



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Connecticut State Advisory Council for Special Education

Wednesday, November 30, 2022

******* 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. *******

**Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Ave.
Hartford, CT 06106
Room 1D**

(Conference Call Information included below)

Members Present: Susan Yankee (Chair) Lena Esposito, Jonathan Metcalf, Jeffry Spahr (Legislative Chair), Goviana Morales, Tom Cosker, Jen Lussier (Vice Chair), Nachi Bacht, Catherine Summ (Membership Chair), Ana Wittig, Brian K. Smith, Allison Kopie, Patricia Nunez, Nancy DeCrescenzo, Missy Wrigley, Kim Williamson, Bryan Klimkiewicz (non-voting) and Sean Cronin (non-voting)

Virtual Members: Online: Michael Scanlon, Jane Hampton, Dimpy Malvania and Louis Tallarita

Members Absent: Jolie Medina (non-voting), Denise Drummond, Debra Grainsky and Charles Cicarella.

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 am. Motion made by Catherine S. and Second by Missy W.

Unanimous approval Council Purpose and Function

Susan Yankee (Chair) reviewed the council purpose and function.

II. Public Comment (9:10 am.)

No public comments were shared.

Old Business

III. Consent Agenda:

Catherine Summ made a motion to accept the 10/26 Full Council Meeting Minutes.

The motion was seconded by Missy Wrigley. All in favor of approval.

IV. Executive Committee Report (9:15 am.)

Susan Yankee (Chair) updated the full Council on the Executive Committee activities since the last meeting. A summary on the progress of the Annual Report was also provided.

V. Membership Committee Report

The Chair of the Membership Committee updated the full Council on attendance and current vacancies. Additionally, the committee has been working on a recruitment flyer related to membership as well as activities related to legislator outreach.

VI. Legislative Committee Report

- a. The Legislative Committee has not had any scheduled meetings at this time, however, they will be meeting soon as the legislative session begins in January. Interested Council members are encouraged to reach out to Jeffry Spahr (Legislative Chair) or Susan Yankee to participate in Committee activities.

VII. Dispute Resolution (Ad-Hoc) Committee

- a. The Bureau of Special Education Call Center is nearing launch. The process and technology is being tested and structures are being put in place related to receptionist training and collaboration. The Bureau is collaborating with CPAC on this initiative.

VIII. Round Table (9:45 am.)

The following individuals shared information and updates related to their stakeholder groups:

Tammy Raccio (Parent): Discussed experience with the Board of Education Conference and the need to reach out to the legislature to increase their participation and visibility within the Council activities

Louis Tallarita (McKinney-Vento): Discussed a recent OSEP guidance document related to Highly Mobile Children and Youth. He also shared information related to an upcoming training/webinar.

Catherine Summ (ADS-BESBE): Shared information about new staff members of the BESB team. A trend of increased referrals and additional information related to supports and services.

Tom Cosker (Disability Rights CT): Shared information related to Secondary Transition on students with disabilities, spoke about customized employment, and issues related to underserved communities.

Gioviana Morales (Parent): Discussed concerns related suspension rates in early grades and special education processes not being adhered to (i.e., manifestation determination processes). She also brought up concerns related to staffing vacancies and the impact of student IEP implementation.

Jeff Spahr (Parent): Spoke about post-secondary options and opportunities for his son and his appreciation of Adult Agencies points of contact who have assisted him with the process.

Lena Esposito (Parent): Discussed concerns related to Respite Group Homes and coordination of supports between the school system, DCF, and other agencies. (student eligibility/qualification for group home support).

Allison Kopie (ADS): Provided information regarding current staffing and support structures (internal promotions and the status/number of Level-Up Counselors). She also reviewed the purpose and charge for the Level Up program, customized employment, and WIOA.

Patricia Nunez and Nancy DeCrescenzo: (Judicial Branch) Patricia is stepping down from the SAC and Nancy will be replacing Patricia. Nancy introduced herself and role to the Council. Updates

were provided related to the Juvenile Justice Education Oversight Committee and the diverse needs of students in detention centers. Working toward seamless transition for students who are high risk and placed or transitioning back to their community. Prevalence Rates were also discussed.

Kim Williamson (Speech and Language Pathologist): Shared information related to the Speech and Language Community of Practice. Additionally mentioning the focus on answering questions related to the CTSEDS implementation. There are also important discussions related to service delivery models within the public school setting to meet student's individualized needs.

Brian K. Smith (DDS): Provided information regarding current staffing (vacancies) and support structures, current activities related to customized employment, support of youth with disabilities and the partnership with the CSDE for support during after school activities for students.

Ana Wittig (CAPSEF): Shared information related to the increased number of referrals that APSEPs are receiving. She also noted that the programs have seen an increase in referrals for young students. She also acknowledged the importance of the collaboration that is occurring regarding staffing shortages and vacancies and the need to inform legislators.

Susan Yankee (Parent): Shared information regarding a grant that was awarded to the American School for the Deaf and a survey to share.

Jane Hampton Smith (CPAC): Provided an update related to CPAC activities. Current themes from parents who call their support line and posed a question related to the school district's asking for physician letters for students who may qualify for homebound instruction and the frequency of these requests as that may pose a burden.

Michael Scanlan (Individual): Provided an update related to the Youth Advisory Group and upcoming events and activities.

New Business

I. The Council business paused for a short break

II. Special Education Division Director Report:

Bryan Klimkiewicz provided a Bureau of Special Education report providing updates related to new OSEP Guidance documents, The State Performance Plan, ARP ESSER activities, and CT-SEDS updates.

III. The Council reviewed previous work related to the Advisory Council Priorities:

a. Special Education Teacher/Related Service Provider/Paraeducator Shortages

i. Honor/Respect the Profession

1. Preparation

ii. Recruitment

1. Incentives

iii. Retention

- 1. Support / Training
 - b. Least Restrictive Environment
 - i. Data
 - ii. Route Cause
 - iii. Training /
 - c. Support Special Education Role in Social Emotional/Behavioral Support

And provided additional input for the following

- d. Student Voice
 - i. Participation in Meeting (Preparation and Attendance)
 - ii. Parent Education
 - iii. Perspective
- e. Employment opportunities for Students with Exceptionalities
 - i. Competitive Employment
 - ii. Post-Secondary Transition Activities

The meeting was adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

Motion to adjourn at 12:31 pm. by Tom C. and second by Brian S.
Unanimous

State Advisory Council Meeting Dates/Locations:

Meeting	Date	Time	Location
1.	September 28, 2022	9:00-12:00 pm	Virtual Meeting
2.	October 26, 2022	9:00-10:30 am	Virtual Meeting
3.	November 30, 2022	9:00-1:00 pm	Legislative Office Building: Hartford, CT
4.	January 11, 2023	9:00-1:00 pm	In-Person Meeting
Snow Date	January 18, 2023	9:00 -1:00 pm	In-Person Meeting
5.	February 22, 2023	9:00-10:30 am	Virtual Meeting
6.	March 29, 2023	9:00-10:30 am	Virtual Meeting
7.	April 26, 2023	9:00-1:00 pm	In-Person Meeting
	May 24, 2023	9-10:30 am	Tentative Virtual Meeting