

SUMMARY
September 13, 2024
Indiana State Advisory Council (SAC)
on the Education of Children with Disabilities
 Online Virtual Meeting

Call to Order

State Advisory Council Chair Melaina Gant called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. A quorum (eleven of twenty members) attended.

P	Melaina Gant	P	Funmi Ige-Wright	P	Lesa Paddack
P	Kim Dodson	A	Aleesia Johnson	P	Michelle Robinson
A	Bethany Ecklor	P	Donald Koors	A	Tiffany Sanders
A	Anthony England	P	Jonathan Kraeszig	P	Christopher Stilwell
P	Paloma Garza	A	Kristi Linson	A	Sarah Watson
A	Dennis Heathfield	P	Molly McGuire	P	Lucy Witte
P	Dr. Nancy Holsapple	P	Dr. Leah Nellis		

P- Present A-Absent

Invited Guests: Taylor Ellison, Mendi Cooley, Stephanie Garner, Alicia Cooper

Action Items

- The March meeting summary was discussed. Lesa Paddack moved to approve the March meeting summary, Christopher Stilwell seconded. The motion passed.
- Melaina Gant discussed that council members likely needed more time to review June meeting summary. June meeting summary will be reviewed at the November meeting.

Information Items

- Share OSEP determination from SPP/APR submission February 2024 (FFY 2022).
 - Dr. Holsapple shared that Indiana received the determination of “Meets Requirements” for the FFY2022 submission of the SPP/APR.
- Review OSEP audit summary (OSEP virtual visit was from August 21st to August 29th).
 - Dr. Holsapple shared that Indiana DOE Office of Special Education has completed their two-week virtual audit with OSEP.
 - This audit focused on all facets of OSE, including monitoring, fiscal, and dispute resolution.
 - OSEP’s report regarding findings from this audit will be shared with Indiana no later than 180 business days following the conclusion of the audit (8/29/2024).
- Revised Article 7 changes were published in May:
https://www.in.gov/doe/files/SPECIA_2.PDF

- Article 7 was reviewed and revised in May 2024. Rule 50 now includes the educational scholarship accounts section. Throughout Article 7, language was updated. Very few changes were made to the content. An addition to Article 7 now includes the ability for parents to consent to sign and receive documentation electronically. The revised Article 7 is posted on the DOE Office of Special Education website. OSE is working on informing parents and the field on Article 7 changes. Notice of procedural safeguards have been updated as well.
- Funmi Ige-Wright requested that in the future, if documents are changed and we are sharing these with the council, it would be helpful to inform them what changes have taken place. Sometimes in lengthy documents it is difficult to know what has changed and it is helpful to know what the changes are so that discussion can be meaningful.
- Lesa Paddock from IN*SOURCE shared that Dr. McGrath is currently developing a family friendly document that discusses the changes. This will be approved by the Dispute Resolution team at DOE. She is also working to update the Navigating the Course document. The goal is to help parents, families, and others strengthen understanding of Special Education procedures.
- Dr. Holsapple shared that she and Zoretta Ward-Holloway (Dispute Resolution) work to meet with IN*SOURCE monthly to discuss any changes. At our next meeting in November, the new Navigating the Course document will be shared with everyone.
- Good Cause Exemption (GCE)—updated legislation (<https://iga.in.gov/laws/2024/ic/titles/20#20-32-8.5>)
 - Dr. Holsapple shared this updated legislation. When GCE was first released, a case conference committee could determine that students who qualified for GCE could be exempt from taking I-READ. Originally, if a student had taken I-READ, did not pass, participated in summer school, and then re-took the test and still did not pass, they would be exempt from I-READ. New legislation outlines that if student re-takes I-READ and does not pass, they may be retained. This new legislation went into effect in July.
 - Funmi Ige-Wright questioned what this new legislation effects students with special needs.
 - Dr. Holsapple shared that a case conference committee may determine that student may not be retained if they qualify for GCE.
- Paraprofessional Grant: 160 Local Education Agencies (LEAs) applied.
 - Dr. Holsapple shared that last year and this year, OSE has provided LEAs the opportunity to apply for paraprofessional grants.
 - 160 applications were received (of 420 LEAs in Indiana).
 - This grant can be used for trainings, stipends for staff if they are required to work outside of their normal areas

