

May 18, 2010
School Paraprofessional Advisory Council
9:00 a.m.
Connecticut Association of Schools, Cheshire

Attended: Tony Maida, Donna Morelli, Marcia Cattanach, Stefanie Carbone, Loyola Welsh, Iris White, Regina Birdsell, Perri Murdica, Annie Mac Donald, Bill Walkauskas, Darlene Brodbeck

Review of Meeting Minutes: Minutes approved

CreC Update: May 22nd and 25th Trainer the Trainer will be held, CREC has launched Math, health and wellness and reading modules, creating a SRBI module which will be reviewed by CSDE before presenting.

Serc Update: October 26th Para Conference theme will be: Dynamic Duos, Paraprofessional-Teacher Partnerships at Crowne Plaza Hotel, Cromwell, sessions geared toward paras and teachers working together, looking for paras to present sessions please forward any recommendations to Stefanie (carbone@ctserc.org), there will be 3 breakout sessions no keynote speakers, the Commissioner will deliver the welcome. Perhaps SERC should consider holding conference on Saturday or alternate between Saturdays and weekdays. Will include this question on evaluation form and Iris will include in next survey to paraprofessional district contacts.

Kent will repeat his well received Supervision and Evaluation Session on October 27th at CAS. He will do three breakout sessions at the Conference

SERC will offer a session for paraprofessionals who work with Autistic students on November 13th.

Para Proposal: Coordinating with CSDE to develop a webinar in late fall or early winter on creating independent learners, which will be archived on state and SERC website, also developing articulate modules for paraprofessional and teacher collaboration and teacher supervision of paraprofessionals.

SDE Updates: LRE Newsletter was excellent, Bureau of Special Education still getting the same calls, implementing IEPs, can para see the IEP? Independence (parents understanding what is best for the student), Title I qualifications.

Survey Results: Behavior management training is critical and paras and teachers don't have training. SERC may want to offer sessions on how teachers and paraprofessionals can collaborate in managing student behavior.

Possible questions for Paraprofessional Distinct Contact Survey:

Should statewide professional development for paraprofessionals be held on Saturdays?

What is the system for substitute paraprofessionals? What topics are you offering your paras for

professional development, who's presenting-database of possible presenters, how many hours of professional development, are available to paras.

Connecticut Guidelines for Training and Support of Paraprofessionals

Addendum: need to know the extent of what needs to be changed

Frequently Asked Questions could be embedded, Role in SRBI document (section 4), needs assistive technology, role of the principal isn't defined, use of restraint/seclusion, look at newsletters for possible inclusion.

CSDE needs to consider integrating the guidelines and teacher supervision into one of the new TEAM modules (possibly Module #5: Professional Responsibility).

Perri and Iris will follow up with the Bureau of Certification/TEAM

CT Paraprofessional/Teacher of the Year:

Purpose would be to raise awareness of paraprofessionals

Regina will look at other recognition programs to help us develop the application process.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Iris White