



Minutes

July 13, 2015

10:00 a.m.

Scarritt Bennett Conference Center
1008 19th Avenue South
Nashville, TN 37212-2166

Members of Council in Attendance

Cynthia Cheshier, Chair
Alfred M. Hacker
Catherine Knowles
Chantal Hess-Taylor
Dawn Bradley
James Topp
Jeff Ker
Kyle Hauth
Mary Johnson
Mary Meador
Shannon Taylor

Members Not in Attendance

Chip Fair, Vice-Chair
Brian Brown
Cleatrice C. McTorry
Darlene Walden
David Craig
Gayle Feltner
Hillary Sims
Jason Vance
Paula Brownyard

TDOE Employees in Attendance

Joey Hassell, Assistant Commissioner
Steve Sparks, AC Contact
Tabatha Siddiqi, AC Contact
Allison Davey
Amy Owen
Bill Wilson, Office of General Council
Gary Smith
Janet Watkins
Lori Nixon
Pat Conner
Rachel Wilkinson
Susanne Keefe
Theresa Nicholls

Visitors in Attendance

Angela Webster
Jim Wrye
Ned Andrew Solomon
Rhonda Thompson
Sherry Wilds
Susan Dalton

Meeting Focus/Purpose *To provide policy guidance with respect to Special Education and Related Services for children with disabilities in TN*

Welcome/Introductions

Cynthia Cheshier

- ❖ Introduction of council members
- ❖ Dates for next three meetings confirmed – at the bottom of these minutes

Approval of Current Agenda

- **Action Item** – Council member, Mary Johnson, made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Council member, James Topp.
- **Final Action Taken** -
The Council voted unanimously in favor of approving the current, July 13, 2015 agenda.

Approval of April, 2015 Meeting Minutes

See AC website for April minutes

<http://www.tennessee.gov/education/article/special-education-advisory-council>

- **Action Item** – Council member, James Topp, noted the omission of the motion to adopt people first language into the by-laws. Topp made a motion to add said language and moved to have the minutes approved. The motion was seconded by Council member, Alfred Hacker.
- **Final Action Taken** -
The Council voted unanimously in favor of adding people first language into the by-laws, as previously discussed, and proceeded to approve the April 13, 2015 meeting minutes after those changes.

Report from Chairperson

- ❖ AC Goals (15-16 goals and leads will remain same as 14-15)
- ❖ AC member retreat proposal
- ❖ Move date of next meeting from Oct. 12 to Oct. 19, 2015
- ❖ AC member retreat scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 18, 2015 to work on goals and will last from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- ❖ Isolation/Restraint update postponed until Oct.19 meeting

Annual Report FY14 (brief overview)

- ❖ Posted on website
- ❖ The Report includes new web links due to website redesign
- ❖ Take notice of page 4 – under introductions – reason for report & who it goes to – list of roles/responsibilities of council
- ❖ Report shows AC activities & support TNDOE provides for AC goals
- ❖ The new address of the AC web page is noted on the last page of the report

Public Input

- ❖ None

TDOE Initiatives

Joey Hassell
Assistant Commissioner

- ❖ Updated Department Organization Chart provided and will be posted to AC website
- ❖ Our division name has changed to Special Populations and Student Support which includes four offices.
- ❖ Strategic Plan PPT will be emailed to AC members for better visibility

Individualized Education Accounts (IEA)

Joey Hassell

- ❖ Welcomed Rebecca Wright, as new IEA lead for the department
- ❖ Wright will reside in the Division of Policy & Legislation

Jim Wrye/TEA

- ❖ Wrye is a lobbyist for Tennessee Education Association (TEA) & their head of communications
- ❖ TEA opposed IEA bill
- ❖ Florida & Arizona have implemented similar programs and have run into issues, such as well documented accounts of fraud/abuse and lost opportunities for students with disabilities due to being placed in less optimal situations.
- ❖ Biggest concern is autism & intellectual disabilities
- ❖ Bill passed with 2 votes
- ❖ Requests AC make these part of their mission:
 1. Protect Children
 2. Inform Parents – ensure parents have a true understanding of what they are signing when they accept funds
 3. Limit fraud
- ❖ Suggests a reimbursement strategy rather than direct allocation
- ❖ Parents must understand they are waiving their right to services provided through federal funds.
- ❖ This bill will be in effect July 1, 2016.
- ❖ There will be an extended rule making period.
- ❖ TEA contact information: specialed@tnea.org & jwrye@tnea.org
- ❖ Further information on this bill will be provided at Oct.19 AC meeting.

