



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Connecticut State Advisory Council for Special Education

March 16, 2022

******* 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. *******

Zoom Virtual Meeting
(Conference Call Information included below)

MINUTES

Members Present: Bryan Klimkiewicz (non-voting), Jolie Medina (non-voting), Tammy Raccio (Chair), Missy Wrigley, Jane Hampton, Joan Nicoll-Senft, Nachi Bhatt, Catherine Summ, Mia Giantonio, Brian K. Smith, Allison Kopie, Jennifer Lussier, Rick Raucci, Tom Cosker, Kim Williamson, Jeffry Spahr, Lori Fortuna, Susan Yankee, Patricia Nunez, Michael Scanlon, Dimpy Malvania, Jon Metcalf and Charles Cicarella.

Guest: Tom Boudreau (Bureau of Special Education)

Members Absent: Doris Maldonado, Denise Drummond, Nachi Bhatt, Louis Tallarita, Rep. Tammy Exum, and Marisa Mascolo-Halm, Jake Shumbo, Sean Cronin (non-voting), Cassandra Reilly and Goviana Morales

I. Call to Order and Welcome (1:00 pm.)

Tammy R. called meeting to order at 1:04 pm.

Introductions/Roles/Welcome

The Committee members introduce themselves.

II. Council Purpose and Function

Tammy R. reviews.

III. Public Comment (1:10 pm.) N/A

SAC meetings are public meetings; members of the public may participate by calling in:

- Call-In Number: 1-866-880-0098
- Participant Passcode: 89689633

Old Business

IV. Consent Agenda:

- a. January 12, 2022 Full Council Minutes

Tammy Raccio makes a motion to approve minutes. Rick Raucci approves and Jane Hampton Smith seconds. All in favor. Minutes approved.

V. Executive Committee Report

- a. Meeting Updates
- b. Executive Committee Appointment

Tammy R. appoints, introduces and welcomes Susan Yankee to the committee.

VI. Membership Committee Report

Catherine Summ provides a membership update and asks Brian Smith to review the Nominating Committee's work.

Tammy thanks the Membership Committee for their work and talks about the work reflected in the Annual Report.

a. Nominating Slate

i. Chair

The Committee is recommending Susan Yankee for the full Council Chairperson.

Tammy R. asks if there are any additional nominations to consider. No additional nominations. All in favor of appointment and Susan Yankee thanks the Committee.

ii. Vice Chair

The Committee is recommending Jennifer Lussier for the full Council Vice Chairperson.

Tammy R. asks if there are any additional nominations to consider. No additional nominations. All in favor of appointment with Jennifer Lussier abstaining.

b. Membership Update

i. Attendance

Catherine S. states that attendance has been strong. Looks forward to meeting in person again.

ii. Current/Anticipated Vacancies – Update will be provided at the May 12 full Council meeting.

VII. Legislative Committee Report

Jeffrey Sphar reviews the role of the Legislative Committee and advises on what acts the Committee will be reviewing and runs down a list for the group.

Tammy R. thanks Jeff S. for his update and agrees that Bryan Klimkiewicz has been diligent with forwarding legislative bills for review.

VIII. Dispute Resolution Ad-Hoc Committee

a. New Resource

Tammy R. reviews the groups work.

Bryan K. will add to this discussion during the Division Director's report.

New Business

I. FFY 2022 IDEA Part B Grant Presentation (Tom Boudreau) (1:30 pm.)

Tom Boudreau reviews the purpose of the IDEA Part B Grant. Also, reviews the PowerPoint that was emailed to the Council on the preliminary application, process and procedures. Asks the Council for questions. Bryan K. joins the meeting and adds to the discussion. Tom answers Lena Esposito's question to clarify who determines the qualifying criteria.

II. Break

Tammy R. gives an option to take break earlier and resume the meeting at 2:15 pm. The Council agrees.

III. Round Table (2:30 pm.) Begins at 2:15 pm.

a. Agency/Parent Updates

Jane Hampton Smith (CPAC) A lot of expulsion and suspension with a zero tolerance lense and that is unusual. DCF referrals and threats at a higher rate. Students not receiving all services. Some students in general ed now and increased behavioral issues. Lots of bullying complaints. Talks shortage areas and parent was informed by administrators to homeschool due to issues with district. Jennifer L. adds regarding the parent concerns that she is receiving.

Nachi Bhatt (DCF) With students with disabilities, new administration to oversee juvenile special education and reintegration back into their communities.

Tom Cosker (Disability Rights CT) Hearing issues with remote learning and similar issues to CPAC's concern with students being referred to home school because districts are confused. Also mentions outplacements and programs.

Allison Kopie (BRS) Taking applications and they are early in the process. Running a training for vendors for customized employment and working with DDS.

Catherine Summ (BESBE-BRS) Planning and implementing for in person student activities. Often for parents only but due to request will be with students as well. Activities in the works for Spring with a focus on curriculum and fall in person planning.

Brian Smith (DDS) About to deal with the impact of retirements and creating internal system issues with case manager assignments for transition. They are working with retirees until positions filled. DDS resumed operating residential at 50 % capacity in February. In addition, mentions changes in leadership positions due to retirement.

Mia Giantonio (Student) Pleased about not having to wear a mask.

Michael Scanlon (Individual) Added comment and resource to the meeting chat:

Shared resources and links in regard to mental health, youth engagement, etc. Has a YouTube link to a presentation he did that covers a broad scope of mental health, youth engagement, employment and would like to share along with a pdf. In addition, the following are a link to the CPAC student and young adult page.

Michael is open to collaboration with any SAC members and agencies in his role at CPAC as Youth Coordinator. His contact information and resources will be included in the meeting follow-up email being sent to the full Council.

- IV. on Division Director Report (3:15pm.) Bryan Klimkiewicz begins at 2:30 pm.
 - a. CT-SEDS/IEP Quality
 - b. ESSER 3 Funding Updates
 - c. Remote Learning Standards (resources)
- V. Council Priorities Discussion
- VI. Adjourn (4:00 pm.)

State Advisory Council Meeting Dates/Locations:

Meeting	Date	Time	Location
1.	September 22, 2021	9:00-3:00	Virtual Meeting
2.	November 10, 2021	1:00-4:00	Virtual Meeting
3.	January 12, 2022	9:00-2:30	Virtual Meeting
4.	March 16, 2022	1:00-4:00	Virtual Meeting
5.	May 11, 2022	9:00-3:00	TBD