

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL



MINUTES



Details

Date November 10, 2020

Time 9 AM – 4 PM

Location: Virtual

Call to Order: at 9:00 am

Welcome and Call to order at 9:01.

Roll Call

Members (x present, blank absent):

x	Heath Peine	x	Jennifer King	x	Rebekah Helget
	Mike Martin	x	Heidi Cornell	x	Tina Gibson
x	Chelle Kemper	x	Rachel Marsh	x	Troy Pitsch
	Sarah Shaffer	x	Laura Thompson		Amy Wagoner
x	Kari Wallace	x	Becci Werner	x	Deb Young
x	Jennifer Kucinski	x	Trisha Backman	x	Amy Zimmerman
x	Marvin Miller	x	Jennifer Kurth	x	Tobias Wood
x	Brandon Gay	x	Lesli Girard		Jim McNiece
x	Rocky Nichols/Mike Burgess				

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KSDE Staff:

x	Bert Moore	x	Laura Jurgensen	x	Kerry Haag
x	Pat Bone	x	Amy Martin	x	Dean Zajic
x	Stacie Martin	x	Wendy Coates		

Agenda:

Add 18-21 year old item to the next meeting in January.

Motion to approve: Trisha Backman moved to approve as amended

Second: Tobias Wood

Action: Motion passed

Minutes September 23, 2020

Discussion:

Motion to approve: Tobias Wood

Second: Jennifer King

Action: Motion passed

Public Comment:

Lyn Petro – Kansas Advisory Council for the Blind and Visually Impaired Member.

Braille for interim and formative assessments.

Update at next SEAC meeting.

Homeless Update

Maureen Ruhlman – PowerPoint

- Unaccompanied Youth
- School systems with 10 or more students considered Homeless are posted on the KSDE website each year.
- Maureen reviewed data from 2018-2019 and 2019-2020.
- Office hours zoom every week for questions from staff in the field working with these students.
- COVID has impacted students reported and parents are moving to find jobs frequently.
- Barrier during this time is technology to keep track of these students/families.
- Challenge to find the families and identify the kids during these times.
- Expecting numbers to increase as mortgage protections and rent protections go away.
- Requests to appoint education advocate through Families Together is available to districts. Maureen and Lesli will work together to provide training in the future.
- Legally, unaccompanied youth are allowed to speak for themselves in their education.

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- Is there a method or procedure for this group to advocate to legislators on the need for protections for these children with rent protection, etc.
 - SEAC usually has decided which legislation they wish to be involved with as a whole and which that you speak for personally.
 - We can certainly consider our involvement as SEAC on these issues.
 - You may share with the group you represent what you have heard today and to consider advocating from your group.

Licensure Update and Discussion:

Susan Helbert

- Director of special education, history.
- We formerly had a director license. In 2003 the director license was removed from regulations. District leaders was the route determined to be included in the Superintendent level training and the director of SPED license that required more specific courses on top of the district leadership license.
- Issues that led to reinstating the director license.
 - More need for directors
 - Trouble issuing licenses
 - Standards board discussions supported developing new regulations. This board includes special education voices.
 - SEAC has previously supported this work.
 - Goal was to create license for director as a leadership license.
 - Consensus was gained on what that leadership looked like
 - Met with SEAC April 12, 2016
 - Regs were developed and shared.
 - Approved program for director of Special Ed with specific requirements.
 - Built in that training would require special education experience. SEAC recommended that we remove that requirement and leave it generic. They also supported that this license should include the ability to hold a building level license
 - Building level with expanded special education training.
 - Regulations that are in the process of being approved require that a leadership license can include, building, district, or director of special education.
 - Flexibility exists in developing the program requirements. What do they need to know and be able to do?
 - The way the regs are worded, we have flexibility in developing these programs. It will be built as its own leadership license.
 - Susan will share her notes.
- What do we want this license to look like now?
- Do you have any idea of how many openings there might be after this year? Not at this time. Vacancy report data may not yet reflect COVID impact. There is another collection in the spring. Waivers requested are on target at this point in the year. IT will have the question added to mark it for being COVID related.

