

ACESD Full Council Meeting Minutes
Virtual meeting via Zoom Video Conferencing Platform
October 27, 2023

Members Present: Susan Beck, Kelly Birmingham, Valarie Bishop, Anna Bleasdale, Amanda Campbell, Shana Charles, Tiffany Eron, Senekita Farmer, Heather Googe, Danshelle Guy, Troy Hall, Allison Huffstutler, Kerri Kannengieser, Cathy Kovacs, Angie Lucas, Padgett Mozingo, Gini Nichols, Yasmin O'Keefe, Niki Outen, Kimberly Perry, Shannon Polchow, Lindsay Porter, Anne Radue, Theresa Rhodes, Liz Smithson, Cara Smithwick, Nina Spinelli, Mary Stevenson, Melanie Thrower, Meghan Trowbridge, Monica Tudder, Laura Vazquez, Margie Williamson, Paige Winget, Elizabeth Young

Guests/SCDE Staff Present: Beth (interpreter), Lannette Cox, Stephanie Donald, Barbara Drayton, Anita Ellison-Porter (for Louise Johnson), Sherri Evans, Cheryl Fitts, Peter Keup, Rachel (interpreting intern), Tina Ross, Laina Shoemake, Wendy Ward (for Susan Howard), Heather Young (interpreter)

Welcome, call to order by Shannon Polchow, Chair 10:02 a.m.

Approval of Previous Minutes: Minutes were sent out ahead of the meeting. Valarie Bishop made a motion to approve minutes. Kerri Kannengieser seconded. Approved.

Public Comment:

- Email Public Comment Read: Katherine Krouse of Seneca, SC commented that the review time for transition IEPs into high school is too long for schools on the block schedule. High schools have thirty days to review an IEP of a student transitioning in, but that is one-third of the course for course on the block semester schedule. Ms. Krouse believes the thirty-day window should be fifteen.

SCDE OSES Presentation:

- Lannette Cox explained the definition of a facilitated IEP and how the process works.
- Tina Ross defined what is a state complaint and the multiple ways to someone can file. She emphasized the point that if the paperwork is not signed, it is not a complaint. Overall, national and state rates went down. South Carolina had ninety-four complaints filed. Twenty-nine had were insufficient in that the students did not have IEPs or there were no signatures. Four were withdrawn. In nine cases, there were no findings. Fifty-two had findings. Most state complaints are for: 1) provision of services; 2) confidentiality/records; and 3) eligibility.
- Barbara Drayton discussed mediation, which is less formal than a hearing, but it is legally binding. There were eleven requests for mediation, but only three went to mediation. Two of these resulted in agreements and went to due process. Six requests were withdrawn and two requests did not have both parties agreeing to participate. Of the requests coming in, there were seven complaints involving FAPE, four involving extended school year, and three involving parental participation. Ms. Drayton also discussed due process hearings and the timelines that need to be followed. There were forty-three filings. Of

those, twenty involved FAPE, eleven involved parental participation, and nine involved discipline.

- Peter Keup shared the Monitoring Overview and Rubric (MOR) for IEP development with the council.

Sub-Committee Meetings: committees met via virtual breakout rooms. (11:30-12:30)

Sub-Committee Reports:

Preschool: Heather Gooze and Cathy Kovacs provided an update on the suspension / expulsion definition. Sherri Evans presented the annual Preschool Report. The committee is seeking a new co-chair and will be inviting speakers to discuss the trauma impact of covid on preschoolers for the next meeting.

Professional Development: Cheryl Fitts updated the committee about collaborative training videos that the Department was developing with partner organizations such as Family Connection and Able SC. The committee discussed long-term planning for work on LRE in hopes to develop a letter on the topic. The committee also discussed monitoring systems for benchmarks.

Transition and Self Advocacy: TSA found a toolkit online and is going to break it down into cheat sheets for parents to take into IEP meetings. They will be reviewing the toolkit to see what is most important and discussing how to organize the information in the lengthy document.

Safe Schools/Social Emotional Learning: The committee talked about the Palmetto Pyramid and updates to its funding. They will have Indicator 4 data for the March meeting. Meghan Trowbridge discussed mental health and mobile crisis units.

Council Business / Announcements:

Motion to adjourn: Laura Vazquez moved to adjourn. Kerri Kannengieser seconded. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.m.

Next Advisory Council meeting: Friday, January 26, 2024