

**State Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children (SAPEC)
March 14, 2024**

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The SAPEC meeting was called to order by SAPEC Chairperson, Tammie Sebastian. All members were welcomed to the meeting.

Tammie welcomed any guests attending the meeting today and reviewed the guest responsibilities. Barb McKenzie attended today's meeting as a guest.

Karen Johnson, Office for Exceptional Children (OEC) conducted roll call. Members absent were Michelle Christman, Nathan Dedino, Kathy Demers, Beth Harrison, Christina Matthey, Monica McCain, Tess Rivero, and Stacey Spencer.

Panel Business

Tammie Sebastian, SAPEC Chairperson, asked for a motion to approve the January 9, 2024, meeting minutes. Haydiee Perkins made a motion to approve; Rachel Barnhart seconded. Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously.

Tammie reminded SAPEC members to state their names when speaking and to utilize the microphones at each side of the room when making any comments or asking questions.

No public comment or unmet needs.

OSU Special Education Family Survey

Beth Crawford, Program Manager from The Ohio State University (OSU) Center on Education and Training and Employment (CETE), presented on the Special Education Indicator 8 Family Survey Cohort 4 results. Beth provided an overview of the method of data collection for cohort 4. The survey was emailed to all superintendents and special education directors for distribution to families in the cohort 4 districts. The superintendents and special education directors invited the families to participate in the survey. Districts and community schools distributed the invitations during the collection period by various methods including websites, emails, social media, paper invitations, recorded invitations, and google docs. The survey collection period was from March 7 to May 8, 2023. The survey questions were grouped into categories regarding communication, school climate, partnership with school, and graduation requirements. Open ended questions gave families the opportunity to provide any additional information.

Cohort 4 had 140 districts and community schools participating in the survey, which was less than the previous three cohorts which had 155 responses. Cohort 3 had 5,370 responses from families and Cohort 4 received 7,190 responses which was considerably less.

The demographics collected from the survey respondents found that the average age of respondents' children was in the 6-9 year-old age group (Grades 1-5). 67% of families who responded were white, non-Hispanic, 9% of families were black, non-Hispanic, and 19% of respondents were identified under

specific learning disability. Following the presentation, Beth provided an opportunity for SAPEC members to discuss the results. Beth facilitated a discussion regarding how to increase the response rates, and what could be contributing to the discrepancies in the data.

Preschool Special Education Updates

Jody Beall, 619 Coordinator with the Department of Child & Youth provided updates on preschool special education and the Department of Children and Youth transition. The team transitioned to the new agency in January 2024. The official Department of Children and Youth website is still under construction and will be continually updated as the transition process continues.

The preschool special education team started piloting the Preschool IDEA Part B Monitoring process. This pilot includes a tiered process, desk reviews and onsite visits. There are 84 participating agencies including three desk reviews and one onsite visit. Jody will continue to update the SAPEC panel on the Preschool Monitoring process as they move through the pilot. The office of Early Learning & School Readiness is still hosting open office hours through May 2024. Jody highly encouraged members to join the open office hours and share this information with others. Director Kara Wente also provides monthly virtual updates regarding the Department of Children and Youth. SAPEC members were encouraged to visit the Department of Children and Youth webpage and sign up to receive updates regarding news and meeting information. For any additional questions or information, Jody encourages members to reach out to her directly or the preschool team.

IDEA Part B Funding

Sarah James, Assistant Administrator, Resource Management, presented fiscal updates for IDEA Part B funding. In Federal fiscal year (FFY23) the state received a total award of \$521,832,875. The state level activities that are allowable with the Part B award include monitoring, compliant investigation, mediation, support and direct Services (professional development, technical assistance), and technical assistance and supports for districts identified for improvement. Additional activities intended for SFY2025 include Speech and Language Pathologist/School Psychologist Regional Consultants, Age of Majority/SDI Guidance, and Learning Aid Ohio.

The resource management team is currently working on the SY2025 application. Once complete, the application will be posted for public comment for 30 days. Sarah encourages panel members to review and provide comment on the federal application. Once the application is published, the information will be shared with panel members for comment. An EdConnection message will also be shared with the field regarding the public comment period. Sarah concluded by answering panel member questions.

Model Policies & Procedures

Sarah Buoni presented on the draft Special Education Model Policy and Procedures document. The Office for Exceptional Children has been working on updating the Model Policies and procedures based on the recent revisions made to the Operating Standards. This document is required by law and outlines policies and procedures regarding the education of students with disabilities. Educational agencies can adopt or develop their own model policies and procedures if they wish to do so. High level changes made to the document includes removing outdated language, revamping the order of the document to mirror the special education process, and including a new method for educational agencies to confirm the adoption of the Department's Model Policy and Procedures. Following the

overview, SAPEC panel members reviewed and discussed the draft document in facilitated table groups. Then the panel members provided feedback on the changes in the draft document.

Diverse Learners Overview

Sarah Buoni, Assistant Administrator, Diverse Learners, gave an overview of the Diverse Learners team. The team's core function is to provide technical assistance to educational agencies to ensure compliance regarding literacy, students with low incidence and sensory disabilities, related services, alternate assessment, and secondary transition services to improve the achievement, transitional, and post-school outcomes of students with disabilities. Additional areas include State Support Teams, Secondary Transition, Workforce Development, and Alternate Assessment.

Karen Jeffries, Education Program specialist manages all literacy work within the office by regularly collaborating with the Literacy section at the agency to ensure students with disabilities are included in all literacy. Karen partners with the Literacy section on the state's literacy work (regional early literacy specialist), and dyslexia. Megan Flowers, Education Program Specialist manages all low incidence and sensory work. This includes technology and assistive technology, universal design for learning, and teacher preparation grants. Related services is managed by Bernadette Laughlin, Education Program Specialist. This work includes related services meet ups, disproportionality, and retention and recruitment. Aimee Troyer, Education Program Specialist manages the Statewide System of Support work, this includes ESSER grants, Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), the Statewide Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) Aimee also serves as the State Support team liaison. Amy Szymanski Secondary Transition and Workforce Development Consultant, manages all graduation and secondary transition work. Karie Calzo serves as the Transition Support Partnership consultant and Ma'Taya Hammonds handles all alternate assessment work and collaborates with the Office of Assessment regarding testing. The team also works on a number of collaborative projects including the statewide personnel development grant (SPDG), Each Child on Track, and special education waivers. Sarah Buoni concluded by answering panel member questions regarding the diverse learner team's work.

Closing Remarks & Meeting Adjourn

Tammie asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rachel Barnhart made a motion, Haydiee Perkins seconded.

The SAPEC meeting was adjourned.