



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Connecticut State Advisory Council for Special Education

May 11, 2022

******* 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. *******

Zoom Virtual Meeting
(Conference Call Information included below)

MINUTES

Members Present: Bryan Klimkiewicz (non-voting), Jolie Medina (non-voting), Tammy Raccio (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, Susan Yankee, Dimpy Malvania, Jon Metcalf and Charles Cicarella.

Members Absent: Lena Esposito, Michael Scanlon, Rick Raucci, Missy Wrigley, Cassandra Reilly, Louis Tallarita, Patricia Nunez, Allison Kopie, Rep. Tammy Exum, Debra Grainsky, Denise Drummond and Marisa Mascolo-Halm (At-Large).

Public Attendee: Elizabeth Lengvinis (Parent)

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

Meeting called to order at 9:08 am by Tammy Raccio

Introductions/Roles/Welcome

II. Council Purpose and Function

III. Public Comment (9:10 am.)

No comment.

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. March 16, 2022 Full Council Minutes

Add Nachi Bhatt to attendance.

Motion to approve minutes by Tammy Raccio, Nachi Bhatt accepts and Tom Cosker seconds.
All in favor to approve.

V. Executive Committee Report

a. Meeting Updates

i. Leadership Transition Reminder

Tammy Raccio reviews the Council work, annual report, and thanks the SAC for their work. Susan Yankee is introduced as new SAC Chairperson for 22-23 school year.

ii. Committee Opportunities

Tammy Raccio asks Committee Chairs to provide updates.

Catherine Summ provides a review of the Membership Committee role and functions. Asks Council to reach out to her with questions or interest in joining. Also provided Membership Committee Report at this time.

Annual Report (Fall Submission)

VI. Membership Committee Report

Catherine Summ discussing attendance for the year and vacancies during agenda item V. (ii) Committee Opportunities. Provides email via chat for contact.

a. Membership Update

i. Attendance

Catherine Summ thanks the SAC for their attendance at the meeting and reminds the group to relay when they will not be in attendance for meeting quorums.

ii. Current/Anticipated Vacancies

Asks the group to contact her with questions regarding the Committee, vacancies, and recruitment. Update as to Council Membership recruitment flyer.

VII. Legislative Committee Report

Group circles back when Jeff Sphar joins the meeting for Legislative update.

Jeff Sphar, Committee Chair, provides context to the following agenda items during his review. Highlights a passed bill on terminology of Special Education Emotional “Disturbances” to “Disabilities”.

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

a. Bureau of Special Education Call Center

Bryan Klimkiewicz updates the group on the establishment of the Call Center. Provides an overview on the expectant roles of the call center staff and Bureau staff.

Jane Hampton Smith (CPAC) comments and adds that there will be a bilingual representative available.

Susan Yankee asks about deaf and hard of hearing access and TTY line. Jane Hampton responds to discuss more use of a relay line where CPAC and Bureau calls are generally received from. Adds that they do not have anyone contact directly via TTY.

New Business

I. 2022-2023 Meeting Structure

Bryan Klimkiewicz reviews the new proposed schedule for the year and asks for the Council's input with more meetings at shorter lengths of time. Council is on board with the new schedule. Asks for meeting holds to be sent in advance versus a reminder email.

II. Summer Orientation / Priority Setting / Training

Zoom Poll taken and group decides on the date of July 13 per results.

a. In-Person (group Work) July 13 or Aug 10 (9:00-12:00)

III. OSEP Leadership Conference

IV. Break (11:00 am.)

V. Round Table (12:30 pm.)

a. Agency/Parent Updates

Susan Yankee: Husky time is a tour of campus and how to get accommodations. Yard Goats CT Walk for Hearing at Walnut Hill Park, agencies will be in attendance with resources and information.

Catherine Summ (ADS-BESBE): Busy year and involving more in person events. Had a get together for families which differed from past practices. Parents were accepting and enjoyed the event. Talks orientations, skills and programs and Channel 3 Kids Camp. Planning annual fall services and will have backup virtual plans.

Tom Cosker (Disability Rights CT): Talks vulnerability due to COVID and increased calls on family members looking for accommodations. Talks transitions and next year's priorities. Asks members to reach out regarding legal rights perspectives. Helps to establish priority areas moving forward.

Jane Hampton Smith (CPAC): Talks new IEP and PPTs possibly being moved to Spring. Will lead to parent concerns on waiting for annual review and. Talks resources being developed for the Summer. Lack of staff causing disruption, bilingual and lack of interpretation and services. Goviana Morales comments on parents being directed to Homeschool children due to issues such as truancy and absenteeism.

Nachi Bhatt (DCF): Department has been working on revisions for mental health services for students. Levels are high for student need in certain areas of the state. Hoping that after established and accessible the need for services decreases. Talks language of Emotional Disturbance to Disability is helpful to have conversation without stigma.

Joan Nichol-Senft (Higher Education) Talks CEDAR (federal grant- supports students with disability and struggling learners), asking for flyer on convening to be distributed. Conducted shortage survey on resilience and recruitment.

VI. Special Education Division Director Report (1:15pm.)

- a. CT-SEDS/IEP Quality
- b. ESSER 3 Funding Updates

VII. Council Priorities (2:00)

VIII. Adjourn (2:30 pm.) at 11:45 Motion made by Tom Cosker and seconds by Joan Nicoll-Senft

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	1:00-5:00	Virtual Meeting
5.	May 11, 2022	9:00-2:30	Virtual Meeting