



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
*DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION*



**Connecticut State Advisory Council for Special Education**

**Wednesday, September 28, 2022**

**\*\*\*\*\* 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. \*\*\*\*\***

**Zoom Virtual Meeting: Members**

**YouTube Live Stream: Public Participant Viewing**

**<https://youtu.be/RUueGuzS4NQ>**

(Conference Call Information included below)

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Bryan Klimkiewicz (non-voting), Jolie Medina (non-voting), Susan Yankee (Chair), Tammy Raccio (Past Chair), Jane Hampton Smith, Joan Nicoll-Senft, Nachi Bhatt, Catherine Summ, Mia Giantonio, Brian K. Smith, Jennifer Lussier, Tom Cosker, Kim Williamson, Jeffry Spahr, Lori Fortuna, Jake Shumbo, Dimpy Malvania, Jon Metcalf, Lena Esposito, Rick Raucci, Cassandra Reilly, Louis Tallarita, Goviana Morales, Patricia Nunez and Doris Maldonado.

**Members Absent:** Michael Scanlon, Charles Cicarella, Missy Wrigley, Allison Kopie, Debra Grainsky, Denise Drummond and Marisa Mascolo-Halm (At-Large).

**I. Call to Order and Welcome: (9:00 am.)**

Bryan Klimkiewicz and Susan Yankee call meeting to order around 9:10 a.m.

Introductions/Roles/Welcome:

The Council members introduce themselves and their roles on the Council.

**II. Council Purpose and Function:**

Susan Y. reviews with the Committee.

**III. Public Comment: (9:10 am.) 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. May 11 Full Council Meeting Minutes

Susan Y. asks the Committee to approve the May 11 meeting minutes.

Motion to approve by Rick Raucci seconded by Goviana Morales

**V. Special Education Division Director Report: (9:15am.)**

Bryan K. delivers report in reference to agenda items.

a. Back to School

Bryan K. talks about the back-to-school meeting.

CT-SEDS

Bryan K. talks about the project and launch and piloting of the program

b. ESSER Funding Updates

Talks indicators and information, that states are required to report indicator outcomes in their State Performance Plan (SPP) and Annual Performance Report (APR) to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP).

Executive Committee Report (9:45 am)

Bryan K. briefly talks the annual report and Susan Y. discuss the following agenda items with the Council.

Susan Y. asks for members to contact her with interest in Committee opportunities.

c. Meeting Updates

i. Annual Report (Fall Submission)

Susan Y. reviews purpose, plan and due dates with the group.

ii. Committee Opportunities

Reviewed by Susan Y. before each Committee Chair delivers their report.

1. Membership

a. Nominating

2. Legislative

3. Dispute Resolution

No Committee chair but functions rather as a group in discussion on Dispute Resolution matters.

**VI. Membership Committee Report:**

a. Membership Update

Catherine Summ provides membership update and overview. Talks about a recruitment flyer and asks to schedule a membership discussion meeting with Jolie Medina (Assistant to the

SAC) and then schedule a Membership Committee meeting to begin developing the flyer and review attendance/vacancies.

- i. Overview of Membership Activities
- ii. Recruitment / Intended Audience Legislators

## **VII. Legislative Committee Report**

Jeff Spahr reviews with the Committee the Legislative Committee role within the SAC – what to expect and when.

- a. Current Session Ended May 3, 2022
- b. SAC Role in Legislative Task Force/Committee
- c. Next Legislative Session (Long Session begins in January)

## **VIII. Dispute Resolution Ad-Hoc Committee**

Jane Hampton Smith reviews the plan of how the pilot is intended to run but will have better idea once the pilot program is in effect.

- a. Bureau of Special Education Call Center

## **New Business**

### **I. Break (10:30am)**

### **II. Summarize/Review Summer Retreat: (Priority Setting) (10:45) \*Moved to 11:20 am.**

A suggestion to switch the order of agenda items II and III is made to Susan Yankee. Motion made by Jennifer Lussier and seconded by Jane Hampton-Smith. All in favor.

- a. Share and Discuss as a large group

The group goes into a breakout session to discuss the Council retreat priority groupwork.

### **III. Round Table: \*Starts at 10:45**

- a. Agency/Parent Updates

Cassandra Reilly (Charter): Having a challenging time with CT SEDS because of setup. Says Bryan K. has covered most of what she was going to discuss, imagines there will be more challenges later in the year.

