



WAPSD

Wyoming Advisory Panel for Students with Disabilities

December 11, 2018, 9am

Welcome/Opening: Anedra kicked off the meeting and went around the room for welcome introductions. We moved on to read the mission/vision statements, reviewed the September Minutes then opened the floor for any public comment. We did not receive any public comment.

Stephanie Weaver – Data Sharing Update: Stephanie gave a great update. She began discussing the roles of the State Education Agency and how improving outcomes is the ultimate goal. She talked about how we collect data and the difference between a compliance indicator and results indicator. She then thoroughly explained each of the indicators and whether or not the state met their targets. Once her presentation was completed, there was time for a Q&A session.

Panel Discussion: The Panel wanted to review their priorities and discuss how to plan the next meeting. The panel agreed that when they wrote the priorities, they wanted to ensure they were doing something so that they could be productive and effect change whether it was writing a letter to the Director or to the legislators or to the agencies they represent. They want to make sure they gave direction to state and local education agencies and legislators as well.

Discussions followed addressing several areas of concern such as: suspension; four year vs. six year plan; middle school issues where children are in a resource room more the 50% of the time; lack of communication; K-12 transition and at what age transition services should begin; if more transitions can be added into the IEP forms so that compliance can start earlier; and the correlation between tardy/absenteeism and graduation rate to name a few.

We then discussed the annual WAVE Conference that is approaching and decided the panel should put together an email with some of these areas of concern so that they can be addressed at WAVE. Jenny stated that the Dept. of Education's WAVE schedule would have best practices and the legal side and we would look at trying to coordinate our schedule of speakers to address these issues and the attorneys address the legal side. Our hope is that if we have a keynote or more sessions addressing these issues that attendees will hear the message and bring it back to their schools.

Ann Armel Update: Ann gave a very informative update on best practices for youth transition and success stories. She provided a handout on best practices as well as the most recent pre-employment transitions brochure from Voc Rehab. When working with youth they now ask, "What do you want to do?" not "Do you want to work?" Their goal is to give youth the quality of life and value of being productive. She explained they have required services that they must provide for the 14-21 population and they can do it through pre-employment services or Voc Rehab. Currently, as an agency, they are only reaching about 17% of kids but are trying to reach more. Ann went on to inform the Panel of several amazing initiatives that are happening around the state. Torrington provides career clusters which they bring into schools to inform students about careers and allows students to ask questions. Laramie has a program called *Plainsmen* which also brings in career clusters to inform students about different careers. Laramie also has STEP, which teaches students how to research for jobs, applying, interviewing, etc. Adulting 101 is an award winning class that teaches students about FICA, how to interview, fill out an application, how much insurance is necessary for their car, and how to get



WAPSD

Wyoming Advisory Panel for Students with Disabilities

groceries. Riverton created a program for students to go into the casino and learn basic skills like how to check in for work, act on the job, call in if they are sick, follow directions, etc. Students can work outside with maintenance and grounds keeping, inside the hotel at the front desk, housekeeping and laundry. They can also do food prep in the casino.

Local VR counselors are doing amazing work. There are 29 counselors across the state. If you don't know of one for your area, Ann would be happy to find one in your area or you can also access the information on their website.

Kathy Escobedo update: Kathy provided an update on the Early Intervention and Education Program (EIEP). The Joint Education Committee (JEC) met at the end of September. One big thing was to discuss combining all early childhood programs to WDE. She attended that with Chris Newman, Senior Administrator for the Behavioral Health Division and heard the presentation by the WDE. They talked about the efficiencies, agencies to be involved, and public funding. Questions that came up were about having a plan in place to move the Early Childhood programs. They wanted more information on the exact efficiencies. With that, the committee didn't vote on the draft bill. It's been put to rest for now and will probably come up again. The EIEP is staying with the Dept of Health. They put in place a requirement for CDCs to have policies for seclusion and restraint. We provided guidance and definitions. They are being drafted and being sent to the department for approval. They also held a data drill down in which all the CDCs were invited. The data reviewed during this drill down will help inform which regions will be monitored in the future. Part B/619 is working with several CDCs on Corrective Action Plans (CAP) as a result of monitoring visits. Part of the requirements for CAPs include having the CDCs conduct professional development with their staff to ensure compliance with IDEA. As far as part C, they have been working on draft rules for three years and are finally with the governor! We are excited about that. Part C sent out a bulletin to the CDCs regarding new Family Service Coordinator (FSC) requirements which went into effect in October. The service coordinators are critical for providing support. Additional training will be provided and there will also be online training modules. A test will be required to provide that service. Part C is exploring a Part C Extended Option plan which is available for families that want to stay in Part C beyond the age of 3. We'll have to develop a policy. We are learning what that could mean. There could be a benefit for this age group. Regarding Early Intervention Council (EIC), the last meeting was held in October in Jackson. We reviewed the child find outcomes data for part C. We had a presentation by AnLar, our contractor for tech assistance for part C. AnLar is developing the training module for family service coordinators. This is on writing functional IFSP outcomes and progress monitoring on child outcomes. There was also a presentation by Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education (TAESE) over essential board responsibilities and duties. The next EIC meeting will be held in Cheyenne on January 15th and 16th. Among the topics will be a review of the Part C Annual Performance Report (APR) which EIC needs to approve and sign off on. Anyone is welcome to come. The last thing shared was about their new public awareness campaign. This will be called "Screen for Success." We are developing printed documents to go out in January. We'll have new materials for distribution in January.

Jenny Krause – WDE Update: Jenny began with an update on Results Driven Accountability (RDA) Monitoring. Her #1 goal is to increase positive outcomes for students. Her #2 goal was to show that this



WAPSD

Wyoming Advisory Panel for Students with Disabilities

would be a collaborative effort to decrease anxiety in the schools and let them know that we would be working together. It's important to us that the districts and state directors are involved in these conversations and processes. We want this to be a collaborative effort. When a district is selected, year one will be professional development. We'll drill down into the data, identify their needs and they will have our support for one year. We will then monitor in year two. Year three will be the verification and years four through six will be implementation. She said they are very excited about it! It's a great opportunity to build relationships and work together. She wants this to be positive! She will be presenting the draft at the principal's meeting in January and hopes to have it out by the end of January. She touched on the Eye to Eye program. It is a mentoring program for LD and ADHD students. Wyoming has been involved with Eye to Eye for ten years. It's a social/emotional program. Jenny is very passionate about this program and has seen a lot of growth in mentors and mentees. She briefly spoke about the annual WAVE Conference. We are planning to break up into best practices and legal practices. WAVE will be held at the University of Wyoming Gateway Center in Laramie, Wyoming. She talked about Indicator 8 and explained many of the ideas they have been discussing on how to make this more successful. They are open to suggestions.

Conclusion: The meeting was very informative and very well received. Shelley Hamel suggested doing a possible training with TAESE at one of our upcoming meetings on the functions and roles of the Panel. Jenny also offered to bring in an expert to present on the many benefits and importance of the Eye to Eye Mentoring Program. Our next two meetings are scheduled for:

March 12, 2019

June 11, 2019

Location: The Central Services Facilities Building

Address: 970 N. Glenn Rd in Casper, WY

We will be in different rooms for each meeting. As we get closer, we will get the specific information sent out.

We will keep the 9am start and each meeting's end time will depend on the agenda for that day.

A motion to adjourn was made by Anedra. The motion was seconded. The meeting was adjourned.