



WAPSD

Wyoming Advisory Panel for Students with Disabilities

April 13, 2023 Meeting, Fremont County School District #1

Attendance: Christine Bullinger, Jennifer Figenser, Brandon Douglas, Erin Swilling, Deana Smith, Rebecca Bullinger, Ragen Latham, Jennifer Neely, Dallas Myers, Margee Robertson, Jennifer Duncan

Absences: Char Norris, Grace Norris, Liz Acosta-McCune, Shannon Cranmore, Tricia Whynott, TJ Mechem, Hayley Speiser

Guests:

MOTIONS

Administrative:

There was not a majority of members present to form a quorum, so no official action was taken.

Policy:

Welcome/Opening: Chairman Christine Bullinger called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM. There was no public comment.

Secretary Announcements

Panel Secretary Jennifer Duncan asked members to review their information on the Member Roles spreadsheet and to inform her of any changes. Duncan presented the options for parent members of the Panel to receive a daily stipend in addition to travel reimbursement for each meeting. After meeting with the WDE Finance division, it was determined that due to the amount of reimbursement each parent member of the panel would be receiving over the course of a year, a contract would need to be drafted and signed by each parent wishing to receive the stipend in addition to the travel reimbursement received for each meeting.

PIC Update

Jennifer Figenser provided a brief update for the Parent Information Center during her introductions at the beginning of the meeting. They have received over 400 calls in the last month, they will be hosting their annual conference later in April and have two At-Risk representatives, one each in Casper and Cheyenne.

Chair Report – Old and New Business

Chair Christine Bullinger asked the group what a preferred starting time for the business meetings would be, it was decided that meetings would start at 8:30, a lunch break about 11:30 then finish up by 1:30.

New member Brandon Douglas was welcomed to the Panel, Nikki Baldwin, who represents the University of Wyoming, needed to step off the Panel, Tiffany Hunt at the University has been interviewed by the Membership Committee and will be joining the Panel for future meetings. The membership application will be updated to reflect more accurately what responsibilities of the panel. Additionally, she will be reaching out to Panel members that have not been able to attend regularly and reminded the Panel that even if an absent member sends a proxy, it still counts as an absence, the bylaws indicate that a Panel member will be contacted if they miss two meetings in a year.

Chairman Bullinger will be writing an Annual Report and will have the committee chairs review it before releasing it to the rest of the Panel.

Professional Development, Chapter 7 and COS Update, Deana Smith

Deana Smith updated the panel on several professional development events upcoming. The in-person WAVE Conference will be in Laramie on August 1-3, 2023 at the Gateway Building and UW Conference Center. Immediately following the WAVE Conference will be a New SPED Teacher Bootcamp and is designed for special education teachers with 3 or less years of experience. Several plenary sessions are scheduled covering several different subjects. Another event is the book study on the Specially Designed Instruction book by Anne Beninghof, over 200 people have signed up. Beninghof will also be doing a 3-part series via Zoom in May.

Sections of Chapter 7 Rules have been opened up for suggestions from the stakeholder group and any proposed changes into the rewritten rules. The proposed changes will be sent to agency leadership, and the Attorney General's office then out for public comment.

Smith is also working with a stakeholder group to find a tool for collecting child outcome data for 3–5-year-olds. The group met and they are reviewing four different tools, the BDI, the current tool, The Brigance, TS Gold and My-Iffy. The My Iffy/Pro Latter, which measures both executive function and social/emotional data. It's easy to administer and provides longitudinal data. This particular assessment will drill down to the skill deficit, which will assist educators in preparing preschool age students for kindergarten.

Legislative Update, Superintendent Megan Degenfelder (recording)

Margee Robertson presented a recording from Superintendent Degenfelder reviewing the Legislative Update for the Department. Recording was not understandable on meeting recording; a copy of the video can be requested by Panel members. State Special Education Director updated the panel on the charter school legislation and reviewed the new approval process for them, which can now be done at the local school district level.

SPED Directors Report

State Special Education Director Margee Robertson provided the Panel with an update of work being done by the Special Education Programs Division.

Monitoring for Out of District Placements is almost complete in all 48 districts. There are several IEP's out of compliance, and each district will receive a systemic finding letter and assistance will be made available for those that need it via professional development and technical assistance.

SPP/APR is the Special Education Divisions annual report to OSEP, results will be available at the June meeting. Data Share outs will be in September and all Panel members are invited to attend.

Professional Development. Deana Smith provided a professional development update for the Panel.

Committee Report Outs

Mental Health Committee Chair Ragen Latham reported out on the committee work and provided a written report and other handouts after the meeting, links are below:

[Committee Report](#)

[JEIC Presentation](#)

[POSC Brief](#)

Family Engagement Committee report was given by Erin Swilling since Nikki Baldwin, the current chair, has resigned from the Panel. They would like to see districts that are doing a good job with Family Engagement get some kind of recognition. Additionally, more information about the resources available to districts would be helpful so that additional resources can be recommended or provided.

Annual Report

Chair Bullinger asked the Panel about previous Annual Reports and what the scope and format was. Every different chair had a different approach to the annual reports. Bullinger said she will create one and present it at the June meeting for Panel review.

DFS Update

Working on new data management system, will be able to coordinate services for families and make better decisions in a more efficient manner. They are working through their Federal Review of the entire system of care for families and in the process of going through mock reviews that contain 18 items that relate to the well-being of a child. The formal review will occur in October.

BHD Update

Ragen Latham provided an update from the Behavioral Health Division. They are working with the state auditor's office regarding funding for a suicide crisis line and keeping it in place for the long term.

Next Meeting Planning – agenda items, lodging and attendance

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

June 26-28, 2023 Worland Wyoming; Tour Wyoming Boy's School

October 3-5, 2023 Jackson, Wyoming; Panel Training with John Copenhaver, Tour Vertical Gardening, C Bar V, Red Top Meadows, CDC

Potential Agenda items for June meeting

Panel training with John Copenhaver – can he do a full day training at the fall meeting in Jackson; do some general training and cover a specific item that interests the Panel.

Advice Recommendations and Action Steps