Statewide Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) Phase I

Rachel Wilkinson

- ❖ Year 1 complete and accepted by OSEP

SSIP Phase 2 Overview

- ❖ Infrastructure, LEA support, and Evaluation
- ❖ Increase LRE placements
- ❖ Provide early intervention through RTI²
- ❖ Write more IAIEPs
- ❖ Increase SWD scoring at or above basic
- ❖ Due April 1, 2016
- ❖ This work is already happening but will take time to see effects

Local Education Agency Determinations

- ❖ Much of the process stayed the same
- ❖ Used cut scores / state averages / comparisons – indicators weighted
- ❖ Main difference this year is they didn't use a trigger for intervention. Aligned to what OSEP did by using cut scores
- ❖ LEAs got credit for improvement from last year to factor growth into determination
- ❖ All TN LEAs received one of 3 determinations as follows:
 1. 89 – met requirements
 2. 34 – need assistance
 3. 16 – need intervention – plans must be approved by SEA monitor, action plan will be developed, and technical assistance & professional development will be provided

APR State Determinations

- ❖ OSEP pushing for results based determination process
- ❖ Two sets of indicators – 50% results and 50% compliance
- ❖ All State's receive percentage points for indicator implementation as well as a determination category as follows:
 - 80 percentage points overall = Meets requirements
 - 60 percentage points = Needs assistance
 - Below 60 percentage points = Needs intervention
- ❖ TN results – 37.5% results indicators (up from 25% last year), 95% on compliance, and overall score was 66.25% (6.02% increase from last year)

State Conferences Update

Suzanne Keefe

- ❖ Continuing academic focus
- ❖ Supports for students – mental health & social emotional
- ❖ Dates for future conferences:
 1. New Special Education Director Orientation – Sept. 8-9 – Millennium Maxwell House, Nashville
 2. East TN Special Education Supervisors Conference – Sept. 10-11 – Music Road Hotel, Pigeon Forge
 3. West TN Special Education Supervisors Conference – Sept. 17-18 – Hilton East, Memphis
 4. Middle TN Supervisors Conference – Sept. 24-25 – Fall Creek Falls State Park
 5. Conditions for Learning Forum – Sept. 30-Oct. 1 – Embassy Suites Conference Center, Murfreesboro
 6. Partners in Education (PIE) – Feb. 9-11, 2016 – Music City Center, Nashville

Lunch (provided)

TN AWARE Project Overview (AC Goal 1)

Janet Watkins

- ❖ A five year federal grant to improve school based mental health services
- ❖ The project will develop a model for schools and will be distributed across the state
- ❖ Supports RTI² well

- ❖ Once federal funding expires, TN will continue the program.

Consolidated Planning and Monitoring (CPM)

Eve Carney

(AC Goals 1,3,6,7)

- ❖ Need to shift the conversation to outcomes
- ❖ Target assistance where it is most needed
- ❖ On-site monitoring requires three to four days at a school
- ❖ Continuing with an improved web based monitoring system
- ❖ CPM – reviews and monitors LEA financing & programs

Advisory Council Fact Sheet Update

Catherine Knowles

(AC Goal 7)

- ❖ Will add TEIS information
- ❖ Will post the completed fact sheet on the AC website
- ❖ Will edit the questions and answers at the October 19 meeting
- ❖ Add resources/advocacy groups

National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC) Update

Lori Nixon

(AC Goal 3)

- ❖ NCSC name is changing but not finalized
- ❖ NCSC was a project and is ending. Looking for a grant.
- ❖ Finalizing RFP to go out by the end of July.
- ❖ Alternate Science & Social Studies will stay the same.
- ❖ Test is finalized and operational
- ❖ Will need a vendor to score the tests, once they're taken
- ❖ Round one trainings begin in August
- ❖ Working on the test admin. manual, blue print, and prioritizing content to be tested
- ❖ Round two trainings will be in winter
- ❖ Teachers must take quizzes to be qualified to administer the test
- ❖ Two month window (February & March) for admin test
- ❖ Standards setting going on in November
- ❖ Soon ready for 2015-16 school year

Call for new business/additional items

Chair

(AC Goal 7)

- ❖ Include AC member contact list in every meeting packet
- ❖ The Chair will send a reminder in four weeks for October meeting topics
- ❖ The TDOE staff contact will send goal updates

Call for future meeting suggestions

Chair

(AC Goal 7)

- ❖ One or two AC members can give a presentation, at each meeting, to discuss the agency they represent and the services they provide.
- ❖ Kyle Hauth, with the Orange Grove Center, will present at the October meeting.

- ❖ Review of the functionally delayed category of disability and its eligibility components
- ❖ Any and all feedback is welcome, from AC members
- ❖ Review analysis of performance data on:
 1. Students in TN Charter schools and what this data says
 2. How to best equip and prepare LEA & Charters to meet needs of students with disabilities across the state
 3. Best practices in instruction for charter students

Discuss and Approve proposed FY16 Meeting dates

Chair

October 19, 2015

(Meeting 2 of FY2016)

January 11, 2016

(Meeting 3 of FY 16)

April 11, 2016

(Meeting 4 of FY 16)

Adjourn

- **Action Item** – Council member, James Topp, made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council member, Kyle Hauth.
- **Final Action Taken** - The Council voted unanimously in favor of adjournment.