



**ADVISORY  
COUNCIL** for the  
**EDUCATION** of  
**STUDENTS** with  
**DISABILITIES**

**Minutes**

January 13, 2014

10:00 a.m.

Scarritt Bennett Conference Center  
1008 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
Nashville. TN 37212-2166

**Members of Council in Attendance**

Cynthia Cheshier, Chair  
Chip Fair, Vice-Chair  
Alfred M. Hacker  
Anne Robertson  
Brian Brown  
Chantal Hess-Taylor  
Dana Danner  
Darlene Walden  
David Craig  
Dawn Bradley  
Hillary Sims  
James Topp  
Jason Vance  
Jeff Ker  
Katie Culberson  
Kyle Hauth  
Mary Johnson  
Mary Meador  
Sebrena St. John  
Shannon Taylor

**Members Not in Attendance**

Catherine Knowles  
Debra Lane  
Paula Brownyard  
Rhonda Whitt

**TDOE Employees in Attendance**

Joey Hassell, Assistant Commissioner  
Steve Sparks, TDOE – AC Contact  
Tabatha Siddiqi, TDOE – AC Contact  
Alison Gauld, TDOE  
Allison Davey, TDOE  
Bill Wilson, Office of General Council  
Courtney Seiler, TDOE  
Debbie Owens, TDOE  
Joann Lucero, TDOE  
Lori Nixon, TDOE  
Luke Kohlmoos  
Nathan Travis, TDOE  
Rachel Wilkinson, TDOE  
Ryan Mathis, TDOE  
Theresa Nicholls, TDOE  
Tie Hodack, TDOE

**Visitors in Attendance**

Loria Richardson  
Ned Andrew Solomon  
Sherry Wilds  
Susan Dalton

## Welcome/Introductions

**Cynthia Cheshier**  
**Chairperson**

### Announcements / Logistics

- Recognized new member – Hillary Sims. Replacing Janelle Glover for Charter Schools.
- Per the October 21, 2013 meeting, new council goals were voted in for two years. Starting today, everything we work on is for 2013-2014 and 2014-2015.
- Each Agenda item is now linked with a goal area.
- Recommendation #1 – Make a copy of your goals and keep with your notes so you can relate presentations to your goal.
- Recommendation #2 – Within a month after every AC meeting, email everyone on your goal committee so you're compiling information for the Annual Report. This will help support the department time frames.
- Transition Summit is on February 10, 2014.
- Conference is on February 11 through 13, 2014.
- Future council meeting dates: April 14<sup>th</sup>, July 14<sup>th</sup> and October 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Amy Murphy, an AC member, has taken a position out of the country.
- Recommend #3 – Attend the SPED Conference.

### Meeting Focus/Purpose

#### Approval of Agenda – Handout #1

- Voted on and accepted

#### Approval of Minutes - Handout #2

- Voted on and accepted with no changes

#### Report from the Chairperson

- Covered in Announcements / Logistics

#### Public Comments

- None

## TDOE Current Issues/Initiatives

**Assistant Commissioner**  
**Joey Hassell**

### RTI<sup>2</sup> Update (AC Goal 8)

- Handout #3 - a list of RTI<sup>2</sup> trainings which have occurred since June 27, 2013.
- Handout #4 – a list of district visits which have occurred since May 29, 2014

### RTI<sup>2</sup> State Board of Education Recommendation (AC Goal 8)

- Looking at a phase in of 9-12.

- Submitting to the State Board of Education, on January 31, 2014, a recommendation which will allow districts to phase-in RTI<sup>2</sup> implementation in grades 6-8 for the 2015-2016 year and phase-in high school in the 2016-2017 year.
- If approved by the State board, it will require districts to notify us when they are ready to move forward with that plan.
- In January of 2014, we will give options to districts to provide information in regard to implementation in 2015-2016.
- Handout #5 – This is a proposal that will mandate K-5 implementation, Math and Reading RTI on July 1, 2014, which is the current rule. Then we will allow a phase-in for grades 6-8 and 9-12.
- There is one noted change in regard to the Specific Learning Disability guideline. The statement “The rate of progress is greater than his/her same age peers but the intensity of resources needed to obtain the rate of progress cannot be maintained in general education.” is being removed from the State Board language.

#### Bullying and Harassment Report (AC Goal 1)

- Handout #6 – Bullying and Harassment Compliance Report. This is the overall state review.
- The 288 page link to the Bullying and Harassment Appendix, broken down by district:  
<http://tn.gov/education/legal/doc/Bullying%20Compliance%20Report%20-%20Appendix.pdf>

#### Discretionary Grant Update (AC Goal 5)

- The deadline for school districts to apply for discretionary grants is January 24, 2014.
- There are two discretionary grant opportunities for districts: Age 3-5, run by Gary Smith ([Gary.X.Smith@tn.gov](mailto:Gary.X.Smith@tn.gov)); and the 6-21, run by Allison Davey ([Allison.Davey@tn.gov](mailto:Allison.Davey@tn.gov)).
- We plan to notify districts of their receipt of these grants by the end of April or the first of May.
- An update on this process will be provided at the April AC Meeting.

#### **Guidance on Student Linkages for SPED Teachers (AC Goals 3 & 6)**

**Luke Kohlmoos**

- Update on linkages between SPED students and TVAAS calculations.
- Last year, legislation was passed to include special education students in the growth scores for individual teachers.
- When this legislation passed, we sent out guidance to teachers on how to “Claim” these SPED students.
- “Claiming” is a logistical part of growth score calculations.
- SPED teachers received a growth score for the first time.
- Many K-2 teachers also received growth scores for the first time.

