**Maine State Advisory Panel**

January 20, 2021 10:00AM-12:00PM

Department of Education

Zoom meeting

Minutes

**Present:**

Nancy Lander

Brian Cavanaugh

Christine Sullivan

Jodie Hall

Howard Wright

Libby Stone-Sterling

David Emberley

Erin Frazier

Carrie Woodcock

Tracy Whitlock

Benjamin Jones

**Agenda**

* Public Comment
* Due Process Update
* Department Updates
* Review of SAP application and membership appointment process
* Legislative Updates
* Public Comment

**Public comment:** MPF rolled out new webinar posted live via Zoom and Facebook page under videos. Available via YouTube within next couple of weeks.

**David Emberley and Erin Frazier- Due Process Update:**

* Vacant position for due process coordinator.
* TOTAL Dispute Resolution Activity, includes hearings, mediations and complaints Per 10,000 data is calculated by dividing the # of events by total child count times 10,000
* Total US 50.3, Maine 61.4
* Mediation US 16.1, Maine 30.5
* Hearings US 29.4, Maine 16.6
* State Complaints US 7.8, Maine 14.3, Maine previous years 7.7, 6.9, 8.3
* 75% of total requests have mediation to them.
* 69% mediations held have signed agreement.
* Complaint data 33% 35% reports issued with them, other either closed, withdrawn or mediated.
* 86% CI requests are by pro se parent (parent that is not represented by an attorney)
* Hearing data 2014-2020 on average 42 total hearing requests come in per year.
* 10 % requests on average reach a decision. All others mediated, withdrawn, or dismissed by HO.
* 32% hearing requests filed by pro se parents; the rest filed by attorneys.
* Accepting written feedback for CI handbook which is due this Friday (1/22/21).
* Question about looking for public feedback as well on handbook; Have not necessarily asked for general feedback.
* Added introduction CI are part of general supervision responsibilities of department want it to be accessible to everyone and all parties involved.
* Permissible subjects helped define the broadness of what’s permitted in CI request. A CI may allege any violation of MUSER.
* Public agency has opportunity to respond to allegations complaint.
* Ancillary allegations based on any new information brought to attention of CI during investigation.
* Current handbook has 3 days to respond, the new handbook leaves it up to CI to make decision on how long response can be.
* CI were finding having attorneys during interviews could impact quality of interview with the goal of wanting to get the most unbiased information as possible. Do not want attorney to start directing the conversation for parents.
* A question was asked “Are attorneys advised on what they can or cannot do during these interviews?” No, there is not a lot of understanding around the system designed around attorneys. IDEA MUSER nothing in rules whether attorney can be present or not.
* Website Location of Decisions MDOE Office of Special Services: https://www.maine.gov/doe/learning/specialed/dueprocess/decisions

**Erin Frazier- Department Updates:**

* Preparing for Ed Committee which gives opportunity to look and explain as a department what we were doing.
* Launched mobile assessment unit going to rural areas to provide evaluations.
* Trying to partner with USM to support school psychologists, not enough clinical supervision in Maine. Additional updates in next SAP meeting (2/3/21)
* Working with Pre k programming, lost 81 centers because of COVID and the centers still available have less seats.
* Pre k program Morrison Center closing, trying to develop more programming for ages 3-5.
* PCG report looking at recommendations on how to support districts in any way with technical assistance.
* Continuing to monitor special purpose private schools, SAUS, preschools.
* A question was asked if there was a timeline on MUSER changes; more than likely will have stakeholder input in the spring.

**Tracy Whitlock- SAP Application and Membership Appointment Process:**

* Last meeting, we talked about people on the panel that needed to be added.
* Want people who have diverse experiences to come to panel but also making sure to focus on the needs of all children not personal experiences.
* Mentioned editing the current SAP application. Tracy will revise the current application and send it out to the panel.
* Suggested an employed adult and youth that is currently in school receiving Special Education Services.
* Connor Archer was mentioned that he was interested in becoming a member of SAP group.
* A goal has been set that the end of summer or beginning of fall for more recruitment because COVID has changed a lot of schedules for people.
* Teacher down east Jim Roberts sending application.
* Hoping to get individuals from all over the state.

**Public comment:**

* Resource guides are in PDF format for Maine Parent Federation, available to be sent out to the public.
* Updated consumer handbook rehab services on website.

Conference call line information: 877-455-0244

Code: 7557916562

Next meeting: February 3, 2021