**State Advisory Panel**

**Agenda**

**December 16, 2020**

* Public Comment
* Family Resources Guidebook (Courtney Angelosante & Carrie)
* SAP membership (discussion of OSEP requirements and plans)
* Department Updates
* Legislative Updates
* Public Comment

**Maine State Advisory Panel**

December 16, 2020 10:00AM-12:00PM

Department of Education

Zoom meeting

Minutes

**Present:**

Nancy Lander

Courtney Pacholski

Brian Cavanaugh

Christine Sullivan

Gwendolyn Sartoris

Jodie Hall

Libby Stone-Sterling

Erin Frazier

Carrie Woodcock

Tracy Whitlock

**Open comment:**

* Concern for lack of standardized measure of performance IEPs. Without standard measure not going to understand how to catch people up after COVID.
* Assessments may look different this year. Hoping to provide more info in January from assessment team.

**Family Resources- Courtney Pacholski:**

* With Carrie Woodcock from MPF, mental health providers and social workers, created resource guide to work on what people need to know that they may not already know.
* Funded with AWARE grant remaining funds
* Helping articulate and provide to agencies/schools.
* Worked 6 weeks and came up with product resource guide for Maine families, schools and communities.
* Integrated components of home and community health.
* School based framework, guiding questions on what families can do to support child/school.
* Used most FAQs from struggling families, tried to organize and provide info that was digestible.
* Info on SIRP (Student Intervention Reintegration Program) for students experimenting.
* Experiencing high levels of suspension for vaping, listed are alternatives to vaping.
* Peer navigator programs included.
* Lists what is available to schools and communities through NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) and described programs available.
* Community based services available.
* Describes how these programs are paid for.
* Final version will be available soon.

**Open comment:** There was some feedback that this is especially important for parents and teachers. Very comprehensive. Once the guide is released there is planning to advertise after the holidays to introduce to different people whom they feel it is important to have. As soon as the guide is finished it will be shared with SAP group.

**SAP membership (Discussion of OSEP requirements and plans)- Libby Stone- Sterling/Tracy Whitlock:**

* Shared required make up of SAP and discussed membership.
* Representative from state juvenile and adult corrections agencies need a new member; previous member gone.
* Suggestion on someone from Maine State Safety Center.
* Potentially reaching out to STRIVE on who would participate in this panel.
* An SAP member has some people in mind; individuals who have diverse experiences.
* Suggested to have a rep from younger generation; Good idea to get multiple disabilities represented.
* VR (Vocational Rehabilitation) have some clients who are going through training to be ed techs or teachers or currently working in one of those roles; Suggestions to reach out for additional reps
* A rep from state child welfare agency responsible for foster care; need someone- Suggested Dulcey Laberge.
* Reps in other state agencies involved in financing or delivery of related services to children with disabilities; have someone from OMS/Maine Care too?
* Many serve in two roles; consider recruiting from throughout the state to add parents;
* Discussed reaching out at next Special Education meeting to ask for parents.

**Open comment:** Concerns raised about being mindful that individual issues won’t be solved on this committee. Discussion on reaching out to DHHS, youth coordinators, etc. Geographic distribution could use more down east and up north, places where we may not hear about these needs as much. Discussed reaching out to other families to see if they are interested in participating.

**Department updates- Erin Frazier:**

* Prioritize teacher recruitment, teacher training, etc. Need to be able to have enough teachers to meet Maine’s needs.
* Federal audits are starting a new cycle and Maine is in the second cohort. This is the first time ME has been audited in the last 10 or so year. Due to the election there are likely to be administrative changes at OSEP.
* Rewriting MUSER, large chunk done and there will be a call for stakeholder input in the spring.
* Trying to make document much more user friendly. Pulling part C out of document and making separate.
* Starting a pilot program partnering with SMAC organization in Southern Maine, Biddeford for school psychologist services/evaluations.
* Piloting mobile assessment operation sending to rural districts in Maine.
* Plan to expand in the next 6 months.
* Next year doing training for Complaint Investigations.
* PBIS training offered as of 12/16/20 over 200 people who have already signed up, offering to all special educators and ed techs.
* Manual updating clarity on CI value. Explaining how to use this tool effectively. January SAP meeting will most likely be reviewing these changes.
* Trainings through department website, working on professional development page that will have trainings such as IEP etc. Trainings done over the summer for ed techs applicable for teachers as well: <https://www.maine.gov/doe/doe/covid-19/contentmeetings/edtech>.

**Legislative updates- Erin Frazier:** PCG report provided recommendations for how it should realign and re organize CDS. Biggest shift if this happens will be that preschool goes to SAUS transition on how that would occur.

**Open comment:** A question was asked if the Department will be offering guidance to Districts about in person services for students with special needs. Mentioned that some parents do not have access even in hybrid model. Concerns on hybrid learning that it is not working well for students/children. Discussion that some states require districts to see all children in person, but since Maine is a local control state this is not done here. State director of Special Services is encouraging in person visits. Suggestions on asking the Commissioner if there are plans to do more in person visits for Special Education population. Concerns with children not being motivated as much virtually. A question was asked that if anyone has heard about students with disabilities being disciplined due to not fully engaging then resulting in grade mark downs or absence. Not many have heard about disciplinary actions. Discussion on how students working virtually has been nationally recognized as extreme inconvenience especially for Special Education students, have not heard discipline angle especially concerning special ed populations. Mentioned working parents’ challenges trying to support virtual learning while working. Discussion on how there is a growing concern that kids aren’t turning cameras on during virtual learning whether its due to cultural issues, family issues, etc. This is a broader issue. Seeing suspensions and office referrals for just not turning camera on.

Conference call line information: 877-455-0244

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Next meeting: January 20, 2021