- An estimated 3000 more teachers received growth scores last year because of credited SPED teachers.
- Majority of the feedback, from SPED teachers, was positive.
- Handout #7 – DRAFT – Claiming Special Populations – Frequently Asked Questions. Review.
- Visit to Sequatchie showed they are doing an exemplary job of inclusion and claiming.
- A concern may be inclusion teachers' attention may be taken away from SPED students in favor of regular education students.
- Tier I and II are not missing out on Science and Social Studies and Tier III is minimal.
- Why are Science and Social Studies isolated? Because these subjects are just as important as Language and Math.

**Consolidated Planning and Monitoring Update  
(AC Goals 1, 4, 5 & 6)**

**Debbie Owens  
New Director of Monitoring**

- Handout #8 - ePlan, an electronic online system which districts use to enter their plans and applications. It started in spring 2013.
- Used for the main IDEA application, Part B and Preschool applications and all of the ESEA formula titles. In 2014, we're expanding it and adding programs.
- School Plan Pilot will be available in spring 2014.
- There will be regional work sessions. Day one we will focus on questions regarding ESEA and day two will focus on IDEA questions.
- The focus is on outcomes.
- We are asking for volunteers, within the school districts, to pilot this consolidated monitoring tool.
- We will be going to a few districts this spring, look at the process, have time to revise it this summer, and roll it out in the next school year.

**Annual Conference Update  
(AC Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 & 8)**

**Steve Sparks**

- Handout #9 – Conference Flyer. Conference dates: February 11 – 13, 2014.
- High School transition training on February 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Everyone must register.
- No reception. Lunch is on your own.
- \$10.00 parking discount.
- Conference ends at 3:00 p.m. on February 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Register soon.
- Three Keynote Speakers: Mark Shin (National expert in regard to middle and high school RTI); Cicely Woodard (Metro teacher who spoke at the Governor's announcement of our NAEP results); and Sandra Alberti (Common Core Specialist).
- Commissioner Huffman will be joining us.

- An app will be distributed for instructions on sessions.
- The conference touches on almost all of the AC goals.

### **Instructionally Appropriate IEPs (AC Goals 1 & 2)**

**Tie Hodack**

- Handout #10 – IEP Task Force Group Members
- Last meeting will be February 3, 2014.
- First task will be the manual or the “What!”
- Next will be the implementation guide will be all the tools, used by professionals in the state, used for progress monitoring in each area of deficit.
- Our expectation, by the end of February, it will be sent to our Vetter’s.
- Start training at schools in March.
- Handout #11 – Increasing Access for Students with Disabilities during General Education Core Instruction and Providing Students with Intensive Intervention in their specific area(s) of need.
- Handout #12 – Tier II, Tier III or SPED Intervention: Core Instruction Plus a skill specific intervention.
- The manual and implementation guide will be brought to the April AC meeting for vetting.
- Webinar links will be included with the next SPED update.
- Introduction to Alison Gauld, our new Behavior and Low Incidence Coordinator.

### **Lunch (provided)**

### **EasyIEP Update (AC Goal 6)**

**Nathan Travis**

- The IEP data management contract, held currently by PCG, ends on June 30, 2015. Need to start the competitive bidding process to name the next vendor for the following contract.
- The RFP for the next data management contract will be out in the next few months.
- Will need to name a vendor, for the next contract, by July 1, 2014.
- There should be no concern about the possibility of a new vendor because the process is in place.
- The initial evaluation timeline rule change will take effect January 29, 2014. We’re moving from 40 school days to 60 calendar days.

### **Isolation/Restraint Data Update/Review (AC Goal 1)**

**Rachel Wilkinson**

- Handout #13 - House Bill No. 1336 – Incidents of Isolation/Restraint. Review.
- Background about the Bill – amended the language in one of the codes to rethink all records of isolation and restraint, count the number of incidents, the number of school personnel involved who were trained or not trained,

number of injuries, deaths or damage which may have occurred, the timeliness of parent notification, the demographic information about the students in isolation or restraint incidents to determine if perhaps there was just a portion of representation in that area.

- District reporting will be semi-annually. (December and June)
- May be releasing this data by LEA and then by school within the LEA.
- There will be an AC update by the July meeting.

**Annual Performance Report (APR) Review and Input  
(AC Goals 1 & 2)**

**Steve Sparks  
& Gayle Feltner**

- Handout #14 - SWD Advisory Council: Stakeholder Input for the FFY12 Annual Performance Report – Indicators 13 and 14.
- Indicator 13 – Compliance Indicator because it's 100%.
- Indicator 14 – Performance Indicator because it's exit data.
- 18% of student reporters are in high education. (four year school)
- 34% of student reporters are in competitive employment.
- 66% of student reporters are employed or in a school setting.
- 34% of student reporters are not engaged in anything.
- 52% of students responded to the survey.
- If an IEP is missing one of the Plan Components, the IEP is not compliant.
- The IEP will drive the student's course of study through high school.

**New Business/Additional Items**

**Cynthia Cheshier**

- Many of the AC member terms are ending in the next few months. You will be receiving an email from Steve Sparks asking if you are interested in being re-appointed.

**Future Meeting Suggestions**

**Cynthia Cheshier**

- None

(Agenda items, meeting invitations, solicitation of input)

**Next Meeting Date:        April 14, 2014**

**Adjourn**