

STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON SPECIAL EDUCATION (SAC)**Regular Meeting****May 18, 2011****2:30 PM – 5:00 PM**

State Office Building, Room 307A

165 Capitol Avenue

Hartford, CT 06106

I. Call to Order

Members Present: Michelle Bidwell, John Burke, Joanna Cooper, Sheila Crocker (3:09pm), Ann Marie Cullinan, Richard Douglas, Catherine Foley Geib, Beth Hart, Stephanie Johnson, Uswah A. Khan, Christine Murphy, Kelly Neyra, Charlyne Olko, Marcus Rivera, Brenda Sullivan, Benjamin Strong, Fernando Tiago.

CSDE/SERC/Guests: Linda Adorno, Sarah Harvey, Nancy Prescott, Marcus Rivera, Anne Louise Thompson.

Member Informed Absence: Ana Acevedo, Donna Cambria, Rep. Daniel Carter, Katherine Musto, Julie Swanson, Nancy L. Taylor.

Mr. Burke called the meeting to order at 2:35. Members and guests introduced themselves.

II. Report of the Chair

Dr. Burke thanked the SAC Legislative Committee for their strong effort during the legislative session.

III. Report of the Bureau Chief

Ms. Thompson updated the SAC on several items:

- Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) interview of SAC members on September 21.
- Comments from the hearings concerning the proposed revisions to the special education regulations are under review. Public clarification sessions are anticipated. It is also anticipated that revisions will be presented to the State Board of Education in September, with a formal vote at the October State Board of Education meeting.
- Fiscal IDEA allocation is anticipated at \$1M less than prior year. SAC members raised general questions regarding the fiscal formula.
- State Performance Plan district determination letters/reports should be released in June 2011, and available on the CSDE website. SAC members will be shown how to access these reports at the June SAC meeting.
- The Bureau anticipated redirecting 15 percent of special education IDEA funds in two districts for any of these areas: disproportionate identification by race, suspension/expulsion, or least restrictive environment issues. SAC members

received clarification on the basis for disproportionality and the Bureau's examination of policies, procedures and practices in effected districts.

- The *Bureau Bulletin* is anticipated to offer "real time" data/information access in September.
- The Bureau's website and SAC component of the Bureau of Special Education website has been updated on www.sde.ct.gov.
- Two public sessions were held regarding Scientific Research-Based Interventions (SRBI) in May in which SAC members attended. A public forum for SRBI questions is anticipated in September.
- The upcoming SAC webinar was discussed.

IV. Items for Discussion

A. Overview of Fall 2011 OSEP Site Visit and the Critical Elements Analysis Guide (CrEAG)

Ms. Harvey offered a Power Point presentation to outline the Bureau's *Critical Elements Analysis Guide*. Highlights and discussion included the following:

- New model augments verification and results. Results indicator (a low performing Annual Performance Plan indicator or general outcome area) will be determined through a collaborative process which includes OSEP, CSDE, the New England Regional Resource Center, the SAC and stakeholder groups.
- The general supervision sections were reviewed, including noncompliance, dispute resolution, data systems, grant assurances and fiscal (fund distribution and use of funds).
- SAC questions included the following for discussion at the June meeting:
 - CSDE's data collection systems timely collect and report valid/reliable data: Can you offer some examples of the value of CSDE's data system? For example, "How are your findings used to help parents of students with disabilities?" Can the Department's Data Acquisition Plan be useful here?
 - CSDE has procedures to ensure correct IDEA fund distribution: What are some examples of procedures in place to address violations?
 - CSDE has procedures to ensure allowable use of IDEA funds: Can we go over an example of an LEA IDEA budget and the types of analysis/fiscal compliance CSDE conducts? How does the GSS impact a child in a district?
 - General (Not specific to any one portion of the CrEAG presentation): Please offer some "real examples" in June.
- Dr. Burke, Mr. Rivera and Ms. Harvey explained that the Bureau and SAC will meet at a future date to review OSEP questions in each general supervision sections to prepare for the September survey questions/interview. Dr. Burke and Mr. Rivera will receive SAC member questions for follow up at the June SAC meeting.

B. Amendments to SAC By-Laws

- i. SAC members (i.e., Chair, SAC Executive Committee, SAC Legislative Chair) are exploring a variety of options to add new members who can represent the Office of Protection and Advocacy, the CT Parent Advocacy Center, the Bureau of Rehabilitative Services, and a representative of the CSDE Technical High School system: legislative amendments and additions through the Commissioner of Education's existing authority. The SAC Chair is also trying to fill existing vacancies by contacting the appointing authorities in concert with the Membership Chair.
- ii. Dr. Burke moved and Ms. Hart seconded to amend the Slate of Officers section of the SAC by laws (Article V Section 5) as follows:
 1. from: "The Committee will prepare a slate of officers for the Council prior to the May meeting and the Council will vote on such slate of officers at the June meeting. "
 2. to: "The Committee will prepare a Slate of Officers for the Council prior to the November meeting and the Council will vote on such Slate of Officers at the December meeting. "

The motion passed unanimously with one abstention.

- iii. Ms. Sullivan moved and Ms. Cullinan seconded to permit the SAC Chair or designee to enact the following:
 1. if after 30 calendar days, a SAC appointment is not made by the appointing authority, then the SAC will submit in writing, to the appointing authority, a recommendation to fill the vacancy which is consistent with the statutory position (e.g., a parent of a student with a disability).

The motion passed unanimously with one abstention.

C. Committee Appointments

- i. Dr. Burke moved and Ms. Sullivan seconded to add Ms. Prescott and Ms. Olko to the SRBI Ad Hoc Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Committee Reports

- i. Ms. Johnson will offer the SRBI Ad Hoc update in June. (Ms. Johnson left at 4:10pm).
- ii. Ms. Cooper offered a Focused Monitoring Steering Committee update.
- iii. Ms. Sullivan reviewed the SAC letters to the General Assembly on legislative proposals.

E. SAC Retreat and Possible Meeting Dates

- i. The SAC is exploring a half day retreat the morning of its September 21 meeting. Dr. Burke will develop a format for the annual report and share with members.
- ii. Public Portion times at SAC meetings can be amended to assist the public in participation.

Adjournment at 5:07pm.