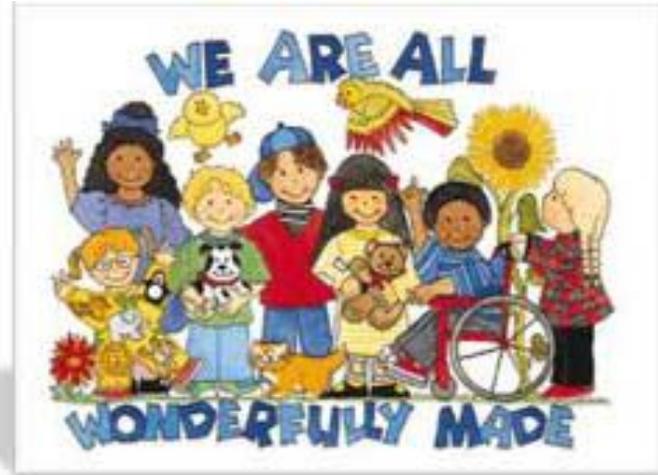


**2012-2013 Annual Report
Wyoming Advisory Panel
for Students with Disabilities**

**Dr. James Rose
Interim Director**

Wyoming Department of Education

Notes



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Message from the Chairperson

Change is inevitable.

A group can embrace it or run from it; this is the difference of that group growing and changing, remaining the same, or dying out.

This year the Wyoming Advisory Panel for Students with Disabilities has gone through changes on many levels. Some of these changes were well-thought out choices of the Panel or a Panel member. As with any group, Panel members rotated off or left to pursue personal growth and we wish them good fortune in their endeavors.

One positive change made by the Panel as a whole was a conscientious decision to reach out to others. The panel has always been active in writing letters, releasing information and advising educational leaders on educational issues. It has also been a sounding board on public comment. It is good to hear from the great people of Wyoming, but as the group reflected we realized that we cannot know what is going on in the state waiting for people to come to us—we needed to reach out and become known in the state.

The panel began going to conferences and doing outreach. What is our group? What do we do? Who makes up the group? What is our mission and vision and how do we share them? We reached out further and began going to committees like the Joint Legislative Education Committee to listen to state issues. We began requesting to become part of boards and stakeholders committee that were part of these issues and others we found that connected with the education field.

We changed our logo to a golden apple in an effort to symbolize education, and demonstrate that the panel represents a unique branch of the education tree.

Wyoming Department of Education

Tiffany Dobler, *State Special Education Director – August 2012, through the present time.*

Stephanie Weaver, *Deputy Division Director – through October 10, 2012*

Kimberly Harper, *Administrator of Learning, Special Education, - August 2012, through the present time.*

Barb Yates, *Panel Secretary*

Missy White, *Panel Facilitator*

Additional Information

For further information about the Wyoming Advisory Panel for Students with Disabilities, please contact one of the following persons:

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www.edu.wyoming.gov/Programs/special_education/wapsd.aspx

Wyoming Department of Education
Special Programs Division
320 West Main
Riverton, WY 82501

* **Tawny Love 2012 - 2013**

Person with a Disability, Laramie

* **Ted Knowles 2005 - 2013**

Parent, Riverton

Dan Mayer

Local Education Official , Evanston

* **Mel Miller 2010 - 2013**

Parent/Charter School Principal, Arapaho

***Sandy O'Dell 2012 - 2013**

Child Development Center, Region 11, Sheridan

***Tim O'Gan 2008 - 2013**

District Special Education Director, Buffalo

Beth Rieger

Institutions Representative, Worland

Diana Schafer

Foster Care, Cheyenne

Laurie Scharles

Parent, Cheyenne

* **Debra Smith 2012 - 2013**

Local Education Official, Fort Washakie

Steve Wake

Institutions Representative, Worland

Nita Werner

Other, Douglas

* **Patricia Willow 2012 - 2013**

Parent, Riverton

Pam Zamora

Institutions, Laramie

* **Completed Services to the Panel**

There has been a shift in leadership on several levels. At the state level we moved from reporting to the Wyoming State Superintendent to reporting to the Wyoming Director of the Department of Education.

At the department level, we said a fond farewell to our primary contact Stephanie Weaver, Deputy Director of Special Education, and welcomed Tiffany Dobler as the Director of Special Education.

At the Panel level we rotated chairs three times, from Sara Mofield to Robyn Thorne to yours truly. These changes reflect the growth and the resiliency of the Panel. Each one has strengthened us as we embraced the changes as an opportunity to grow and further our reach across our great state.

Shannon Buller, Chairperson
Wyoming Advisory Panel for
Students with Disabilities

About the Panel

The purpose of the Wyoming Advisory Panel for Students with Disabilities (WAPSD) is to advise the Director of The Wyoming Department of Education in ways that promote services for children and youth with disabilities. The Wyoming Advisory Panel exists under the authority of the Code of Federal Regulations. The Panel shall serve as a forum by which issues and benefits regarding current and potential services to individuals with disabilities may be discussed by consumer, public, private, professional, and lay interests.

In order to promote issues that will help facilitate services for students with disabilities, the panel identifies barriers and provides advice related to the provision of quality educational services. The panel receives public comment; provides comments on special education rules and regulations; sets priorities; and

engages in a variety of educational and public awareness activities around the state.

The panel is effective because of the diversity of members and the passion the members bring to each issue. There continues to be improvement in commitment, desire to serve, enthusiasm and participation in panel work and action. One of the most significant contributions each panel member brings to the panel is his/her representation of a specific constituency.

