

Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP)

November 9, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Brian Darcy, Alison Lowenthal, Bryn Booker, Carly Saxe, Charlie Silva, David Vaughn, Debbie Siegel, Eric Lichte, Jacob Head, Jenn Halladay, Jill Mathews, Kristen Nate, Laura Wallis, Robin Greenfield, Sally Brown, Suzanne Peck, and Ted Oparnico, and Kim Zeydel (designee for Robin Zikmund)

Not in attendance: Angela Lindig and Robin Zikmund

SEAP Welcome: Jenn Halladay – SEAP Chair called the meeting to order at 9:03 am. The meeting was held via Zoom.

Approval of September 14, 2020 Minutes – Jenn Halladay

- Brian Darcy moved to approve the September 14, 2020 minutes with a second by Laura Wallis.
- Ms. Halladay (SEAP Chair) reviewed the Panel functions and rules.

Special Recognitions: - Dr. Charlie Silva

Dr. Silva recognized members of the Panel for their work on state conferences and committees.

- Jill Mathews for her work on the FACE conference which was well attended and received positive feedback.
- Laura Wallis for her work on the Parent Network Conference. There were 287 participants at the conference, and Dr. Silva presented at two sessions. Ten states and a variety of state agencies were represented at the conference, and seven hours of the conference proceeding were recorded and are available on YouTube.
- Kim Zeydel was recognized for her work on the Dyslexia conference. The conference was attended by 120 teachers, speech and language pathologists, school psychologists, and nurses. Kim indicated that she would like to be part of the Parent Network Conference next year.
- Panel members have also been involved in multiple state efforts, including the State Board of Education Idaho State Literacy Plan. Other members have been working with the SDE stakeholder group and developing a newsletter on literacy.

- Laura Wallis is also involved in Youth Employment Services (YES) and updating resources, and assisting providers and families with services.

Federal and State Updates: Dr. Charlie Silva

Federal

- As there will be a new Secretary of Education in January 2021, Idaho is waiting to see the changes at the state and national level.
- Idaho is in “cohort one” and had a review of fiscal procedures and policies by the US Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. The SDE is waiting to hear the results of the review.
- Dr. Silva did a presentation at the Parent Network Conference on seclusion and restraint. Regulations have not been put in place yet, but a new seclusion bill should be in draft form next month. Nothing will be in final form until after January 20, 2021. She will send any draft that she receives to the Parent Network and to IPUL.

State

- Superintendent Ybarra has moved forward with her budget to present to the legislature in January 2021. She is asking for increases in teacher compensation and restoring the career ladder.
- The Department is doing its best to provide support to the 170 school districts in Idaho with regards to how they are each dealing with COVID 19.
- The Department did a two-part webinar on legal updates for administrators. The sessions were presented by Dr. Silva, Julie Mead (SESTA), and Elaine Eberharter-Maki, attorney. The webinars are available on the SDE website.

Breakout Groups

Panel members were divided into three groups to answer questions related to COVID19.

1. How is hybrid education working in your school district, and what does this look like?
2. What kind of supports do teachers, schools, and families need to enhance hybrid learning, and what strategies could we use to help teachers and students deal with COVID?
3. What solutions are working in your School District?

Each group reported on their individual experiences, district issues, and needed supports.

Comments included:

- Online instruction remains challenging, particularly for students in special education.
- Zoom calls have been helpful for communicating with parents/teachers.
- There are not always enough special education teachers when a district is 100% online.
- There are ongoing programs to get food to children who are homeless.
- Food banks are expanding in both rural and urban settings, as well as coat and backpack drives.
- Lots of families moving in from out of state and do not understand how IEP's will continue.

- Parent-teacher conferences have been more effective with virtual formats.
- Six hours on-line is challenging.
- Students missing instruction.
- West Ada district continues to struggle with providing services to elementary/secondary students.
- Food stamps and support are being provided to foster families.

Annual Performance Report (APR) Indicator 7- Early Childhood Outcomes – Alisa Fewkes/ Shannon Dunstan, SDE

- Alisa Fewkes presented information on Indicator 7: Early Childhood Outcomes. COVID-19 has had an impact on data and the current targets. A question was presented to the Panel to get their feedback on two options.
 - The first option would be to establish a new baseline and targets that are realigned to the current data and would better measure improvement than the current targets. The current targets have been in place since 2013.
 - The second option would require a “pause” on establishing a new baseline and targets and prepare for 2022 submission.

Results:

Option 1 - 11 members (4 members with a recommendation to review of data in 2 years) and

Option 2 – 4 members.

State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) – Kailey Bunch-Woodson/Shannon Dunstan, SDE

- The Department of Education submitted and has received a five-year State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) from the US Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. The focus of the grant is to provide professional development to districts in Idaho in improving reading outcomes for students with disabilities in grades K-3. All awards have a major parent component, and the Department will partner with IPUL to include parents as decision makers.
- Panel members were asked to provide input regarding the SpDg plan and considerations when identifying parents to be on district leadership teams. Member comments included:
 - ** Choosing a range of parents, and not just parents that are typically on committees.
 - ** Being aware that parents are busy and to think of a variety of strategies that will allow them to be involved, such as recorded or virtual meetings,
 - ** Virtual modules could give more parents access.

Significant Disproportionality Reasonable Progress – Alisa Fewkes/Kailey Bunch-Woodson, SDE

- Alisa presented information on state LEA's and meaningful reduction of significant disproportionality of students in Special Education. The issue presented is reasonable criteria for LEA's. She asked for input from SEAP members.
- Alison Lowenthal suggested that several volunteers from SEAP participate in a meeting with Alisa and Kailey to discuss the work that was done in the Director's Advisory Committee.
- The outcome of that meeting will be presented to SEAP at the February 8, 2021 meeting.

Draft IDAA Policy Performance Level Descriptions – Dr. Karren Streagle, SDE

- Dr. Streagle updated the committee on IDAA Policy:
 - Idaho will administer the new Idaho Alternate Assessments (IDAAs) in spring 2021 and will hold standard setting workshops for ELA and math during the summer of 2021.
 - The purpose is to determine cut scores for the four performance levels: Level 4 – Advanced, Level 3 – Proficient, Level 2 – Basic, and Level 1 – Below Basic.
 - In preparation for the standard setting workshops, we have to develop policy performance level descriptors (PLDs). Policy PLDs provide a brief description of the policy goals that are consistent across all grade-levels and content areas for each performance level on the assessment.
 - Dr. Streagle presented the working draft of the IDAA policy PLDs (see table 2 of the handout).
 - She will be taking feedback on the draft IDAA policy PLDs through Sunday, November 29, 2020 through the [online Draft IDAA Policy PLDs Feedback Survey](#).

Wrap Up

- Dr. Silva shared resources from the US Department of Education, Office of Special Education (OSEP). Fast Facts is a publication that includes facts on children ages 3-5 in Part B, with emotional disturbance and autism.
- She gave the Panel a homework assignment. Brenda will be sending a link to a presentation from the NASDE conference. The presentation is on inclusion, and she would like the Panel to review it and discuss the contents at the February 8 meeting.

Meeting Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Brian Darcy.

Next meeting will be held on Monday, February 8, 2021 via Zoom.