

Wyoming Advisory Panel for Students with Disabilities
January 15, 2015
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Laramie County Community College
Cheyenne, WY

January 15, 2015

Present: Lori Morrow, Shannon Buller, Betty Abbott, J.P. Denning, Joe Haney, Brent Bacon, Andrea Clubb, Donna Crandall, Deb Simon, Noah Scharles

Present by Phone: Susan Abernathy, Beth Rieger, Becca Walk, Tina Kirlin, Anedra Selley,

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

Facilitator: Missy White

Absent: Brent Heuer, Vickie McMurry, Briana Sands, Laurie Scharles, Steve Wake,

Guests: Robyn Heth, Niobrara County Special Education Director

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:

Joe moved to accept the minutes as printed. Deb seconded, the motion carried.

Announcements:

Interim Special Education Director Leslie Bechtel Van Orman

- The new WDE Chief Academic Officer is Brent Bacon who will be overseeing special education services as well as working with other department student services.
- Lisa Weigel from Douglas has been named as the new State Special Education Director and will begin March 1, and will transition during February.

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

- IEP Forms Training for Parents will occur from 9:30 – 3:30 in the following locations
 - February 7, Saturday, Cheyenne – Comfort Inn
 - March 3, Tuesday, Riverton – Holiday Inn
 - March 5, Tuesday, Gillette – Wyndham Hotel
 - April 14, Tuesday, Rock Springs – Hampton Inn
 - May 19, Tuesday, Jackson-Teton Science School
 - Registration Link: <http://goo.gl/forms/RHVgNCqoNx>, or by email: nadia.vasquez@wyo.gov
 - Training district staff on the use of these training materials and content is also planned.

Information on the State Performance Plan and the State System Improvement Plan (SSIP) follows:

- State Performance Plan is due February 1, 2015.

- State System Improvement Plan (SSIP) is due April 1, 2015.
- The Draft SSIP will be sent to the panel by March 5 for their review.
- Electronic submission of the SPP will be primarily data and explanations will be provided if there is slippage.
- State Performance Plan Targets – Most are set by the USDOE or are aligned with our ESEA Workbook. Those that we set need to be rigorous but attainable.
- Dropout rate went up a little so the proposed baseline will also change from 5.72 to 6.08.
- Wyoming LRE rate is still very good compared to other states; however the Feds say we must increase our rate. So based on stakeholder input the increases will be very conservative.
- Calculation for graduation is based on the 4 year cohort.
- Questions were asked about tracking students into postsecondary life. There has been discussion about creating an ID number which would follow students into adulthood; however there are privacy concerns.
- **Indicator 8 Parent Involvement** - Percent of parents with child receiving special education services who report schools facilitated parent involvement: had a dip in the numbers and we are resistant to increase that number. We are measuring survey responses but that is not really parent involvement. Parent involvement is happening it may just not be measured. The WDE is hopeful that Wyoming can come up with a better way to truly measure parent involvement. The survey results were 74.64% and there is hope to move to 75.8%, during the course of the SPP.
- **Indicator 14. Post-School Outcomes** – This is the last indicator that targets may be set for. Percent of youth who had IEPs; are no longer in secondary school; and who have been employed, enrolled in postsecondary school, or both, within one year of leaving high school:
 - 14A - Students who leave and are enrolled in postsecondary education: 26.28% is the baseline with a final target of 27.4%.
 - 14B - Students competitively employed is at 58.12% plans are to move to 59.37%.
 - 14C - Any student who is out of school, in a job or training program 72.77% is the base line and based on stakeholder input the final target was raised to 75.27%.
- Those are the performance targets that will be in the SSP
- A survey regarding which area the focus of the SSIP was sent to panel members and Special Education Directors. Results were 53% of respondents stated the focus should be on younger students while 47% felt the focus should be on Secondary Education.
- The measurement will be reading scores on the 3rd grade PAWS scores for students who are removed from the general education environment between 21 and 60% of the school day.
- Focus will be on supports for preschools and early elementary grades schools.
- A survey regarding what teachers and administrators see as the barriers and where they feel there are strengths and gaps will be distributed soon.
- The draft SSIP will be sent to the panel and feedback will be provided during the next meeting.

Additional updates:

- FAPE overview documents are being revised and will be put on the website.
- Model IEP forms with a descriptor will be a new tool for parents and educators, created as part of the Parent IEP trainings.
- It is an exciting time with increased collaboration between the BHD and the WDE.
- Behavioral Health, Part C works to improve social and emotional outcomes for three to five year olds. They have the same time line for their report.
- The Behavioral Health Division (BHD) along with a group of Wyoming Association of Special Education Administrators (WASEA) will work with Child Development Centers on transition from preschool to regular school. They will work to develop best practice.

