

School Paraprofessional Advisory Council

September 11, 2012

CAS, Cheshire

Attendance: Loyola Welsh, MEUI; Annie MacDonald, CILU; Donna Morelli, CREC; Niloufar Rezai, Eastern CT State University; Marcia Cattanach, AFT Connecticut; Anthony Brisson, SERC; Heather Dawes, SERC; Stacey Cannon, CES; Jacqui Kelleher, Sacred Heart University; Iris White, CSDE.

1. Intro of participants. Welcome to new members: Anthony Brisson, Niloufar Rezai, Jacqui Kelleher, and Stacey Cannon.
2. **CREC update:** CREC continues to provide in-district training. CREC is in the process of updating some of the COMPASS Modules. Content will not really change, but data, statistics, references to legislation need to be checked and updated. CREC and SDE will plan a meeting with COMPASS trainers to update them on changes. CREC will look at offering a statewide training on the School Climate/Bullying module. Donna and Iris will discuss the possibility of developing a COMPASS Module on Common Core State Standards.
3. **SERC:** Conference is Wednesday, November 14th. Fee is waived for all Paraprofessional Advisory Council Members. Fee is also waived for staff in the Priority School Districts (list attached). Michael Foran, the National Principal of the Year will deliver the keynote; PD booklet is now online: www.ctserc.org; SERC is planning two learning seminars on Autism. The paraprofessional briefs on Data Collection, Learning Disabilities, and Autism are in various stages of development/revision. Iris will look at developing a para brief on Common Core State Standards.
4. **SDE update:** Governor Malloy signed FMLA for paras last month; 2 recommendations for finalist; Council agreed on the Paraprofessional of the Year. The recognition ceremony will take place during lunch (12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.) at the SERC Paraprofessional Conference. Loyola and Iris will also contact the school principal to plan an assembly at the para's school. All district nominees will be recognized with a certificate, the Para of the Year will receive a plaque. Registration fee has been waived for the 5 finalists.
5. The Council is required to submit recommendations to the Commissioner and General Assembly once a year. The Council began to brainstorm a list of possible recommendations. These will be fleshed out at our next meeting in November:
 - role of the paraprofessional in SRBI. Models of exemplary practice, what it can look like when done well.
 - improving instruction and achievement thru paraprofessional PD
 - administrator training to understand how to work with a para
 - Bureau of Special Education reminder- page 8 of IEP-can mandate training (frequency and duration). Reminder could be placed in Bureau Bulletin

- list of trainings that all paraprofessionals should have and/or flowchart that shows what training paraprofessionals should have, based on the students they work with.
- with new Accountability for Higher Education, need to integrate information regarding paraprofessionals (i.e., how to work effectively with a paraprofessional). Jacqui uses the Kent Gerlach Checklist in her class
- emphasize the importance of time allocated for teachers and paraprofessionals to meet

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 13th, 9-11:00 a.m. at CAS.