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- COVID impact will be more evident next year.
- It will be available as a leadership license with an endorsement for Special Education when the process of regulations is complete.
- Have university programs changed in the last few years to reduce barriers? Programs for district leadership licenses were changed in 2003. If this new license comes through it will be an additional option to qualify for the position of director.
- Concern of program rigor in special education and budgeting. It should be district level license. Other leadership level licenses need some special education information also to work together effectively with directors.
- Competencies for director are very important. They need certain background knowledge.
- Program standards are the key to this program as it is developed. The building of the program is the next step after regulations are approved.
- National level organization are working on this license. Information should be out in the next month.
- Both paths, the current and the new path options would be great.
- Susan will communicate with the SPED reps on the Professional standards Board to stay in touch with SEAC

By-laws

Laura Jurgensen

- Cleaned up language as requested at the September meeting.
- Page 11 Council leadership was just moved under committees.
- New section on Committees
- Council Leadership – Option 1 and option 2 providing for membership overlap of standing committees.
- Option 2 is the preference
- When will it become active. Once approved they could go into effect immediately. Could put committee in place at the January meeting. Will discuss further as we complete the review of the document.
- Two members to serve on council leadership. Keep or remove this sentence? Remove sentence.

Vote to approve By-laws as amended today during the meeting.

Motion: Marvin Miller moved to approve as amended today.

Second: Chelle Kemper

Motion Passed.

Secondary Transition Document

Bert Moore, Stacie Martin, Wendy Coates

- Review of document
- Document is for parents and/or students
- Document will be provided prior to IEP meeting where Transition is a topic.
- Conservatorship and Guardianship remove client Assistance Program

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- Will be posted online and changes/updates made as necessary.
- Discussed as committee to add QR codes to the document.
- Will bring it back to you in January for approval
- Add letter from the commissioner at the beginning

18-21-year-old-services

Held item for January.

KSDE Updates

- W-9 forms – please send these back to Pat so you can be reimbursed for registrations.
- Law Conference, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas are the three-states collaborating on this conference. Premier attorneys provide information to attendees. Preconference was provided on dispute resolutions and legal work involved. 865 registered to attend this year. Law reviews and resolutions to disputes are very helpful to directors. Please consider attending next year as a SEAC member.
- What did you receive as an attendee?
 - Sessions were excellent. Discussion around child find was very helpful.
 - MTSS, intervention process really addressed the quality of the intervention.
 - Karen Hasse will be a presenter at the February KASEA conference.
- Navigating Change
 - Revised language for special education has been added to the document.
 - Health received positive comments about how directors have benefited by this addition.

Member Updates

- Families Together, Inc – Lesli Girard - Report shared. Virtual conference went well. No big differences on category breakdown. Remote Learning during COVID -19 was added. 18-21-year-old-program had 17 specific calls. Questions were around assessment and students who would graduate and not use 18-21 services. Some around Pre-ETS. One family really pleased with the services they were receiving.
- Disability Rights Center – Rocky Nichols. Update on Special Education Fact Sheet specifically to provide parents and students information about their rights during the COVID pandemic. Still working on some additional Fact Sheets. Creating Just in time documents. <https://www.drckansas.org/publications/sped-during-COVID-19> Designed to be universally accessible with easy reading level.
- KASEA Update – Heath Peine - CASE conference, National organization always seems to conflict with Tri-State Law Conference. Keynotes by nationally recognized leaders were very good. Intervention resources were excellent. KASEA conference in February. Preparing for Advocacy to discuss what we can do here in Kansas. Legislative committee is planning its work. Looking at national level too. Conferences – NCSI webinar series on equity. Free registration. <https://ncsi.wested.org/news-events/new-webinar-series-pursuing-equity-for-black-students-in-k-12-education-exploring-the-intersection-of-race-and-disability-thought-leader-conversation-tlc-series/>

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SEAC-SICC - Joint Meeting

1:00-4:00 PM

Call to order: Chairs introduced themselves and called the meeting to order with introductions of all present and on the phone (it was noted that there was a quorum).

Public Comment

None

Early Childhood Least Restrictive Environment (ECLRE):

- Data Trends-Julie Rand
 - The agency is reviewing Early Childhood Least Restrictive Environment (ECLRE) data as we explore options to promote inclusive preschool programming. Our goals are to:
 - Increase the number of preschool students with disabilities who are learning in the least restrictive environment, and
 - Increase the number of students of all abilities with access to preschool.
 - Shared state Indicator data-
 - A. Percent = $\left[\frac{\text{\# of children aged 3 through 5 with IEPs attending a regular early childhood program and receiving the majority of special education and related services in the regular early childhood program}}{\text{total \# of children aged 3 through 5 with IEPs}} \right] \times 100$.
 - B. Percent = $\left[\frac{\text{\# of children aged 3 through 5 with IEPs attending a separate special education class, separate school or residential facility}}{\text{total \# of children aged 3 through 5 with IEPs}} \right] \times 100$.
 - - 6A-Kansas currently at 38.7% (goal is a higher number)
 - 6B-currently 32.2% (goal is a lower number)
 - Includes programs that include a majority (at least 50 percent) of nondisabled children (children not on IEPs).
 - This category may include, but is not limited to:
 - Head Start
 - District Preschool
 - Preschool Classes (public or private)
 - Group Child Care or Child Development Centers

