

IDEA Advisory Meeting

MINUTES

MARCH 10, 2016

9:00 – 4:00 P.M.

COUNTRY SUITES, BISMARCK

MEETING CALLED BY	Cathy Haarstad, Chairperson
TYPE OF MEETING	IDEA Advisory Meeting
FACILITATOR	Gerry Teevens
NOTE TAKER	Michelle Souther
ATTENDEES	Gerry Teevens, Michelle Souther, Robin Tschider, Colette Fleck, Mathew McCleary, Kim Cowell, Mary McCarvel-O'Connor, Patti Redding, Valerie Bakken, Jacki Harasym, Ed Boger, Debra Huber, Leona Zemliska, Brenda Ruehl, Susan Gerenz, Nancy Jo Burke, Melissa Deckert, Robert Parisien, Lucy Fredericks, Tammy Mayer, Emmanuel Mensah, Hilory Liccani, Cathy Haarstad, Vicki Peterson, Amanda Carlson, Kevin McDonough

Agenda topics

SPECIAL EDUCATION UNIT UPDATES/NEW STAFF

GERRY TEEVENS

DISCUSSION	<p>Heather Kitzan is the new special education fiscal grant manager. Jamie Mertz was hired as the new Director of Fiscal Management for NDDPI. Leah Kugel will be starting as a new special education regional coordinator effective June 1, 2016.</p> <p>APR submitted February 1, 2016. SSIP is due April 1, 2016.</p> <p>The department is conducting a focused monitoring of the following special education units/residential facilities this year: Morton-Sioux, Fargo, Prairie Learning Center and Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch.</p> <p>The CiFR (Center for IDEA Fiscal Reporting will be coming to NDDPI the first week in May to provide fiscal training. The National Center for Technical Assistance for Transition will be coming to North Dakota mid-April to meet with the ND Team involved in the NCTAT/ND Partnership Agreement and Plan.</p> <p>Northern Plains Law Conference for Students with Disabilities is scheduled for October 3-5, 2016 at the Events Center in Bismarck. Registration will begin in mid-March</p> <p>NDDPI Fall Conference is scheduled for October 12-14, 2016.</p> <p>State Autism Conference is scheduled for October 26-28, 2016 in Minot.</p> <p>NDDPI will be sponsoring the following trainings this summer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent Teach Reinforce – June 20-21 (Bismarck) and June 23-24 (West Fargo) • TEACCH Training – August 1-2 and 3-4, 2016 in Bismarck 	
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

ESSA UPDATES

GERRY TEEVENS

DISCUSSION	Returns power to states when it comes to accountability:		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual testing in certain grades, ensures 95% participation and disaggregate data on student’s race, income, and disability status. Rejects the overuse of standardized tests and one size fits all mandates in our schools. • Schools will have to use college and career ready standards and interventions when those expectations are not met, but state will be left to design their own standards and interventions protocol. • Eliminates ESEA’s highly qualified requirement. • Retains as needed appropriate accommodations/modifications, such as assistive technology. • Provides more access to high quality preschool education. • Funding for program that will scale up evidence-based strategies for improving student outcomes. • Prohibits states from counting lesser credentials such as a certificate of completion, certificate of attendance, or GED as a regular high school diploma for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. 		
CONCLUSIONS			
ACTION ITEMS			
		PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

APPLIED TOPICS/STANDARDS BASED

TAMMY MAYER

DISCUSSION	The Applied Topics course descriptions for high school students with cognitive disabilities have not been updated for some time. The Alternate Assessment Advisory Group will meet to review and revise the applied topics courses so that they are more aligned with the instructional content of the DLM assessment and the core content standards.		
CONCLUSIONS			
ACTION ITEMS			
		PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

TRANSITION PARTNERSHIP

TAMMY MAYER/GERRY TEEVENS

DISCUSSION	ND/NCTAT Partnership agreement.		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCTAT will provide intensive technical assistance an professional development to SEA, local education and VR providers • Increase pre-employment services delivered in cooperation with VR to local districts • Increase the number of work experience opportunities for students at risk and students with disabilities 		

CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

AT SURVEY RESULTS

TAMMY MAYER

DISCUSSION	The AT Guidelines were rewritten last year. Tammy surveyed the special education units regarding their needs in this area. They feel like they have support they can access. However, units would like to see additional resources. She has been working with IPAT because they received a grant that would help support districts on training needs.	
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