Panel Functions

A critical component that contributes to the success of the panel is ongoing implementation of the panel functions as outlined in the Individuals with Disabilities Act of 2004, including:

- Advise the State Education Agency (SEA) of un-met needs within the State in the education of children with disabilities.
- Comment publicly on any rules or regulations proposed by the State regarding the education of children with disabilities.
- Advise the SEA in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the Secretary under Section 618 of the Act.
- Advise the SEA in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in federal monitoring reports under Part B of the Act.
- Advise the SEA in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities.
- Advise on services to eligible students with disabilities in adult prisons. The advisory panel shall also advise on the education of eligible students with disabilities who have been convicted and incarcerated in adult prisons.
- Review any final due process hearing findings and decisions.

Panel Members 2012 - 2013

Shannon Buller, Chairperson

*Governor's Council on developmental Disabilities,
Cheyenne*

*** Sara Mofield, Chairperson 2007 - 2013**

EIEP Director, Department of Health, Cheyenne

*** Robyn Thorne, Chairperson 2011 -2013**

Vocational Rehabilitation, Cheyenne

*** Carrie Brasher, Past Chairperson 2007 - 2013**

Parent, Cody

Lori Morrow, Chair Elect

Early Childhood, Riverton

Betty Abbott

Adult Corrections, Cheyenne

Brent Bacon

Local Education Official, Pine Bluffs

Andrea Clubb

Parent, Cheyenne

*** Amy Galley 2011 - 2014**

Parent, Green River

Brent Heuer

Parent, Casper

Joe Haney

Parent, Laramie

Tammy Heuck

Parent, Pinedale

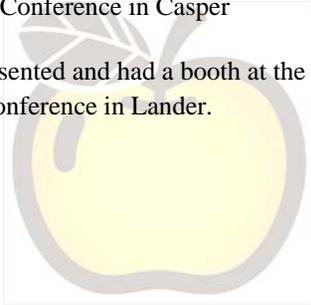
Wendy Hewitt

Parent, Mountain View

Key Activities/Advice

2012-2013

- Guest Speaker Representative Lloyd Larsen from Fremont County on the Wyoming Life resource center and The Child Development Centers.
- The Panel rebranded itself by developing a new logo, the golden apple.
- The Panel presented and had a booth at the Spring School Improvement Conference in Casper
- The Panel presented and had a booth at the Wyoming Leadership Conference in Lander.



Panel Member Contributions

The following are just a few contributions from individual panel members during the 2012-2013 school year:

Professional Memberships/Group Affiliations:

- Wyoming Association of Special Education Administrators (WASEA), Executive Board
- Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)
- Division for Early Childhood (DEC)
- Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council
- Child Developmental Services of Wyoming
- Early Intervention Council (EIC)
- Association of Univ. Centers for Excellence in Disabilities
- LRE Community of Practice on National Level (OSEP)
- Member, Wyoming Information Link for Developmental Disabilities
- Association of Tech Act Programs ATAP—Board of Directors
- Wyoming System of Instructional Support WYSIS Stakeholders Group
- Society for Disability Studies
- National Women's Studies Association
- American Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD)
- Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities
- Certified Rehabilitation Counselor
- Correctional Education Association Executive Board Member
- Member, Wyoming Criminal Justice Association
- PTSB Member
- Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE)
- Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD)
- National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
- Division for Early Childhood (DEC)

Conferences/Trainings Attended

- OSEP Leadership Conference 2012
- Wyoming School Improvement Conferences—Spring & Fall
- WASEA Conferences—Fall & Spring
- Wyoming School Psychologist Conference
- Secondary Schools Principals Annual Conference
- WGCDD-MEGA Conference
- AHEAD Conference Development
- Accessing Higher Ground Conference
- Universal Design and Assistive technology Training
- CEA National Conference
- CEA Leadership Forum
- NIC/CEA GED Train the Trainer
- TSI-Thinking Strategies Institute
- LRP Conference-Special education Law
- Consolidated Grant Trainings
- Common Core Curriculum Training
- Student, Utah State Master's of Rehabilitation Counseling Program
- Motivational Interviewing Training
- Special Education Leadership Symposium 2012
- National APSE Conference
- WGCDD Youth Leadership Forum (LF)
- BHD Waiver Redesign Forums (Facilitator)
- Pediatric Eating and Swallowing Training, Denver Children's Hospital
- Restorative Practices Training
- Law review Conference
- HR Law Conference, Star 12 Training
- The Best Go West Training on Employing People with Developmental Disabilities

Wyoming Advisory Panel for Students with Disabilities

Mission Statement

The mission of the Wyoming Advisory Panel for Students with Disabilities, as a diverse group, is to raise a common voice to advise the Director of the Wyoming Department of Education on the unmet needs of students with disabilities by advocating for and commenting on the improvement of educational opportunities.

Vision Statement

The vision of the Wyoming Advisory Panel for Students with Disabilities is to provide guidance on education policies for all students with disabilities that create opportunities for them to become compassionate, productive, and contributing citizens of their communities.

Advisory Panel Function

To Give Advice
To Inform
To Counsel
To Recommend
To Suggest
To Guide

The members of the Wyoming Advisory Panel for Students with Disabilities work together as a team to help keep parents, educators, and administrators informed on the six principles of the law:

- Parent and student participation in decision making
- Procedural due process
- Appropriate evaluation
- Free appropriate public education (FAPE)
- Individual education program (IEP)
- Least restrictive environment (LRE)