional data at the next SEAP meeting.
- What's Next – Gathering end of year survey results, programs submit end of year benchmarks of quality, Teaching Pyramid Observation Tool Training, Prevent, Teach, Reinforce for Young Children Training – Cohort #1, State Leadership Annual meeting on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, and Teaching Pyramid Observation Tool Training – Cohort #2.

Charlie: This is really exciting work!! : Kudos to Shannon & Kailey!

Question: Are any of these resources available to parents? Shannon: Yes, they are on the Idaho Training Clearinghouse, under "Topics," "Pyramid Collaborative," and there are lots of links, including National resources, and a parent section, etc., so this webpage can drown and overwhelm you with resources.

- Shannon shared information regarding kindergarten readiness as follows:
  - The State Board of Education is proposing to adopt guidelines for preschool and a one-page kindergarten readiness flyer and checklist on what you want to look for to make sure that your child is ready for kindergarten. Includes parent strategies to support areas of development. This will be going to the State Board of Education for approval at their June board meeting. If it is approved, the SDE will post and send to LEAs to share the flyer, guidelines, and resources with parents. **CHARLIE** to let everyone know the status at the next SEAP meeting.

### **Fiscal Updates – Lisa Pofelski-Rosa, SDE**

- Lisa gave updates on the Federal Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Allocations:
  - Regular Year State Grant Allocations – This is the main pot of IDEA grant money that the SDE receives.
    - On School-Age-611 Funds – An increase of 1.9% (\$1,156,607) increase from FY2020 to FY2021. Not a lot of change.
    - On Pre-school – 619 Funds – A very small increase of 0.8% (\$18,042) from FY2020 to FY2021.

- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – These are a supplemental, one-time set of funds and are in addition to IDEA allocations. We haven't received guidance on these funds yet.
  - Of the \$130 billion the Federal government allocated, the following amounts were earmarked for IDEA grant awards for supplemental FFY2021 funds:
    - IDEA Part B, 611, School-aged - \$2.5 billion
    - IDEA Part B, 619, Preschool - \$200 million
    - For Idaho, for School-aged (611), that would be \$13,233,706, and for Preschool (619), that would be \$1,156,111.
    - We will put together training for LEAs on how to use those funds when we receive guidance.
- IDEA Application Due Dates – The IDEA Part B Preliminary Application opened on May 14<sup>th</sup> and is due June 15<sup>th</sup>. The IDEA Part B Final Application will open upon approval of the preliminary application, and the due date is November 15<sup>th</sup>.
- School-Aged IDEA Part B 611 Innovation Grants for LEAs –
  - The SDE reallocated approximately \$1.5 million of leftover state-level activities funds from the FFY2019 to LEAs as competitive innovation subgrants.
  - The leftover funds are a result of the COVID-19 restrictions and reduced spending. The full federal grant must be spent out by September 30, 2021.
  - LEAs can apply for subgrants (\$25,000 to \$75,000) for specific needs in their district. There would be a priority for applications from rural or small LEAs, but the subgrant is open and available for all LEAs.

### **State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) – Alisa Fewkes, SDE**

- Alisa gave a summary of SPP/APR indicators, the story of the state data, changes to SPP/APR, and stakeholder involvement.
- Next steps: The SDE is developing a plan for distributing information and collecting feedback from stakeholders as follows:
  - Planning (May 2021);
  - Train, analyze, and collect stakeholder feedback (June – November 2021); and
  - Finalize and submit SPP/APR (February 2022).
- She outlined the Idaho Areas to Address – Indicators 1 (Graduation); 2 (Drop out); 3 (Participation and Performance on Statewide Assessments); 4 (Suspension/Expulsion); 5 & 6 (Least Restrictive Environment); 9 & 10 (Disproportionate Representation).
- Charlie advised that the September SEAP will be focused on getting feedback on APR/SPP. You are our stakeholder input group, and we want to make connections with other stakeholder groups for a more diversified group of stakeholders and

underrepresented groups. We will rely on you as a committee member to assist in this work!

### **Medicaid Update – Karren Streagle, SDE**

- Karren gave an update regarding Medicaid and the National Public Health Emergency. It has been renewed effective April 21, 2021 and extended through July 14, 2021.
- It extends flexibility for schools.
- States have been assured by the Federal government of a 60-day notice prior to its expiration.

### **2022 SEAP Membership and Executive Committee – Jenn Halladay and Charlie Silva**

2022 Executive Committee - Discussion was had regarding the need for a new Vice-chair and Secretary for 2022. Carly, the current vice-chair, will move up to become the Chair in 2022.

A nomination was made for Laura Wallis as the vice-chair and Kristen Nate as the Secretary.

Jenn Halladay called for a vote, and all were in favor. The motion passed. If there are any concerns, please reach out to Charlie.

2022 SEAP Committee Membership – The Executive Committee met and reviewed six applications that were received and will give their recommendation to the Superintendent for appointment to the committee.

- The By-Laws state that the committee cannot have more than 25 members.
- There are committee members that have expiring terms this year and are rotating off of the committee. We sincerely appreciate the time they have given and their work on the committee. They are as follows:
  - Bryn B – Parent
  - Robin H – Higher Education representative
  - David V – SPED director representative
  - Kerrie M – Teacher representative and was the SEAP secretary before the pandemic
  - Jenn H – Parent
  - Ted O – Department of Corrections representative
- Barbara B will represent Higher Education, and Joey W will represent the Department of Corrections on the committee starting in September.

### **2021-2022 Meeting Dates:**

- Monday, September 13, 2021 – 9:00 am to 4:00 pm - in person
- Monday, November 8, 2021 – 9:00 am to 4:00 pm - in person

- Monday, February 14, 2022 – 9:00 am to 4:00 pm - in person
- Monday, May 16, 2022 – 9:00 am to 4:00 pm – in person

**Next Meeting**

- Monday, September 13, 2021 – 9:00 am to 4:00 pm – Face to Face at the SDE, and lunch will be provided.

**Meeting Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.