1-800 CHILDREN Helpline

- Overview- Danielle Brower

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- 1-800-CHILDREN created to support families and providers connecting to the right services. 1-800-CHILDREN is available 24/7 for information, connection to local resources, and support.
- Since it was started, it has been answered by trained KCSL staff.
- KCSL, call line and resource directory has a long history of collaboration and partnerships with state and local agencies and organizations
- The helpline has recently been re-organized and rebranded.
- Goals of the relaunch are to increase awareness, continue updates to the directory, and identify and support collaborative opportunities.
- There are four ways a person can access support.
 - By calling 1-800-CHILDREN or 1-800-332-6378
 - Sending an email or text to 1800children@kcs.org
 - Visiting 1800childrenks.org to find resources.
 - Or downloading the mobile app which is a mobile version of the 1800childrenks website.

SICC Annual Report

- Annual Updates-Jordan Christian
 - Changes to website- <https://www.kansasicc.org/>
 - Annual Report shared with Governor's Office on August 28th
 - New membership included representatives for: Medicaid, Foster Care, Birth-3 Service Provider, Parent Member, and a Public Member.
 - New committee formed around ECLRE. Do not have to be a council member to join. Currently meeting bi-weekly and will be holding Q&As with Head Start programs
 - Overview of the Strategic Plan for FY21

Early Childhood Special Education Vacancies

- Early Childhood and Special Education Vacancies
- Retention and Recruitment (Presenters not Available, State Board Presentation)
- Institution of Higher Education (IHE) - Dr. Eva Horn and Dr. Mary Deluccie
 - COVID has had harsh effect on student teaching and practicums.
 - Center-based infant-toddler placements limited
 - Some school districts accepting fewer clinical students
 - Classroom or student teacher quarantines affect direct contact
 - Some experiences are now virtual
 - In methods courses, there is more videotaping of real time classroom experiences and practice teaching via Zoom
 - Clinical Experiences required for EC-U (Birth-Kindergarten) Licensure:

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- Infant-toddler center-based experience
- Infant-toddler home-based/tiny-k experience
- Early childhood special education school based experience
- Kindergarten field experience
- Student teaching

KSDE and KDHE Updates

- Parents Declining Transition- Julie Rand
 - KSDE is partnering with other agencies, including the Kansas Head Start Collaboration Office and the Kansas Head Start Association, for the upcoming **Kansas Kindergarten Readiness Transition Virtual Summit – Friday, November 13.**
 - The goals for this summit are to:
 - Identify examples of effective kindergarten readiness practices, including strategies to support smooth transitions to kindergarten.
 - Expand and enhance relationships between all early childhood programs and school districts to support kindergarten readiness.
 - Provide tools, supports and information to strengthen kindergarten readiness practices.
 - Learn more and register at <https://kschildrenscabinet.org/kindergarten-readiness-summit-2020/>.
- Data and Decline in referrals for Part C- Heather Staab
 - Part C tiny-k programs across the state continue to provide evaluations and services through in-person and/or virtual service delivery. We continue to monitor referral and child count data. A decline in Part C referrals and children served is occurring nationwide.

	Referrals 2018	Referrals 2019	Referrals 2020	% Change From Previous Month	% Change From Previous Year	Children Served 2018	Children Served 2019	Children Served 2020	% Change From Previous Month	% Change From Previous Year
March	898	911	603	-33.07	-33.81	5441	5681	5875	0.12	3.41
April	901	972	415	-31.18	-57.30	5516	5778	5784	-1.55	0.10
May	877	955	576	38.80	-39.69	5576	5850	5551	-4.03	-5.11
June	776	742	806	39.93	8.63	5549	5826	5394	-2.83	-7.42
July	813	900	779	-3.35	-13.44	5562	5876	5298	-1.78	-9.84
August	969	951	758	-2.70	-20.29	5541	5880	5207	-1.72	-11.45
September	803	945	808	6.60	-14.50	5531	5798	5032	-3.36	-13.21

Closing Comments

Closing comments made by Chairs Heath Peine and David Lindeman. Thanked all for attending and participating.

Adjournment:

Susan Bows – Made motion to adjourn the meeting

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Ann Elliott – 2nd motion

Motion carried – All members voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion:

Second:

Action: approved and meeting adjourned at:

Thank you everyone.

The Kansas State Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: KSDE General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, KSDE, Landon State Office Building, 900 S.W. Jackson, Suite 102, Topeka, KS 66612, (785) 296-3201.

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