Break 2:30 to 2:45

- It was decided to move the Feb. 19th meeting to a virtual meeting, March 12, 2015, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. using “Go To Meeting”
- There was discussion regarding electing a new chair elect as Brent Bacon has resigned from the panel. A vote will be taken during this meeting. Nominations will be taken from the floor as well as via email from members who are not present at the meeting.
- Shannon will act as Chair at the meeting tomorrow as Lori Morrow will not be able to attend.

Membership Committee: Chair Brent H.

Ariane Baca, Casper is a new member and is attending Casper College. She was not able to attend this meeting as classes are beginning.

Public Relations Committee: Chair Tina Kirlin. Members contributed in Tina’s absence

- Any panel member who is available to attend the School Improvement Conference in Casper, March 2 & 3, 2015 is asked to contact Barb in order to pickup brochures and the banner. Work will continue on the informational bookmark.
- Discussion followed regarding parents with small children needing day care provided in order for them to attend the panel meetings

Reporting and Rules: Chair J.P. Denning, Donna reported

Donna met with Leslie and worked on the SSIP.

Legislative Committee: Co-Chairs: Dan and Betty: Betty presented.

- HB0058 Developmental disability services transition grants to provide funds to Medicaid for a new business plan
- SF104 is done now. In order for a Director of Public Instruction to be appointed there must be a change in the constitution.
- HB0011 Distance education task force requesting funding for recalibration to create a task force for credit recovery.
- Distance Education will be under Special Programs.
- Senator Bebout made a comment at JAC that Developmental Preschools should be under Department of Education. Representative Larsen has met with Superintendent Balow and Director Corsi for further discussion.
- Panel members are encouraged to contact Betty or Dan to provide information on upcoming bills.
- Betty will follow up on the HB0011

Members were reminded the meeting begins at 8:00 a.m. Jan. 16, 2015 for the presentation on Transition. At the conclusion of business on Friday the panel will travel to the legislature to observe it in session. Panel adjourned at 4:00 P.M. Several members remained available for public comment at 4:30.

There was no public comment.

**Wyoming Advisory Panel for Students with Disabilities
January 16, 2015
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Laramie County Community College**

Cheyenne, WY

January 16, 2015

Present: Shannon Buller, Betty Abbott, J.P. Denning, Joe Haney, Brent Bacon, Andrea Clubb, Donna Crandall, Deb Simon, Noah Scharles

Present by Phone: Susan Abernathy, Tina Kirlin, Anedra Selley,

WDE Staff: Janine Cole, Barb Yates

Facilitator: Missy White

Absent: Lori Morrow, Brent Heuer, Vickie McMurry, Briana Sands, Laurie Scharles, Steve Wake,

Guests: Robyn Heth, Niobrara County Special Education Director

Call to order:

Shannon Buller, Past Chair called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Announcements

- Shannon will attend the PIC conference January 17 & 18, 2015 and provide information regarding the WAPSD.
- The 2nd annual Employment First Summit will be held in Cheyenne, February 4th at Little America. There is no cost for this event and the first 150 registered attendees will receive the book “No Greatness Without Goodness” by Randy Lewis who will present the keynote speech.
- Voting for the new Chair Elect will be after the speakers make their presentations.

Transition Services Presentation

Deb Simon introduced the following guest speakers who will provide information regarding people and transitions.

- Arkansas Le Marr, Executive Director of ARC of Laramie County
- Doug Daniels, Wyoming Independent Living
- Laura McKinney, director of Magic City Enterprises
- Dan Meade, Customized Employment
- Holly Simoni, Vocational Rehabilitation
- Ginny Chidsey, Vision Outreach Services
- Jennifer Cruz Dept. Workforce Services

Arkansas Le Marr, Executive Director of ARC of Laramie County This entity is devoted solely to working on behalf of people with intellectual disabilities and their families.

- Mission statement: The Arc promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively supports their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetime.
- They are not a waiver provider, they are the fun one. It is organized so participants can socialize in different groups of people. Corporate Membership is \$150.00, Individual is \$ 20.00 and individual \$35.00 for families (2 or more). They sponsor many events in Laramie County including trips to the

territorial prison, Dance in the buff at the Buffalo Terry Bison ranch is held the last part of April, for dinner, silent and live auctions. Other fund raisers are the Oktoberfest, and car shows. There is also a store located at 1616 East 19th.

