**Maine State Advisory Panel**

March 17, 2021 10:00AM-12:00PM

Department of Education

Zoom meeting

Minutes

**Present:**

Nancy Lander

Colette Sullivan

Christine Sullivan

Libby Stone-Sterling

Carrie Woodcock

Tracy Whitlock

Connor Archer

Jim Roberts

Brian Cavanaugh

Courtney Angelosante

Erin Frazier

Jodi Hall

**Public comment:** MPF annual conference started yesterday offering 4 days a week, 9am and 1pm virtual sessions highlighting pandemic doctor in person learning. Teaming up to offer parent support group.

**Erin Frazier- Department Updates:**

* CDS 3-5-part B is developing programming in southern Maine. Special Education programming run by CDS staff, not enough businesses to support 3-5.
* Opened school March 8, Circle of Learning in Saco.
* Hopeful that classrooms will become less restrictive.
* Age out working to support expansion of programming of disabilities after age 22.
* About to publish annual allocation budget on what the department is spending money on, open for comment.
* Math for ME and PBIS work going around dyslexia psychological assessments, pilot project going to rural areas in state to provide psychological supports.
* First district was Madawaska, great feedback (mobile assessment unit team.) Partnering with USM to provide clinical person to supervise clinical internships reflected in budget.
* Applied for grant for $4 million to increase math instruction and PBIS, hopefully in July the Department will hear back.

**Public comment:** Questions: Is there a specific amount of funding for each district? Answer: All of that would go to SAU for in structure support. There are stricter guidelines on how to use that money. Cannot work outside of special education. Question: Is budget funded, no cuts? Answer: No. Question: Does the rescue plan have a timeline? 24-month capacity starting in July.

**Sarah Woog- WAVES Program (Wilderness Activities and Virtual Engagement for Students**)**:**

* COVID response effort grant expires September 30th. Effort in connecting teams to each other and going outdoors, getting information out ASAP.
* Currently up and running over 40 virtual communities.
* Students from throughout the state can connect common interests such as knitting, poetry, black history every month, etc.)
* There has been challenges on reaching teams.
* Encourage everyone to share WAVES program information and website/offerings to the public.
* Want to make sure programming is inclusive as possible while protecting student confidentiality. <http://maine.gov/doe/waves/virtual>
* Registration is not shared with hosts prior to meetings because of data issues. Students voluntarily give a heads up.

**Public comment:** A question was asked: Is there a formal way to ask for accommodation such as reading things and how are you weaving in the environmental aspect? Answer: The mental health connection piece is what it’s all about, trying to provide that space for students. Accommodation cannot share identifiable data with hosts prior to meetings, welcoming feedback on this issue. Question: Is this a 1-time event? Answer: This is hopeful to be ongoing, expect to build community around them. A lot of people wanted to do this weekly. Working on soon trying to understand parameters on outdoor gatherings, want to give access to outdoor opportunities while still protecting kids during COVID. Question: What is the plan after the 30th? Believe in this as something that is important outside of COVID response effort want teens to access WAVES in meaningful way going to find a way to keep program beyond September 30th.

**Martin Mackey- RREV Program (Rethinking Remote Education Ventures):**

* Received $17 million federal grant. Working on higher education to develop classes for any educator in ME to build pilot program to do innovative stuff working around remote education.
* Wrapping up first round of RREV pilot classes.
* Teachers will take class and create a pilot then apply for funding for up to $100,000k to fund that pilot.
* Funding is 6 rounds per super intendent region qualifications for grants are to folks in most need. CRF metrics determine eligibility/need.
* In 6 months will be another round and can apply for funding to implement pilot.
* 5 different institutions teaching class right now.
* Web portal for all stuff comes out of RREV engine, all pilots are housed with other collaborative features likemodules funding,advocacy, etc.)
* Grant expires July 30th, 2023 and the engine will still house everything; everything will still be accessible once the grant is gone.
* RREV a part of modules that folks that are not interested in taking courses can take 5-6-hour module around innovation around design thinking techniques and tools supporting educators.
* Funding apps open June 1st , can start disturbing funds beginning of august. 2nd round will open a couple months after. <https://www.maine.gov/doe/rrev>
* Advocating for outdoor classrooms but not funding anything unless it is completely accessible to everyone.
* Pilot design courses take 6-8 weeks long teaching common language to use common tool to design pilot that is accessible to everyone. This is a 34-hour course.

**Public comment:** Positive feedback was given stating that it is wonderful how all this work is accessible to other educators. Available to all public/private pre k-12. Resources being built in ME will be accessible to everyone. A question was asked: If you are collaborating with IAGS (Institute of Higher Education Colleges and Universities) are they the ones doing the courses? Answer: Yes, Eastern Maine community college, UMAINE, Farmington, UNE, etc.)

**Erin Frazier- Legislative Updates:**

* Monitoring a lot of bills, a lot in DHHS around child behavioral health services.
* Bill 552 that is coming up around consensus at IEP meetings.
* CDS presented legislation and made a recommendation on 619 3-5-year-old part B be in SAU oversight, it’s what’s happening nationally.
* MUSER FAPE for 4-year-old 9 hours a week looking at that.
* Waiting for action hoping to move 619 into public domain.
* New CDC guidelines, a lot of talk on local level parents pushing thinking it’s different. Emergency leg deal with 1 high school issue 5-year age span for self-contained rooms no more than 5 years. Emergency measure only be affected 1 year.
* Attempted to soften the understanding of 5-year age span and ratios of adults to students in classrooms.
* CDC guidelines not changing 3-6 B in schools with masks unless eating then will need to be 6 ft apart. No changes for Maine.
* Followed all educators vaccinated no matter the age. Governor Mills is thinking end of May we will be without masks.

**Public Comment:** Academic engagement is tough for some students. Seeing little to no engagement off screen, students often jump on and off camera. Intercepted around students with emotional and behavioral disabilities on retaining them. It was mentioned that research on retention is not good for children on any level but can work great for some families. Instead of using concept of retention advocate for child to be reassessed for new evaluation, put together IEP for new level of performance. Supporting tier 1 in all of education 7 modules. Basically, looking at scores in school and increasing that score. Focusing on tier 1 by looking at data.

Next meeting: April 21, 2021