ASSESSMENT DATA

TAMMY MAYER

DISCUSSION	All school districts should have received their assessment data. The window for NDSA is opening March 16, 2016.	
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

SUMMARY OF SSIP PLANNING PROCESS

KEVIN MCDONOUGH

DISCUSSION	This is a new requirement for the state office. Special Education Units have identified specific practices or programs they plan to use. All of this will be implemented in the next few years. Information on the SSIP is located on this website: https://www.nd.gov/dpi/SchoolStaff/SpecialEd/SpecialEducationImprovementPlanning/
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<p>The school is responsible for notifying their staff and administrators of the work that the special education units will be required to do to achieve their goals. Discretionary grant dollars are available to help special education units implement the practices they identified to achieve their goals. The state is looking at creating a group of master coaches for Prevent Teach Reinforce. These individuals will be available for districts to use for training their staff. Other professional development activities will include peer coaching models, local restructuring and self-regulations goals. Phase 2 will be submitted to OSEP on April 1, 2016. Mathew commented that there is a misrepresentation out in the field that this is not a collaboration initiative with other agencies e.g., mental health agencies. Cathy was wondering what the field is saying about this initiative. Kevin has received a few calls from administrators saying they wished they had been involved in the initial process but the majority of the calls are very positive. Leona said they are using Zones of Regulations and she said it works great.</p>		
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

TEACHER SHORTAGE UPDATE

MARY MCCARVEL-O'CONNOR

<p>Mary is a member of the NDDPI Shortage Task Force. The committee has determined some long term recruiting solutions and they will be submitted to Superintendent Baesler. Below are the top two recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial – loan forgiveness, sign on bonus, enhanced salaries, and scholarships (meet with Bank of ND, meet with OMB to see what financial assistance is available) • Statewide Marketing campaign – to bring back teacher profession by raising it back up. They are looking at outside entities to help fund this. <p>Century High School has developed a Peer to Peer Mentoring program and Cathy thought that would be a wonderful program for other schools. Patti Redding agreed that financing is an issue because her daughter is attending university and has a large amount of loans.</p>		
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

SPDG UPDATES

NANCY JO BURKE

<p>Year 4 – bringing the project together. Using the work and putting it to practice at statewide consistency. Year 1 and 2 – state design team – advisory team was guiding this practice. Year 3 – state transformation team – taking the design to transform to professional development. Year 4-State Implementation Team-State Implementation Team broke down to a smaller state workgroup. They are taking the lessons they have learned the last 3 years and using that to develop a ND MTSS definition. They are also working on the five critical components and common language. The committee is working on creating a ND MTSS definition guidance document. Their goal is to have this completed by Spring 2016. Cohort 3 – MREC is working with Bismarck Public Schools – this is the first school district to implement PBIS and the academic in the first year. Don Kincaid, University of Florida facilitated training to Bismarck. Don Kincaid will be</p>		
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<p>facilitating training to coaches at the state level to provide leadership to building level personnel. Pathfinders and MDEC formed a partnership to get information out to parents and school personnel regarding ND MTSS. Grand Forks – Ben Franklin Elementary School is the demonstration site. ND MTSS Conference – June 6-7-8, 2016 in Fargo. Information is located on the SEEC website http://www.ndseec.com/education/components/scrapbook/default.php?sectiondetailid=732& .</p>		
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISCUSSION	<p>Family Voices has a leadership conference scheduled and they are full.</p>	
	<p>Jacki Harasym, NDDPI Homeless Coordinator, received a shipment of back packs. The back packs have to be disseminated to school districts that have homeless children.</p>	
	<p>The Office of Federal Title Programs is happy to announce the upcoming district homeless liaison certification training for all district homeless liaisons. The homeless liaison training will be offered online through Edmodo. The homeless liaison training will review and implement homeless student guidance, required processes, policies, forms, etc., allowing districts to be compliant with the Title I and McKinney-Vento district requirements. Additional information regarding the training can be found at this website: https://www.nd.gov/dpi/SchoolStaff/FTP/Homeless/</p>	
	<p>The 3rd Annual ND Indian Education Summit is scheduled for July 12-13, 2016 at the State Capitol in the Brynhild Haugland Room. Additional information can be found at: https://www.nd.gov/dpi/SchoolStaff/IME/IndianEducation/summit/</p>	
	<p>Robert Parisien’s job may be changing due to changes in the BIE so there might be a new representative on the IDEA Advisory committee.</p>	
	<p>Pathfinders received a grant from VR to provide online trainings for parents and students.</p>	
CONCLUSIONS	<p>Kim explained that due to the buddy system that they have at Horace Mann when they had to leave the school due to a crime in the neighborhood they were able to keep their schedule due to them being a split campus. Kim said that he volunteers at Gigi’s play house and it is a wonderful facility in Fargo that serves children and adults of all ages, each Playhouse provides educational and therapeutic programs at no charge to families; and in a format that individuals with Down syndrome learn best. Additional information can be found at their website. http://gigisplayhouse.org/</p>	
	CONCLUSIONS	
	ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE

