

Iowa Special Education Advisory Panel Meeting Minutes - March 31, 2023

Present: Cynthia Blackard, Casey Force, Shannon Grundmeier, Rhonda Haitz, Genevieve Hart, Tami Hoffman, Jessica Iverson, Mary Jackson, Pam Litterer, Amy Llewelyn, Lee Longmire, Kim Neal, Keri Osterhaus, Tammy Schaapherder, Karen Thompson, Rebecca Torres, Joel Weeks, and Doug Wolfe.

Zoom: Jennifer Anderson, Lori Janke, and Rachel Terry.

Absent: Jennifer Aldrich, Jennifer Anderson, Joy Barlean, Dawn Bonsall, Johnna Deaton-Davis, Lori Janke, Amy Knupp, Lee Longmire, Bryan Paulson, Sonia Reyes, Lisa Shaw, and Sandra Smith.

Department Staff Present: Barb Guy, Nancy Hunt and Beth Buehler-Sapp

Public Comment: None

Welcome/Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Jessica Iverson, Chair at 9:05 a.m. Introductions were made around the room.

Minutes were reviewed by the panel members. Doug Wolf made a motion to approve the minutes. Keri Osterhaus seconded the motion. A vote was taken with no abstentions and the minutes were approved.

ACHIEVE - Amy Alfrey

Amy Alfrey, Education Consultant with the Iowa Department of Education, provided an overview of the plan for the Family Portal. Amy provided a demo of many of the new features and asked members to provide their feedback through a Google Doc.

The Demo included the 3 main sections:

- 1) Recent Documents (families can open, download, print etc. documents),
- 2) My Family (one or more children can be listed),
- 3) My Calendar (will show due dates on items and notices for annual evaluations, etc.)

There will be testing with families of the Family Portal happening in mid-May through early June. We will be testing multiple device functionalities. Amy will be sending information to the testers during the next several months. Panel members should add their name to the SEAP feedback form to be added to the list as a tester.

Iowa Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment (CSNA) – Allison Levine

Allison Levine from the University of Iowa provided an executive summary of the results of the CSNA. She also asked for Panel feedback on the following questions: 1) What else do we want to know? 2) How can we increase responses among potentially eligible students receiving Pre-ETS services? 3) Focus groups, individual interviews?

CSNA Objectives

1. The vocational rehabilitation needs of individuals with most significant disabilities, including their need for supported employment services.
2. The vocational rehabilitation needs of individuals with disabilities who are from minority groups, who have been unserved or underserved by the vocational rehabilitation program.
3. Assess the vocational rehabilitation needs of individuals with disabilities served through other components of the statewide workforce investment system as identified by those individuals and personnel assisting those individuals through the components of the system.
4. Assess the need to establish, develop, or improve community rehabilitation programs within the state.
5. Youth with disabilities, and students with disabilities, including their need for pre-employment transition services or other transition services; and an assessment of the needs of individuals with disabilities for transition services and pre-employment transition services, and the extent to which such services provided under this part are coordinated with transition services provided under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

The results of the Needs Assessment can be found on the IVRS [website](#).

Section 504 - Thomas Mayes

Thomas Mayes, General Counsel for the Department, spoke about qualifying for a 504 plan. Under 504 all that is needed is to prove there has been a violation. This can occur because of bad faith or a gross misjudgment.

504 Eligibility doesn't require the presence of a disability of other qualified condition. Its purpose is to provide protection against discrimination. It provides a least restrictive environment right in the most integrated setting. There is no right to revoke consent.

504 is under IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act). The Section 504 regulations require a school district to provide a "free appropriate public education" (FAPE) to each qualified student with a disability who is in the school district's jurisdiction, regardless of the nature or severity of the disability. Under Section 504, FAPE consists of the provision of regular or special education and related aids and services designed to meet the student's individual educational needs as adequately as the needs of nondisabled students are met.

Regarding episodic impairments, access to 504 protection is available when the condition is active. There are no transition services requirement under 504.

More information can be found on the [website](#).

Update – Supreme Court Case

Thomas also gave the panel members an overview of the Supreme Court case: [Luna Perez v. Sturgis Public Schools](#)

Announcements

The Membership Application is linked in the agenda and available on-line. Committee to review applications will be Jessica Iverson, Casey Force, Cynthia Blackard and Rebecca Torres.

Review the 2023-2024 proposed meeting dates and let us know of any conflicts.

The "Teaching for Impact" training will be on June 13th, 14th and 15th at the Iowa Event Center in Des Moines.

Vice-Chair nominations for next year's panel will need to be submitted by the next meeting on May 12th at which time we will vote and elect.

Adjourn

Joel Weeks made a motion a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tammy Schaapherder seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 1:00pm due to bad weather. The agenda items we were not able to cover will be moved to future meetings.