- They are non profit and have many volunteers.
- From high school to adulthood the ARC will help to transition people as they give people a voice.
- The ARC will help to get them on the waiver, provide assistance with paperwork, give them a list of providers to choose from provide clients with bus passes in order to provide a good quality of life.
- There is no age limit and people can receive ARC services without being a member
- They are an advocacy organization.
- It was pointed out that there is a call to address the needs of people living in rural areas.
- ARC of Laramie and Natrona Counties are governed by the ARC of the US in Washington D.C.
- Art for the ARK sake is held once a week to teach people how to paint, draw, and help to teach them a business plan.
- ARK of Laramiecounty.com

Doug Daniels, Wyoming Independent Living

- They have worked with the eastern half of Wyoming since 1985 and are a private non-profit that provides information and are a referral service.
- Transitions for youth are new.
- Independent Living assists people in the home making assessments and working with infants through the elderly.
- Provide a visually impaired program and help provide equipment.
- Provide transportation programs with assistance from the Wyoming Department of Transportation.
- Project OUT works with nursing homes and care facilities.
- Transition from high school to college teaching a workshop on building advocacy.
- They offer a Program to help students transition into the work world.
- “Life’s Worth Living” deals with the Disabilities Rights Movement.
- They provide a webinar titled “Living well with a disability”
- “Whistle” is the name of the Independent Living in the western part of the state and the new Director is Tangy Linton working out of Powell.
- Consumer directed care is a waiver.

Laura McKinny, Director of Magic City Enterprises

- One of the original nine providers since 1972. They provide child and adult services.
- Magic City provides a wide array of services, including three day services, employment services, comprehensive counseling services, and assistance with transportation; however they are not providing services to children at this point in time.
- Magic city works with people who have a developmental disability.
- Behavioral Health works getting people on waivers and off the waiver waiting list.
- Magic City was founded on the bases of employment services
- People must be a DVR referral to begin the process.
- Contact with the employer and the employee to see how things are going at work
- The Wyoming Waiver Families Senate File # 67 addresses removing money from the rainy day fund to setup a corpus to provide ongoing services
- Department of Health budget requested \$500,000.00 for a cost study regarding the waiver rates
- Wyoming Community Services providers are suggesting an increase for direct care staff from \$9.00 per hour to \$13 per hour.

Dan Meade, Customized Employment –

- Regular Employment have contract with 89 individuals they provide job coaches that go to work with clients and may provide transportation.
- We identify who we are with our jobs.
- Discovering customization is a different model, take a natural approach to determine who we know who we make friends with and that is how we find employment. It is important to create a relationship first. Forming relationships with people in the community then leads to possible employment.
- Discovery process and customization

Break

Holly Simoni Vocational Rehabilitation

- Look at transferable skills
- Transition student from high school to work
- Work injury and getting back into the work place
- Big push is to work with High School students to transition into the work world
- Job shadowing is important so that when students graduate they know how they will transition into the work force.
- They are a Federal program and receive 80 % of their budget from the Feds and 20% from the State

Ginny Chidsey, Vision Outreach Services, Wyoming Department of Education

- There are seven offices in Wyoming that serve client's birth through death including people in nursing homes and prison.
- VOS works with clients who have low vision or are blind
- American Printing House for the Blind
- Technical assistance to other agencies who serve people with low vision
- VOS provides assistive technology and can provide loaner equipment for clients to try.
- Montgomery trust was established by Roy Montgomery to provide equipment and training to clients who qualify. They meet quarterly and operate only on the interest from the Trust.
- Adaptive equipment help them label their personal equipment – may need to adjust lighting
- VOS works closely with voc rehab and provides orientation and mobility services.
- Offer the talking book program that provides a digital player and training
- National Library is set up for anyone who cannot read standardized print.
- WIND and WATR through the University of Wyoming have a loan bank.

Jennifer Cruz, Department Workforce Services

- Workforce Service provides both employment opportunities and training. As part of the training they provide computers at the center for clients to use.
- Workforce Investment act is a nationwide program that can make connections throughout the nation.
- Youth ages 14 to 21 – general help fist job or help get their GED – help on line applications
- Provide various training programs and may also determine if they have a disability and help them become job ready. They are Career advisors.
- Can pay for tutoring to bring them up to standards.
- Provide assistance for students to obtain their GED and help them prepare for testing.
- Provide follow up services and may help pay for schooling.
- Can get one on one guidance and can help in a private setting