SUGGESTIONS SUMMARY		
Issues and Concerns in our State: Vicki Peterson asked about the email that the committee received from a parent. She asked if the		

committee is going to respond to the email even though she didn't ask a specific question of the committee. Cathy said she will reply to the email as a courtesy. Debra Huber asked if there is any information to share with the parent on how to file a systemic complaint as opposed to an individual complaint. Gerry explained that a systemic complaint has been filed and the department is working on it. Cathy said that there was a comment in the complaint stating that Pathfinder is not conducting training. Cathy will send a list of trainings that the Pathfinders has conducted to the parent as well as the IDEA committee.

Cathy brought up a concern that districts may be requiring a parent to obtain a medical diagnosis before determining a disability of Autism can be determined by the school team. If the district is going to require a medical diagnosis before determining a disability the district is responsible for paying for the evaluation. Brenda Ruehl feels that the medical diagnosis is a training issue for school personnel. School Psychologist will always tell parents that this is an educational diagnosis not a medical diagnosis. The committee thought it would be helpful to have more training on this issue from DPI. Pathfinder has heard that districts are using the term educational autism and noted that Pathfinder does not use that term since it doesn't exist in IDEA. Pathfinder recommends that teams discuss making an educational determination.

Mathew McCleary passed out a document to the committee that entailed his concerns on the seclusion and restraint issues in North Dakota. The document gave examples of three students who dealt with seclusion and restraint while attending school in North Dakota. Cathy asked Gerry to comment on the Department of Public Instructions stand on seclusion and restraint. There is no federal guidance on seclusion and restraint. A document that addresses seclusion and restraint can be found at this website. <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/seclusion/restraints-and-seclusion-resources.pdf>

Currently there is no data collected on seclusion and restraint. Not all seclusion and restraints used in North Dakota is special education. If seclusion and restraint is going to be used for a student it should be written in their IEP and the personnel should be trained. Brenda said that a lot of the time there is behavior issues and instead of assessing the student they just use seclusion and restraint instead of investigating what is causing the behavior. Valerie said that they are training special education personnel on the Prevent Teach and Reinforce training this summer. Valerie passed out a handout that shows which school districts have a policy on restraint and seclusion in ND. Vicki Peterson asked if NDDPI contracts outside of the department with agencies like Anne Carlsen with a behavior analyst to help school districts with seclusion and restraint. Gerry explained that the state doesn't contract with different agencies but individual districts/special education units can contract with agencies to help with certain issues in the school districts. Vicki Peterson explained that the smaller districts don't have the resources that the bigger districts do.

The committee asked for further clarification as to whether the NDDPI as a whole or the special education unit have a specific written policy or position which they give to schools on restraint and seclusion? The department currently doesn't have a documented position. Does the department have an option to take a position and say they would support implementing the requirements of seclusion and restraint? Cathy Haarstad asked the committee to think about what their position is on this issue and we will put this issue on the June Agenda. Mathew McCleary said that some legislators will interpret the lack of position by NDDPI as a sign that NDDPI is against having a statewide policy on seclusion and restraint. Debra wishes that more data available regarding this issue. Brenda said that districts are not required to collect the data. NDDPI is not required to collect the data. Patti wondered if school districts don't want to collect the data because it will make them look bad. Consistency throughout the state on how they deal with this issue is important.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
<p>The December Minutes were approved by the committee. Ed Boger approved the motion to accept the minutes and Amanda Carlson seconded the motion.</p> <p>Public Comment: There was no public comment.</p> <p>The upcoming IDEA Advisory Meetings are scheduled for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 9, 2016 – joint meeting with ICC <p>Agenda Items for June meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seclusion and Restraint • State Assessment Update • ED Guidelines • Annual Report for IDEA Advisory Committee due September 		