Maine State Advisory Panel: IDEA Part B

Agenda

## May 19, 2021 - 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Department of Education |Zoom

**Present:**

Nancy Cronin

Nancy Lander

Artulean McKenna

Libby Stone-Sterling

Jim Roberts

Brian Cavanaugh

Jim Roberts

Jodie Hall

Erin Frazier

Christine Sullivan

Carrie Woodcock

**1. Open comment**

Nancy Lander, Math 4ME

Collecting interest in Washington and Aroostook Counties via informational for teachers and paraprofessional informational sessions.

**2. Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)in Maine overview, Libby Stone-Sterling**

* VR is broken into two programs – General VR programming and VR for the blind and visually impaired.
* Highlights: Virtual VR services during COVID – VR had limited closure due to COVID.

There were also less no-shows and fewer overall costs.

Employment first mentality –

Employment is a primary service and should be available to everyone, not as a supplement for when behavior or other issues are addressed. Collaboration between the Departments of Labor, Education and health and Human Services has been his very successful. Paid work experience before high school gradation and increased knowledge of services has also assisted in this.

LD 1874 – An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Subminimum Wage for person with disabilities, supports fair wage for people with disabilities.

* VR Services

VR serves approximately 7000 individuals. This includes youth coming out of foster care, ex-offenders, low income individuals, transition aged youth, and English language learners. Employment opportunities for persons helped by VR include part-time entry level positions to employment with graduate level experience, such as counselors.

Preemployment transition being services offered are designed to be used as a supplement to school offered programs and include:

Job exploration services

Work basked learning experiences

Workplace readiness and social skills and independent living skills

Instruction in self-advocacy

Virtual job shadowing

And lesson-based programming

* Progressive Employment –

Start with small steps transitioning into paid work experience

Steps in this process include job shadows, tours, and coaching - for which VR pays the participant’s salary.

* There is a partnership with Job for Maine Graduates and VR in a research grant. There are 350 students that have been enrolled with the goal for 90% participants to enter workforce or post-secondary education after completion.

* There is also a partnership with the University of Maine for social skills instruction and VR will be continuing Step Up Program with the University of Maine for another year.

*OPEN COMMENT:*

Success story for a member’s granddaughter – she is able to work on her own now without work supports, thanks to the help of VR.

**3. Extended Eligibility and Transition Planning**

* The Departments of Education and Labor are collaborating to make the IEP process much more meaningful – student led IEPs and increased self-advocacy.
* DOE met with the policy team which includes leaders in agencies including Maine Parent Federation, to better collaborate and work more effectively during the processes.
* The State of Tennessee website is a good reference point for a Maine’s model for our upcoming website.
* The extended eligibility committee is meeting monthly. This has been difficult due to increased legislative activity moving through DHHS and Education.

**4. CDS Legislation (*try to find these numbers*)**

* There are 3 concept bills that were pushed through including:

Moving Part C to DOE

Resolve to direct the Department in centralized billing and child find

Transitioning 3 -5 into SAUS

* Key points:

There would be an advisory committee to oversee these bills, for which MDOE does support.

Ages birth to 3 are very low in Child Find, compared to national rates. However, ages 3 – 22 are high.

* Part C referrals have increased in birth to 1
* There are over 700 qualifying conditions will be going up on the website to increase referrals as part of the whole-state approach that is being implemented.
* Ages 3-5-year old’s – There are 2 new classrooms, with 6 more to open soon. Increasing 300 slots – approximately 125 students will receive programming from these provided slots. By 2021 the goal is to have all needs met as necessary slots are filled.
* Increase transportation by putting out a rooster for those able to transport children.
* Collaboration with site directors by making them administrators. – emphasis is to be one group as Part B.

*OPEN COMMENT:*

If the extension does occur, 3-year olds would keep an IFSP(?) and would need parents to request to get an IEP.

Page 112 of MUSER has the 3-5-year-old frequency of service requirements.

Roberta Lucas is the Director of CDS and 619 Coordinator and Jamie Michaud is Part C coordinator, under Lucas

**5. MUSER update**

* The update to MUSER will be a complete rewrite, with the final stages being rewritten now, and involves a crosswalk of what MUSER used to say to what it will say once approved.
* There will also be a repeal and replace of Chapter 101.
* The timeline from rewrite to legal review and sharing with stakeholders is around July to August. Approx. 6 months for review and input.
* The goal is to go before the next legislative session, to be effective July 1, 2022.
* Extended eligibility group –

Abbreviated day based on reduced school schedule and increased work schedules for adult -age students would not require 20-day meetings if those meetings are non-behavioral related. The goal to train ed techs to act as job coaches as well.

* The SAP would like to meet if changes should be commented on over summer and members to join different stakeholder groups as needed

**6. Open comment**

* Praxis will no longer be the only way to receive certification – there will also be a portfolio system
* It is important for students to know of disability offices and services offices at colleges as youth enter post-secondary education
* Nee to increase ID people received post -secondary edu. Possible leg as FL did to not allow institutions to deny admission to those with ID.
* Need for Aroostook and higher counties in the fall for new parent membership
* Carrie – Help me Grow bill will be heard at the DHHS Committee will be meeting tomorrow for early intervention for birth through 8. LD1712
* UNH4U program and sericuse University are great programs for individuals with ID.

**Links shared:**

<https://iod.unh.edu/projects/unh-4u>

PowerPoint attachment

**Upcoming/*rescheduled* meetings:**

*June 30, 2021*

August 18, 2021

September 15, 2021

October 20, 2021

November 17, 2021

December 15, 2021

January 19, 2022

February 16, 2022

March 16, 2022

April 20, 2022

May 18, 2022

June 15, 2022