State Advisory Panel

June 12, 2019

Minutes

**Present:**

Libby Stone-Sterling

Jeannette Sedgwick

Carrie Woodcock

Nancy Lander

Gwen Sartoris

Erin Frazier

Brian Cavanaugh

Jodie Hall

Cheryl Neiverth

Paige Morse

Jenny Clair

Christine Sullivan

Sherreccia Jackson

Courtney Angelosante

Leanna Simao

Krista Dourion

Howard Wright – via phone

1. **Introductions**
2. **Open Comment**
3. The University of Maine approved a master’s degree in Special Education at the University of Maine at Farmington “UMF”. UMF will be offering a 4 +1 accelerated option and an alternate route via the Spark Program for the master’s program. This is a blended program with 70% online courses and 30% face-to-face interaction. This decision was aimed to increase educators and has a target roll-out date of Spring 2020.
4. Maine Parent Federation (“MPF”) held a training for first aid and CPR through NAMI, which went well. They have recently learned that the CODE changes will be implemented in December, as opposed to an original projection of July.
5. University of New England and MPF are collaborating to increase opportunities for college level experience for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Autism.
6. Discussion on the Lend Program, what it is and why it is a good start for additional college level programs.
7. Discussion on THINK College program, which helps with grants for college programs for students with intellectual disabilities.
8. Carrie, Libby, DOE and DOC have been discussing a youth advisory committee for feedback from youth with disabilities. Surveys have been sent to14 to 24-year olds. The goal is to have a meeting and leadership training by late summer.
9. A 5-week summer step-up program starts July 8 at the University of Maine for high school Juniors and Seniors with Autism. There is no cost to the student and they live on campus with employment opportunities.
10. Vocational Rehab is hosting a Peer mentoring state-wide pilot with late summer training and a webinar scheduled for June 28.
11. **Think Tank – Jeannette Sedgwick**
12. The Department of Education is holding Think Tanks throughout the State of Maine to received opinions from parents and districts on what is happening in Education.
13. All are encouraged to attend and give and receive feedback.
14. **Legislative update – Libby Stone-Sterling**
15. LD 852 – *An Act To Enhance the Coordination of Benefits, Assessments and Expansion of Continuing Education Programs for Young Adults with Disabilities after High School*– opt to pass as emended
16. LD 984 – *An Act To Increase Funding for Children's Behavioral Health Issues in Order To Return to the State Children Who Are Currently Housed in Residential Treatment Systems outside of the State and To Suspend Certain Contracts Related to Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities* (DHHS Bill) – engrossed in both chambers.
17. LD 1160 – *An Act To Transfer the Kim Wallace Adaptive Equipment Loan Program Fund to the Office of the Treasurer of State* – engrossed in both chambers.
18. LD 1370 – *An Act To Address Violent Behavior in the Classroom –* opt to pass as emended – Additional wording added regarding IDEA violations and safeguards.
19. LD 1376 – *An Act To Direct the Department of Education To Amend Its Rules To Ensure That Physical Restraint and Seclusion Policies Are Followed for Special Education Students and Make Biennial Reports on the Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion* – Back in committee for language review.
20. LD 1486 – *An Act To Strengthen Supports for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities or Autism in Crisis* – opt to pass as amended
21. LD 1715 *An Act To Reorganize the Provision of Services for Children with Disabilities from Birth to 5 Years of Age* (Emergency Bill) - Carried over to the next session - $500,000 was allocated to a stakeholder group of 25 people to answer questions that remain regarding this bill.
22. Topics for next year:
    1. Restraint and Seclusion
    2. PBIS group to come and present to the Panel
    3. Continued interest in the CDS bill
    4. Special educator shortage
    5. Lack of school psychologists in the State of Maine
    6. Universal Pre-K
    7. Inclusiveness in schools, including least restrictive environments
    8. Updates on post-high school education programs and transition planning (the Panel’s involvement will be limited)
23. Commissioner Pender Makin –

A.Discussion on the necessity of the SAP to the DOE. Recap on next year’s goals and discussion topics.

B.It is the aim of Commissioner Pender Makin is to rebuild trust with professionals and communities. DOE is working to become more service oriented with more listening and support, as opposed to more mandating. The goal is to give educators more resources and knowledge to ensure a good base to do right by students. The budget is nearly complete and will help to be more proactive and effective by building a robust work force and ensure every child has the same opportunities.

C.Brief Q&A session

D.Commissioner Makin’s priorities –

* Help in supporting positive stories – the best way to support a strong workforce is through positivity
  + Chapter 33 – promote and provide training and technical assistance for schools. Increase recognition and prevent/intervene. It is the goal of DOE to have no reports or restrain and seclusion.
  + Equity in educators and transition services – To have a lifelong learning State

Next meeting September 18, 2019 10AM Department of Education