

Minutes from Para Council
1/26/10

In attendance: Marcia Cattanach, AFT Connecticut; Jennifer Feliz (Douglas), Education Connection; Loyola Welsh, MEUI; Regina Birdsell, CAS; Robin Grondahl, CPAC; Ellen Tyler, Region 18; Annie MacDonald, UE Wallingford; Bill Walkauskas, CSEA/SEUI 2001; Donna Morelli, CREC; Tony Maida, CES; Craig Struble, SERC; Carlota Schechter, CT Dept of Higher Education; Stefanie Carbone, SERC; Perri Murdica, SERC; Leigh Gold, CSDE; Deb Richards, CSDE, Iris White, CSDE.

SERC Update:

Kent Gerlach: went well; proposal development; full crowd;
Kent shared much of his new materials; new training that had not been shared yet; a national perspective with useful resources; talked about reauthorization of ESEA and national requirements for paraprofessionals
CAS rep: some queries if it would be offered again
Provided documents to support teacher/para collaboration
Newsletter highlighted key points from day
Many additional handouts
Can we get a copy of materials (or how to get a copy) to each rep? Iris and Perri will investigate

CREC Update:

Train the Trainers: Putnam and Plainfield in early January
Tentative: Early April Training for Trainers on the Basic modules
Early May for Advanced Modules
New Modules: math (under construction)
Reading: being field tested
Reducing Stress (under construction)
Supervision (under construction)

CSDE Update:

Perri Murdica:
Still fielding calls regarding para guidelines; roles, complex questions from parents;
Tells districts to be very clear in IEP
Teaching parents about the effects of “hovering” and close proximity and how independence is goal...
Use guidelines to help parents to understand the para’s role; refer parents to guidelines on CSDE site (special ed under publications; special ed resource website under resources)

Deb:

SRBI large area of focus at the dept this year
Updates: Iris is on core SRBI planning team (for support)
Spring-facilitated discussion with secondary think tank to provide direction
Policy committee created: to answer questions

Iris:

How to provide guidance to districts for para roles in SRBI: comes back to guidelines-appropriate roles

Trying to provide “briefs” on different focus areas relating to SRBI: guidance and support to schools and districts

One page Paraprofessional and SRBI: to help/provide documents to support paras

Concern: What about for teachers. Districts where the teachers/administrators do not understand what SRBI is, role clarification and responsibility.

Suggestions from Paraprofessionals and SRBI Document:

Add names and numbers for COMPASS contacts at the RESCs

Page 2 of document:

Each of the tiers is in addition to, not in place of

Eliminate language of “in a tier” or “he’s a tier 2 kid” or referred to

Tier 1-Core

Tier 2-Supplemental/Targeted

Tier 3-Intensive

Try to ‘clean up’ document so it doesn’t go back and forth between para guidelines/roles and SRBI...

Relate: Job description to SRBI (making clearer)

KUDOS to Iris (and Peri) for this document!!!

Tony:

Report from Attorney General: should there be requirements? BCBA?

BCBA assistant_would this be the para role?

Keep an eye on the AG report and ramifications

CPI/PMT training....

What is the behavior training that should/could be provided?

Providing documents in shortened format for all (teachers, paras, admin)

FOLLOW UP SURVEY:

Other questions:

When it is optional for paras to be trained, how many paras attend?

Were all paras offered training or just a specific group?

When is training offered? PD days? After school? Saturdays?

Are the paras allowed to choose when and where they go?

(Can we filter questions to paraprofessionals?)

Will the document be sent to districts? What can be paired with it to make it useful information? Training offered? Websites? Materials?)

How can we find out if this document is useful?

Re-send to districts

Recommendations:

A series of briefs: behavior management; information regarding disabilities beyond autism-medically fragile, TBI, seizure disorder, etc.; LD, OHI, migraines, ADD, 504, drugs/alcohol, suicide, cutters, depression

Teaming with support people (sw, psych, teacher, para)

Sharing information with those who will attend PPT: how to advocate for that child

How to get information to staff/admin? Webinar; Voice over for a ppt; then sponsor conference call for further questions

Keep it simple...

Respectfully submitted by Donna Morelli