Ana Wittig (CAPSEF) Talks about CT SEDS and CT Approved Private Special Education questions. Have to be aggregate users because of being a private schools. Lots of work with the Performance Office and just wants to help get on board help districts. They have focused a lot of social emotional learning and working with their families on providing effective services.

Jane Hampton Smith CPAC: Talks trainings, new IEP and letting people know about resources and Spanish training – both parents and professionals attended has training coming up in October 16 (English) and November 12 (Spanish). Another round of training in spring.

Training on the IEP. Talks about BSE Back to School and break out group facilitation. Talking shortages on transportation is a parent concern as well. Provided resources and information to the district but can be used by families. SAC Priorities reflect shortage areas.

Tom Cosker (Disability Rights): Launched a special education clinic – new model. Parents or families can sign up. Online access where people can connect with attorneys and advocates. Contact numbers on the site as well. They offer a variety of services. Suspension and expulsion is an area they continue to do systemic work in. Continues work on transition students and vocational/training aspects. Currently focused on helping students transition into employment. Suspension and expulsion an area they continue to work with. Talks about DDS and BRS and areas that still need work on. Diploma misinformation still an area that has a lot of confusion.

Catherine Summ: Happy to report she has a lot of new staff joining her program. Has had a mobility instructor vacancy and may have 5 new teachers for visionally impaired of joining staff. In mix of fall in service trainings.

Patricia Nunez (Judicial Dept.) Oct 1 judicial and DCF will work collaboratively to see both special ed and gen ed students are receiving services and education. Talks about CT SEDS and transition from the residential programs to assist you with that area of education. Discusses The Bridge and youth education. Asks for resources to be distributed to group by Jane Hampton-Smith.

Brian Smith (DDS): Talks transition programs and ARPA funds and grants in response to Tom Cosker's round table comments. Talks about new employees and still dealing staff issues in their residential programs. Some of providers have problem getting and keeping on board staff. DDS does have access to the ARPA funds that Tom C. mentioned. Talks about the committees and the goal of looking at how they can use the funds to transform the agency to shift into how they currently work. Making recommendations that go back to their Commissioner and talks about funds from SDE that help students with after school programs. Working on grants for services that would affect change for many years to come on. If anyone has a family/student/professional groups that would like to have Bryan or a DDS associate schedule a meeting reach out to him. Bryan responds to Doris Maldonado about ARPA resources being on the DDS agency website.

Susan Yankee (Parent) Asks Brian S. about the advertising and resources for Doris Maldonado. Discusses transition training and the UConn program. Provides contact in chat.

Lena Esposito (Parent): Part of and encouraging the establishments of support groups and workshops for parents and children of families who. Sign language has a lack of resources and programs in CT.

Jennifer Lussier (Parent): Hearing of parents having issues with children being sent home for not having educators available and issues with the IEP.

Doris Maldonado (Parent): Lack of mental health services – need to highlight and support communities in accessing information due to language barriers. In addition, plain language usage due to supports from children with translations. Talks resources and programs not being offered or advertised or even accessible to marginalized families.

Sean C. provides information on the Committee virtual training on de-escalation regarding restraint and seclusion. Free of charge and anyone can attend. Contact him for flyer.

Action Items:

Change the agenda meeting date from 11/10 to 11/30 and add the snow dates/May 24 meeting hold.

Include slides from PowerPoints in follow-up email.

Schedule a Membership and Executive Committee Meeting.

- Membership to design Legislative recruitment flyer.

Bryan K. to follow up on Governor appointee letters for members.

Susan Yankee will follow up with committee members regarding membership.

IV. Adjourn (12:00 pm.)

**State Advisory Council Meeting Dates/Locations:**

| <b>Meeting</b> | <b>Date</b>        | <b>Time</b>   | <b>Location</b>   |
|----------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 1.             | September 28, 2022 | 9:00-12:00 pm | Virtual Meeting   |
| 2.             | October 26, 2022   | 9:00-10:30 am | Virtual Meeting   |
| 3.             | November 30, 2022  | 9:00-1:00 pm  | In-Person Meeting |
| 4.             | January 11, 2023   | 9:00-1:00 pm  | In-Person Meeting |
| Snow Date      | January 18, 2023   |               |                   |
| 5.             | February 22, 2023  | 9:00-10:30 am | Virtual Meeting   |
| 6.             | March 29, 2023     | 9:00-10:30 am | Virtual Meeting   |
| 7.             | April 26, 2023     | 9:00-1:00 pm  | In-Person Meeting |
| Tentative      | May 24, 2023       | 9-10:30 am    | Virtual Meeting   |
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