



Colorado Special Education Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Meeting

Thursday, September 19, 2019
Wheat Ridge Recreation Center
Wheat Ridge, Colorado

CSEAC Mission: Our mission is to actively represent children/youth with disabilities and impact decisions made on their behalf to enhance the quality of educational services.

CSEAC Vision: All learners are respected and challenged with high expectations, their needs are met, and student aspirations for success are fulfilled.

Members in Attendance: Shelly Agostine, Carisa Clinton, Nicole Dallek, Laurie Ditterline, Amy Dobronyi, Lynn Fisher, Heidi Graber, Nicole Gross, Aimee Guildner, Sydney Johnston, Anna Stewart, Cassie Sudbeck, Amanda Summers, Tracy Thatcher, Erika Walker, Jennifer Wilger, Ann Wilson

Absences: Heather Alderman, Jill Choate, Irwin Faaiu, Tom Gribble, Rebecca Hall, Ray Merenstein, Amy Rosengrants-Smith, Liesel Thomas

CDE Staff and Other Guests: Dr. Paul Foster, Executive Director, Exceptional Student Services Unit (ESSU), CDE; Candace Hawkins, Esq., Director, General Supervision and Monitoring, ESSU, CDE; Courtney Montes, HCBS Benefits Specialist, Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF); David Ramer, Program Support Assistant, ESSU, CDE; Joyce Thiessen-Barrett, Coordinator of Family, School and Community Partnering, ESSU, CDE; Lindsay Westlund, HCBS Benefits Specialist Lead, HCPF; Bryan Wickoren, Adapted Physical Education Specialist, ESSU, CDE

Welcome, Introductions, Public Comment and CSEAC Parent Input

- Members and guests introduced themselves.
- There was no public comment.
- Hiring and retaining special education teachers and related service providers is challenging.
- Parents function as paras at Aimee's school.
- Anna is seeing a large number of dispute resolution cases.



Dispute Resolution Data and Trends - Candace Hawkins, Esq., Director, General Supervision and Monitoring, ESSU, CDE

- Conflict in special education should be expected; the relationship is already strained.
- Colorado has low dispute resolution activity compared to other states.
- There has been a significant increase in the number of State Complaints filed this year compared to the same time last year.
- Nationally, State Complaint is used less frequently than Mediation and Due Process Complaint.
- Nearly 2/3 of State Complaints result in findings of non-compliance.
- CDE State Complaint Work Group had 5 recommendations.
- Candace is seeing an increase in charter school activity.

CDE and ESSU Updates - Paul Foster, Executive Director, ESSU

- Correction of Noncompliance – Indicators 11 (evaluation timelines), 12 (3 year olds) and 13 (transition); State must follow up with districts.
- It appears that Significant Disproportionality regulations are in place as currently written. Four districts in Colorado have been identified.
- The number of facility schools is declining while the number of students with an IEP in facility schools is increasing.
- There is a 1% cap on Alternate Assessment; last year, Colorado exceeded the 1% in Science. Colorado's percentages are going down and will not exceed the 1% this year.
- HB19-1066 counting special education students in graduation rates; there may be unintended consequences.
- Dyslexia is an issue nationwide.
- Colorado ranks 3rd in special education students spending time in general education classrooms.
- Colorado does not do well in reading or math.

Constituent Work Groups

- Dispute Resolution (Liesel is the chair, Cassie the co-chair and Laurie the note-taker).
- General Education, Special Education, Para Training and Pay (Jen and Shelly are chairs).
- Inclusive Education and Assistive Technology (Nicole G. and Heather are chairs).

Adapted PE Standards and Updates - Bryan Wickoren, Adapted Physical Education Specialist, ESSU, CDE

- Physical education is a federally mandated component of special education services.
- Adapted PE is predicated on the belief that each student has the ability and a desire to move, to be active, and to participate meaningfully with peers.
- Eligibility criteria:
 - Lack of success in general PE curriculum or environment despite modifications and/or accommodations provided by the general PE teacher.
 - Results of physical or motor assessments.
 - Determination that the impact of the disability interferes with the student's ability to participate in their PE program.
 - Unable to obtain reasonable benefit without modifications or accommodations within the PE standards.
- Adapted PE is listed on the IEP.



Family Support Services Program (FSSP): Updates to the State Handbook - Lindsay Westlund, HCBS Benefits Specialist Lead, Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF); Courtney Montes, HCBS Benefits Specialist, HCPF

- Legislation passed in Colorado in 1991 that created FSSP.
- Primary purpose is to support children with developmental disabilities or delays remain in their own family setting and prevent out of home placement.
- Program provides financial support.
- Community Centered Boards (CCBs) administer the program.
- Funding is limited.
- Changes to regulations have been made to ensure resources are getting to families determined most in need.

Impromptu Discussion Regarding CSEAC's Role

- CSEAC's purpose is providing policy guidance with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities in Colorado.
- At the planning meeting, John Copenhaver recommended avoiding taking on too many issues.
- CSEAC advises the State Board and Paul through the annual report.
- Paul mentioned requesting feedback on the Extended Evidence Outcomes (EEO).

Subcommittee Work

- Subcommittees met and reported out.

Old and New Business

- The minutes from the July 17-19, 2019 planning meeting were approved unanimously without amendment.

Respectfully submitted by David Ramer, October 2019

The contents of this handout were developed under a grant from the Department of Education. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.