State Advisory Panel

March 20, 2019

Minutes

**Present**

Libby Stone-Sterling, Chair

Carrie Woodcock, Vice-Chair

Ann Belanger, Director of Office of Special Services

Roy Fowler, Director of CDS

Howard Wright (by phone)

Jeanette Sedgwick

Colene O’Neill

Sherreccia Jackson

Atlee Reilly

Brian Cavanaugh

Courtney Angelosante

Jenny Clair

Valerie Mattes

Erin Frazier

Gwen Sartoris

Nancy Landers

Jodie Hall

David Emberley

Artulean McKenna

1. **Introductions**
2. **Update from Roy Fowler on Child Development Services (“CDS”)**

* There are a couple of bills that are not sponsored by the Department that will help build more confidence in the Department and convene a task force from last year (LD512). CDS is also working on a repeal for 2-5 year old’s (LD632).
* CDS has agreed to a 3-year collective bargaining agreement to include raises and State medical insurance. The current budget is acceptable and functioning with surplus, with staff vacancies projected to be filled shortly.

**Discussion:** While the discussion of how much the increases will impact public schools is still gray, preschools will get more support from increased funds.

1. **Disability Rights Maine (“DRM”), Priorities and Updates – Atlee Reilly**

* Atlee reports the Restraint and Seclusion reports are significantly higher and underreported. Not every school that is required to report to the State does, and not all schools that receive funding are required to report. Overall, there is a lack of reporting and lack of knowledge on how to correct and fix the issues.
* DRM is hopeful that there will be a positive change in the future, siting Commissioner Makin who stated that when used when it is not needed, physical restraint only hinders education.
* Access and early intervention is key in helping children in school. Not allowing students to miss more than 10 days of school and allowing special needs students to have more access to normalized activities will be key in helping further their education (i.e. other classmates, sports, clubs, etc.).
* Supportmytransition.org is a helpful tool parents and students during their transition period.

**Discussion:** Parties had discussion on if the numbers being accurate is as important as ways to prevent the number of cases that occur each year. Parties also suggested training for transition and to increase parent groups in schools. The gap between Chapter 33 and Chapter 101 was also discussed. Maine Parent Federation (“MPF”) is willing to attend and help at trainings, if asked, noting that good places to hold trainings are hospitals, libraries and churches as they are typically free or low cost.

1. **Legislative Update, Anne Belanger**

* LD115 – An act to appropriate funds for home visits. These funds would be distributed on a quarterly basis
* LD382 – An act to fund and increase services for the blind community at the Maine State Library
* LD388 – An act for employee background checks to be accepted from out of State, regarding out of State schools that provide services for Maine students
* LD 464 – An act to change the Due Process Complaint form
* LD512 – An act to convene a task force for early childhood services
* LD632 – An act is to promote FAPE, removing the provision for children to be held back from kindergarten and do one more year of Pre-K. (excluding Special Education)
* LD642 – An act to promote kindergarten readiness for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
* LD651 – An act to provide districts with Title-1 services
* LD791 – An act to provide districts with full funding to high needs Special Education students
* LD852 – An act to enhance programs for students after high school (concept bill)
* LD984 – An act to increase funding for behavioral health issues and suspend some contracts with residential placement out of state
* LD1012 – An act for stable funding for childcare providers, providing an increase of funds
* LD1039 – An act to establish and fund intervention for at risk children and families
* LD1137 – An act to clarify childcare workers background checks and how it is paid for (State and Federal funds)
* LD1160 – An act to transfer the Kim Wallis Fund to the Treasurer of State
* LD1178 – An act to address the needs of children with autism and services being provided to families with intellectual disabilities and autism

**Discussion:** It was proposed to form letters on the SAP’s stance on bills.

1. **Dispute Resolution, Jeannette Sedgwick**

* Due to the time left during this meeting, it was agreed that this would be discussed at the next meeting.

1. **Next meetings, Jeannette Sedgwick**

* April 17
* May 15
* June 12

All meetings will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. with locations to be announced on the upcoming agendas.

1. **Open Comment**

* It was proposed to change the scheduling of meetings to occur every other month. Overall, it was agreed to front-load at the beginning of the year and adjust as needed during the winter/later months.
* UMF will be holding an Assistive Technology Summit on April 25, 2019. There is a $75 fee and more information can be found at <http://www2.umf.maine.edu/gradstudies/upcoming-events/atsummit/>.
* MPF is holding an Open Summit on Family Resiliency on March 23, 2019. More information can be found at <https://www.biausa.org/find-bia/states/events/2019-03-23>.
* Vocational Rehab is working on a trial program to introduce Special Education students into college. This program is a 5 week program at UMO and is an effort to increase peer mentoring.
* STRIVE will be starting a new online pilot program on April 1, 2019. More information can be found at <https://www.pslstrive.org/STRIVEWorldWIDE>.

**Meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m.**