

Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP)

September 14, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

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

Not in attendance: Alison Lowenthal, Kerrie McNulty, and Suzanne Peck

SEAP Welcome: Jenn Halladay, SEAP Chair at 9:04 am – Held via Zoom

- Chair Jenn Halladay welcomed everyone and advised the committee that due to unexpected additional responsibilities in her school district, SEAP committee member and secretary for 2020-2021, Kerrie McNulty, will not be able to participate on the committee and will be taking a year off. A new secretary is needed for the 2020-2021 year.
- A motion was made by Brian Darcy to nominate Robin Greenfield as the secretary for the 2020-2021 year, and Eric Lichte seconded. The chair called for a vote, and all were in favor, and the motion passed.

Approval of the May 4, 2020 Meeting Minutes:

Angela Lindig made a motion to approve the May 4, 2020 meeting minutes and was seconded by Robin Greenfield. The chair called for a vote, and all were in favor, and the minutes were approved.

Advisory Panel Functions:

Chairman Halladay went over the Advisory Panel Functions with the committee.

Committee member check-in

Committee members gave an update on activities that they have been involved in since the last SEAP meeting. Some highlights of the member check-ins were:

- Idaho Parent Network Conference – October 12th-16th – Held virtually. **LAURA** to send information to Brenda.
- FACE Conference – October 5th- 7th – Virtual conference. **JILL** to send information to Brenda.
- Decoding Dyslexia Conference – October 3rd – Virtual broadcast – **ROBIN Z** to send information to Brenda.
 - **BRENDA** to forward information on conferences to SEAP members.

Update on Federal Laws and State Specific Information:

Dr. Charlie Silva, SDE Special Education Director

State Updates:

- Charlie introduced new SDE staff, Randi Cole, Secondary Transition Coordinator (replacing Kendrick Lester), and Lisa Pofelski-Rosa, Principal Financial Specialist (replacing Anthony Mukuna.)
- Superintendent Ybarra has submitted her draft budget proposal for 2021. Her focus is on teacher pay/salary and social/emotional learning. She is working with EdNorthwest on a survey for LEAs to get their feedback. Has set aside 1 million dollars in grants for LEAs. We don't know where they are at in the process, but we will provide additional information when we receive it.
- Student Learning tools – We are working hard to provide LEAs with the tools that they need to continue student learning. We are partnering with IPUL to let families know what resources are available. The challenge is that people aren't accessing the tools/resources. **Committee members** were asked to help get the word out. If the SDE isn't meeting the need, please let us know what you need.
 - Idaho SESTA resources have been organized in a way for easy searching.
 - Comments from committee members were that with so much information coming out, there has been an information overload!
- EdPlan – Optional Statewide IEP System for LEAs – A number of LEAs have decided to be part of the State's Optional IEP System, and we are receiving positive feedback on their experiences. All documents are accessible, and the platform is continuing to evolve and adjust to the needs of LEAs. The fifth cohort of LEAs will start in early October.

Federal Updates

- Waivers – We received a letter from U.S. Department of Education Secretary, Betsy DeVoss, advising that the U.S. Department of Education will not be allowing any waivers, even for statewide assessments (IRI, ISAT). We've received the same direction regarding Vocational Rehabilitation transition services. Although they may look different, they must continue.
- COVID 19 – The SDE has received guidance from OSEP regarding COVID 19 and moving forward. No waivers are being allowed, and it's business as usual, but it may look different. OSEP guidance is posted on our SDE website.
- Differentiated Monitoring and Support (DMS) – The Federal government has overhauled the DMS process. It is now a five-year process, and we learned that Idaho will be in the first cohort. We haven't received anything official, but we expect this work to begin in late October, and it will be done virtually.

COVID Resources

Julie Mead and Whitney Schexneider, Idaho SESTA

Julie & Whitney gave a tour of the Individualized Distance Learning Plan documents on the Special Education page of the SDE's Fall 2020 Public Schools Reopening Back to School website, and committee members gave feedback. Go <https://www.sde.idaho.gov/re-opening/index.html>, click on "Student Learning," "Special Education."