- Trainings may focus on transportation (bussing), health (medical needs), academic improvement, behavior support
 - LEAs can apply and receive funding based on their needs
- Mendi Cooley asked if there were more applications that may be submitted
 - Dr. Holsapple shared that the grant application window is now closed
 - Grant windows open and close at specific times to allow for adequate time for IDOE to review applications for approval and for all the required steps of grant approval to take place so that LEAs can submit reimbursement within the funding window
 - Mendi Cooley shared a follow-up question: if this opportunity to apply arises again, what do LEAs need to do to apply?
 - Dr. Holsapple shared that application announcement and instructions are included in the weekly newsletter announcements
 - All LEAs are able to apply
 - The application was released 2 months in advance of the window closing to allow LEAs ample time to complete the application
 - IDOE hosts office hours to assist the field with proper completion of their application
- OSE staffing update
 - Dr. Holsapple shared that DeJuan Foster has moved to Early Childhood Technical Assistance Specialist. He is working closely with Alyssa Christy, 619 Coordinator/Early Childhood Special Education Specialist.
 - DeJuan's previous position is currently posted.
 - Angela Vaughn, previous Assistant Director, resigned her position in June. The Assistant Director position has been posted and we are currently conducting interviews for candidates.
 - We have filled the Medicaid Specialist position for the Fiscal Team—Julie Feagans.
 - There is currently an open fiscal specialist position. IDOE is working to determine if they can fill this position internally or if that position will be posted for an external candidate.
- Share on Results Driven Accountability (RDA)
 - Determinations will be posted in November. The goal is to have these results ready to share at the November council meeting.
- INSOURCE and IDOE will be holding monthly Office Hours to provide sessions on important topics of interest for the field. Lesa Paddack of IN*SOURCE shared that the

link to sessions will be in the newsletter and on their website, as well as in the OSE newsletter. Office hours will be held on the fourth Tuesday of every month (except December). First office hours session will be over Early Childhood Environments (September), Parent Survey (October), Child Count (November), AT Myths and Facts (January), Special Education and Evaluation (February), Early Childhood Transitions (April). Perhaps secondary transition could be included as a topic in May. IN*SOURCE has been using many IDOE resources during their webinars (1st and 3rd Thursdays of every month).

- Recorded sessions will be shared on IN*SOURCE's YouTube channel. Dr. Holsapple stated that IDOE can share these out as well.
- Lesa Paddack shared on a Parent Survey campaign.
 - IN*SOURCE wants parents to know about the survey and be engaged with providing feedback.
 - Emphasis will be placed on the collaborative effort between schools and parents on gathering meaningful feedback from parents.
 - IN*SOURCE will be hosting webinars and office hours about the parent survey.
 - Parent survey information will be added to their communications with the field and working to make that more accessible and utilized by the field.
 - Funmi Ige-Wright asked why schools have not been required to share parent survey information with parents? Shared that in previous experiences, she has had to request the survey.
 - Dr. Holsapple shared that the parent survey link is embedded in the IEP system. Because of the high number of new educators in the field each year, it may be the case that staff training over use of this parent survey is not being completed thoroughly. That is the goal of these increased training, to increase staff knowledge and sharing of the survey with parents.
 - Funmi shared that increased efforts surrounding the parent survey are necessary to gain meaningful feedback. The link is difficult to access digitally. Michelle Robinson shared that a family has contacted her regarding the link on the IEP website not working. Dr. Holsapple will follow-up with our IEP vendor to ensure that the link is active and accessible.
 - Dr. Holsapple emphasized the importance of this survey for meaningful data for both the LEA and for IDOE.

Discussion Items

- Dr. Holsapple shared on behalf of Kim Dodson: For the HEA 1313 workgroup, please communicate with Dr. Holsapple and inform her that you are interested in assisting. just Kim Dodson will convene with interested individuals mid-October. Most of the work involved is done via email.

- Those who volunteer to participate will work on updating this document: https://www.in.gov/doi/files/Hoosier-Workforce-Resources_Updated-December-2023.pdf
- Molly McGuire volunteered to be a sub-committee member.
- Michelle Robinson asked where shortened day guidance could be accessed.
 - Dr. Holsapple shared the link in chat for council members.
 - Lesa Paddack shared IN*SOURCE shortened day guidance document.
- Molly McGuire shared that she has a parent concern to bring to the council's attention.
 - With regards to the transition exiting conference, Article 7 states that Voc Rehab is supposed to be invited to the case conference and that is not happening. Without VR reps being invited to the exiting case conferences, it is difficult for them to complete the necessary paperwork for these students to get appropriate VR services in a timely manner. How can we hold school corporations accountable for this?
 - Dr. Holsapple shared that IDOE will include this information in the newsletter and will also include this as a topic in our office hours. This will also be posted on our Listserv for directors so that they are aware teachers are required to invite VR counselors.
 - Jonathan Kraeszig offered support with this as well and requested Molly to reach out to him with ways he could support.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Next SAC Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 8. Materials will be emailed to council members prior to the meeting.

Adjournment

Funmi Ige-Wright motioned for the meeting to be adjourned and Chris Stilwell seconded. The meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.