



WAPSD

Wyoming Advisory Panel for Students with Disabilities

January 19, 2022, Zoom Meeting

Attendance: Char Norris, Christine Bullinger, Dallas Myers, Danielle Wondercheck, Deana Smith, Hayley Speiser, Jennifer Duncan, Jennifer Figenser, Jennifer Neeley, Liz Acosta-McCune, Margee Robertson, Nikki Baldwin, Penny Bolinger, Rachel Crawford, Ragen Latham, Rebecca Bullinger, Shannon Cranmore, Tricia Whynott

Guests: Steve Slyman, Albany County School District #1 SPED Director; Julie Nash, Teton County School District #1 Special Education Director; Reithel Mercer, Dispute Resolution Coordinator, WDE

MOTIONS

Administrative:

It was moved by Penny Bolinger and seconded by Rachel Crawford that the minutes of the October 12, 2021 meeting be approved as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Policy:

Welcome/Opening: Chairman Swilling was absent so Chair-Elect Bullinger called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. She opened the meeting for public comment. There was no public comment.

Secretary Announcements

Jennifer Duncan asked members to confirm their contact information on the Panel contact list.

Chair Report – Old and New Business

Chairman Erin Swilling was not able to attend, so there was no chair report or old business.

New Dispute Resolution Coordinator Introduction, Reithel Mercer

Reithel Mercer introduced herself to the Panel as the new Dispute Resolution Coordinator for WDE. She wants to place a high focus on parent engagement as part of the Dispute Resolution and Mediation Processes that she will coordinate for the WDE.

Committees

Panel members were invited to review the committee list and confirm their membership and express interest in committee involvement.

ECE Summit Update/WAVES/Kindergarten Start Date

Deana Smith provided an update on the ECE Summit and other upcoming professional development opportunities. 57 WAVES sessions have been offered over the last year and a half, all are virtual and have been archived along with the materials on the Wyoming Instructional Network (WinWEB). The Early Childhood Summit was held January 6-7, featuring Julie Nicholson and Julie Kurtz addressing self-

care for educators and to teach to children. Nikki Baldwin presented the new Wyoming early learning standards and she co presented with Becca Steinhoff on kindergarten transition, Teton #1 and Lincoln #2 also assisted with providing ideas and processes. Upcoming sessions are High Leverage Practices with Dr. Tessie Bailey presenting a series of 4 sessions in February, after that will be a SPED law series in two parts in March and April. Jose Martin and Amy Goetz will be presenting at these SPED law sessions. There will be a May year end “thank you” to educator’s presentation.

An in person WAVE Conference is being planned for the end of July at Central Wyoming College in Riverton. The WAVES web – based sessions will continue throughout the school year after the in person conference.

SPED Director Updates

Margee Robertson provided an update for the Panel. The Division is engaged in several activities: the Monitoring team is doing file reviews with several districts and providing technical assistance for districts in the monitoring process. The technical assistance/professional development team is continuing to provide professional development via the WAVES online sessions, working directly with SPED Directors, MTSS/DBI Training, providing support regarding 619 services and funds to early childhood educators, research for upcoming guiding documents and answering technical assistance questions. Reithel Mercer is heading up forming subcommittees to begin work on rewriting the Chapter 7 Rules that flesh out the IDEA federal legislation. Both the Vision Outreach and Deaf Hard of Hearing Teams are providing services around the entire state.

New Charter School Update, Rachel Crawford

Rachel Crawford talked about a new proposed charter school in Laramie #1. The application is with the superintendent, which will go to the school board with supervisor approval. The principal at Anderson elementary is starting up this charter school to encourage parents that are leaving the district due to curriculum choices to stay. It will be small, 116 children in grades kindergarten through 6th grade. There is only one other charter school in Laramie #1, so this will provide alternative choices to the public schools as Laramie County School District #1 doesn’t have school choice. The ratio would be 8:1 educators to students throughout the day. Children will receive a Math intervention daily as well as physical education.

BHD Update, Ragen Latham

Ragen Latham provided an update to the Panel. BHD is currently working with the WDE on a Corrective Action Plan they have been placed under, the goal being that better processes and follow through in providing services to children with disabilities between the ages of 3-5 will be put into place, assuring that all Indicators as outlined by OSEP are being met as well as the provision of a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE).

PIC Update, Jennifer Figenser

Jennifer Figenser, the Executive Director of PIC provided an update on PIC activities. Jennifer Blaylock is a new Director of Education for PIC and will be a great resource for parents of children with disabilities looking for information and advocacy. Christine Bullinger asked if PIC still attends IEP meetings for parents that request them. That is still a gray area, but there are certain situations they can attend, but not every meeting warrants their attendance. Christine Bullinger asked for resources that parents can turn to for assistance during the IEP meetings. Hands & Voices provides this service as well as WDE Dispute Resolution and BHD.

Next Meeting Planning

The next meeting will take place in Sheridan at the Best Western. The proposed schedule was to travel the morning of April 5, meet from 1-5 pm for committees then meet the following morning from 8-12, then allow for travel time back the afternoon if desired. There is also the opportunity for people to arrive April 4 due to a long travel day, stay the night, do some work in the morning then attend committee meetings in the afternoon. Additionally, if there is a long travel day after the meeting, an additional night could be reimbursed for travel on the April 7. Christine Bullinger expressed interest in having the Wyoming Girl's School to present or for the Panel to do a tour of the facility and programs.

The following meeting will take place in July 13-14 in Saratoga, which will also include some new board member training with John Copenhaver. This will be a similar schedule as the April meeting, with the second day extending until 3:30 to allow for the Panel professional development.

Advice, Recommendations and Action Steps

By-laws committee to meet and finalize by-laws for voting at the April meeting.

Wyoming Girl's School, set up presentation and/or tour during Sheridan meeting.

Nikki Baldwin follow up on Pilot Project.

Uplift – Christine Bullinger to contact and find out current status and services provided.

Shannon Cranmore – McKinney Vento overview

Ragen Latham moved and Penny Bolinger seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Tentative Upcoming Dates/Locations – May change due to COVID-19 Health Guidelines

April 5-6, 2022 in Sheridan, Sheridan Best Western

July 13-14, 2022 in Saratoga, Saratoga Inn

*All meetings will be from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.