Charlie added that there is a parent resources section at the bottom of the same page. To see the resources, click on the "+" sign to see the list of documents, including a link to the IRIS Center.

APR/SPP Updates – Alisa Fewkes, SDE

Alisa Fewkes presented on Indicators 7 (Early Childhood Outcomes), 8 (Parent Involvement), and Significant Disproportionality, and committee members gave feedback.

On Indicator 7 – The SDE needs to establish a new baseline and targets – Data collection tool, a substantial increase in reporting, and additional training.

On Indicator 8 – How can we improve and make changes to the survey collection process? Discussion was had on the Idaho Parent Engagement and Satisfaction survey that is sent out to parents in Feb/March. Feedback from members was:

- Yes, they have received the survey from their LEAs and have completed them.
- Some parents throw them away because they get so many survey requests.
- Schools have leeway on how communications are sent out and where they are posted.
- Do you provide instructions on how to fill out the survey? – Alisa's response was, "No, we are not involved in the collection process as the survey is being sent out by the SDE Assessment & Accountability department."
- Could you include a branching off in the survey so that if you have a SPED student and you click "Yes" on the "Do you have a SPED student" question that it takes you to the SPED survey to answer those questions?
- It needs to be ONE survey that does both for general education and special education and states the reasons why parents need to complete the survey.
- The survey needs to look important and grab my attention!

On Significant Disproportionality –

- Requesting input on Indicators 4, 9, and 10 to reflect processes established for significant disproportionality. Purpose: Maximize the use of processes and resources; Limit confusion and duplication of effort.
- Requesting input on establishing reasonable progress area of flexibility. Purpose: Allow added flexibility for LEAs that exceed the state threshold but demonstrate substantial improvement over multiple years. Recognize LEA improvement efforts; Ensure IDEA funds are directed to students with disabilities; Encourage long term focus on addressing contributing factors.
- Next steps – Establish a maximum risk ratio; Number of years of reduction, and determine the percentage of reduction.

BRENDA to add workgroups for Indicator 7, 8, and Significant Disproportionality to the next SEAP agenda. **COMMITTEE MEMBERS** to think about which workgroup that you would like to be on.

Early Childhood and Cultivating Leaders Project Updates – Shannon Dunstan and Kailey Bunch-Woodson, SDE

SSIP-Cultivating Leaders to Grow Young Readers – The State’s plan has been submitted, and OSEP had no concerns. The Fall Institute will be virtual this year and begins on September 15th. Shannon outlined the 2020-2021 Activities.

State Personnel Development Grant (SpDg) – Kailey Bunch-Woodson gave an update on the State’s submission for the SpDg. We hope to find out soon regarding if we will be awarded the grant.

Early Childhood

- Updated eGuidelines – State Standards for Early Childhood Special Education – Updating in October but waiting for H&W programmers to get into interactive application.
- Proposed changes to Infant Toddler Program Interagency Agreement
- Revise Anchor Assessments for Early Childhood Outcome entrance and exit ratings – Will keep AEPS, BDI, Brigance, DAYC, High Scope, and Teaching Strategies Gold. Will take time over the next year to get out information and get feedback.
- Reset baseline for Indicator 7 – Early Childhood Outcomes

Next Meeting

- Monday, November 9th via Zoom, 9:00 am to Noon. Any suggestions on how to make the next meeting a more interactive Zoom? If you have any suggestions, email Charlie & Brenda.
 - Could we get handouts for the next meeting, several days before the meeting?
 - Breakout rooms?
 - Need a volunteer to monitor the chatbox – **Robin Z** will do.
 - Agenda Items
 - Indicator 7, 8 and Significant Disproportionality workgroups
 - Future meetings – Will take one meeting at a time. If things are better, would like to have May 17th meeting at the IESDB.

Meeting Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Jenn Hallday. Seconded by Jacob Head.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.