

**Wyoming Advisory Panel for Students with Disabilities**  
**November 20, 2014**  
**1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**  
**Wyoming Department of Education**  
**Virtual/Riverton, WY**

**November 20, 2014**

**Present:** Lori Morrow, Susan Abernathy, Donna Crandall, Brent Heuer, Deb Simon,

**Present by Phone:** Betty Abbott, Andrea Clubb, Dan Mayer, Anedra Selley, Joe Haney, Pam Zamora

**WDE Staff:** Leslie Bechtel Van Orman, Janine Cole, Barb Yates

**Facilitator:** Missy White

**Absent:** Brent Bacon, Shannon Buller, J.P. Denning, Tina Kirlin, Vickie McMurry, Beth Rieger, Briana Sands, Laurie Scharles, Noah Scharles, Steve Wake, Rebecca Walk

**Call to order:**

Chair, Lori Morrow called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

- Welcome and introductions were made.
- The Mission and the Vision Statements were read silently by each member.

**Minutes:**

Susan moved to accept the minutes as printed. Donna seconded, the motion carried.

**Agenda:**

The Agenda was shortened combining the original two day meeting into one.

**Announcement:**

Due to poor road conditions and possible low attendance in Rock Springs it was determined to host this meeting in Riverton at the WDE inviting people to attend in person or virtually.

The next meeting will be January 15 & 16, 2015 at Laramie County Community College.

**Interim State Special Education Director, Leslie Bechtel Van Orman** presented the following information.

- The 2014 Casper Transition Workshop for students with hearing and vision lost was successfully hosted October 28, 2014 at Casper College. It focused on helping students prepare for life
- Third party billing allows an education agency to bill private or public insurance if the family allows it. . This has been a long standing part of the IDEA regulations. This section was amended in March 2013 to decrease number of times parents had to be noticed when public insurance was being billed. At that time, the U.S. Department of Education required states to have a state level policy in place. The policy does not change the ability of educational agencies to use third party billing An additional version of the procedural safeguards will be available for any educational agency using third party billing, in order to ensure parents are aware of their rights around this process. Proposed policies are on the WDE website. Public comment period will end November 30. People are encouraged to review the policy and comment if they choose.

- Working on State Performance Plan which is a six year plan focused on improving outcomes for students with disabilities. The annual performance report is a snapshot of how students are performing at that point in time.
- There will be intensive drafting days in early December to work on the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP). The draft will be sent to the WAPSD for comment. This plan is supposed to focus on a statewide, data based area of concern and focus resources to make a change in this area of need.
- A group of stakeholders met recently to conduct an in depth data analysis and determine what the focus of the SSIP should be. They narrowed this focus to either the literacy skills of our youngest students (preschool/elementary) or on the graduation rates of high school students. The WDE will be sending a survey to special education directors and the panel to gain broader input into which area should be the focus of the plan.
- The WDE will be seeking further input from stakeholders on improvement strategies.
- The Parent survey was discussed and how it could be improved to better reflect a district or preschools efforts to actively support and involve parents.
- Regional IEP forms trainings will begin in February continue through April. Locations will be in Cheyenne, Gillette, Riverton, Jackson and Rock Springs. It was suggested to have trainings in the evening so they are more accessible to working parents. It was also suggested that the trainings be recorded.

**Jillian Balow, Superintendent Elect** will be inaugurated January 5. She will be invited to the January meeting. Panel members are encouraged to provide topics to discuss with her. She may not be available as the Legislature will be meeting. Possible questions for Superintendent Elect are as follows:

- Who will be invited to the table in her stakeholder groups?
- Will a consultant be hired dealing with transition?
- What are your views on the preschool conundrum?
- Where do you stand on Employment First?

### **Legislative Items**

- It was suggested that the panel attend a session of the legislature during the meeting In January.
- It was pointed out that now is the time to be meeting with legislators rather than during session.
- It was noted that a legislative issue proposal to raise funding for crisis centers may be part of the supplemental budget

### **Break**

### **Strategic Plan 2014 – 2015**

#### **Themes for the Panel:**

- Parent Support and Self Determination
- Transition
- Inclusion
- Capacity Building of Teachers
- Celebrating the good things that are happening

#### **Suggestions from Panel members:**

- Review the data of preschools and schools that are most successful
- Ask WDE to continue to provide programs, trainings and professional development and the registration fee is waived.

- Look for ways to improve the waiver system.
- If a student who has not been identified and is placed for behavior or medical reasons it is important to determine if the student has been tested.

Pam moved to adjourn the meeting after public comment Brent seconded

There was no public comment.  
Meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

**Action Items**

All committees are advised to meet December 4 via leader phone to determine which priorities are most appropriate for your committee. Information is needed prior to January 15 meeting.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

<b>December 4, 2014</b>	<b>Committees Only</b>	<b>3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.</b>
<b>January 15 &amp; 16, 2015</b>	<b>Cheyenne</b>	
<b>January 13, 2015 - Legislative Session begins and ends about March 10</b>		
<b>February 19, 2015</b>	<b>Virtual</b>	<b>3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Panel Legislative Update</b>
<b>April 23, 2015</b>	<b>Virtual</b>	<b>3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.</b>
<b>June 26, 2015</b>	<b>Riverton</b>	<b>8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with a working lunch</b>