



State Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children (SAPEC) Report

Prepared for OAPSA May 3, 2019 Business Meeting

Each state in the Union has an Advisory Council. SAPEC was established in accordance with 34 C.F.R. Part 300.167-300.169 in order to advise and assist the Ohio Department of Education on special education and related services for children with disabilities. The panel members represent various agencies, individuals with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities. As a panel, our job is to help to connect the dots and identify unmet needs connected to students with disabilities. SAPEC meetings are held 4 times annually (August, November, March, and May) with 2 additional tentative conference call/webinar dates. We are an “advisory panel” – not an advocacy panel. There is a process in place for raising emerging issues of advising on unmet needs. I am the representative for OAPSA and Talia St. Clair is my designated substitute.

SAPEC held a virtual meeting on **February 21, 2019** at 11:30 AM and I participated. Dr. Kim Monachino provided us with update on the Transportation Rule. Every 5 years we have to update operating standards. The first rule we started with was Transportation. SAPEC and lots of others gave input and they are gathering comments and looking at themes. It will go back to Board in April with full vote in June. The process for updating standards will continue in Fall 2019 and entire process will be done by June 2020.

Kara Walden explained Special Education Profiles and Special Education Ratings which were released on December 6. IDEA requires states to monitor any compliance issue less than 100%. There’s room to give credit for substantial credit for rates of 95% and above. Alternate Assessment is new to the profiles. Ohio is running about 1.8% on Alternate Assessment so a lot of districts are exceeding that 1 percent mark.

Barbara Boone, Program Director at Ohio State University discussed the Family Engagement Center at OSU. They will have a website and State Advisory Council will inform resources and activities of this Family Engagement Center. Kim explained that the 5 year goal was to reach 10,000 families.

Both Talia and I attended the SAPEC meeting on **March 26, 2019**. Following is a brief summary of information presented. Dr. Kim Monachino, Director of OEC along with team members from OEC provided reports on:

- 1) Equity in Education Research Series Handout – using to inform state plan
- 2) Update on Related Services Workgroup the workgroup started in January 2018- Ohio House Bill 49 indicated required to form workgroup to improve the coordination of state school and

address the related services needs of students with disabilities. In addition to groups representing each related service area and several other professional groups including BASA and OAPSA the team identified the following areas connected to challenges with recruitment/retention include

- Intense competition between private and public sector
- Limited number of students accepted into higher education programs
- Physical environment
- Traveling
- Paperwork
- Misunderstanding of their roles

The workgroup developed short term, middle term and long term goals.

As a result of those goals a number of products were developed and demonstrated for us including:

One page handouts for each related service area (on ODE's website – search Related Services)

A video with all related services described was created as well as a shorter video clips for individual related services – these can be used to recruit students in fields as well as recruit those currently employed in medical models to school models

Survey data from surveys the work group did are currently being analyzed by external group and inserted into the final overall report with recommendations to share with the general assembly. That final report is expected to be ready in the next couple of weeks.

That workgroup also created a school psychologist shortage memo on options for districts that are in regions where the school psychologist shortage is extreme and will describe Educator on Loan. That memo should be out within a couple of weeks.

3) Kalinda Watson, Asst. Director for Resource Management at OEC explained there are Formula and Discretionary Grants. There's a preschool grant for ages 3-5 and Section 611 is School age but also covers ages 3-21. We get 430 million dollars per year for 611 and 12 million dollars per year for preschool grant. About 80-90% of those funds goes right back to the districts to support children with disabilities. We have to have properly licensed educators and certain policies and procedures in place.

4) Ohio's Five Year Strategic Plan for Education, Each Child, Our Future declares each child is important and deserves the educational opportunities, experiences, supports, and needs to achieve his or her potential. We needed a targeted effort to make sure that students achieve goals in Ohio's Strategic Plan and to make sure that we improve learning experiences and outcomes for students with disabilities. The new **steering group** is being facilitated by Mary Watson, a national expert and former Sp Ed director for North Carolina. Survey went out to

200,000 building administrators, teachers and related service providers. Focus groups will be formed coming from that stakeholders survey.

Wendy Stoica gave us overview of Family Town Hall Meetings which started in Dayton last week and then they also did one at Parent Mentor Retreat.

Discussion questions were:

Tell us one thing that is going well for your child at school.

What is the most valuable important part for your experience in your child's education so far?

How were you involved in the equation regarding a decision made for your child?

5) Kara had us examine Ohio's Data Story through an activity. One conclusion from that was that we need more training in PBIS and Trauma Informed Care. With PBIS we should see a decrease in discipline data and we don't. We need to change adult mind sets. They are in process of getting seclusion and restraint on EMIS.

6) Monika Drvota explained we are in the 5 year rule revision process. Internal workgroups are revising rules through Summer 2019. They will post for public comment in Fall 2019 and they have to go to Joint Commission on Agency Rule Review. (JCARR) Transportation was first rule up for review and they decided to keep the word "child" consistently throughout rules and not the word "student". There was some concern that SAPEC wasn't able to be available to us to review the changes made as result of public feedback. There was uncertainty if that could be available to us prior to when it goes to committee in May. We will need to increase frequency of SAPEC meetings next year in order to get through all the various rules.

I found this entire morning session so informative that I asked Dr. Monachino to please repeat this session at our May OAPSA conference. SAPEC is obviously a well-organized, highly effective and efficient group and we should all be very proud of the commitment of the members of this group and the seriousness with which they take their role in advising ODE's Office of Exceptional Children.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Stelzer, OAPSA Executive Director