



Report on National Coalition Personnel Shortages in Special Education and Related Services (NCPSSERS) and Ohio's Related Service Workgroup on Personnel Shortages: Prepared for OAPSA December 6, 2019 Business Meeting

NCPSSERS met virtually via Zoom on November 14, 2019.

We had a presentation by Nancy Kuhles on Nevada's Coalition to Address Personnel Shortages in Special Education and Related Services. You may want to review their website at ***nvcoalition.com*** for helpful videos, handouts and other ideas.

We also discussed the shortages presentations at CASE/NASDSE Fall Conference in Louisville and while the tools were helpful they really only addressed shortages in teachers and paraprofessionals in special education and there was some disappointment from those of us who attended that there wasn't more discussion or helpful ideas to address shortages of the Specialized Instructional Support Personnel (SISP) (related services)

Ohio's Related Service Workgroup on Personnel Shortages Final Report including recommendations was posted on November 5, 2019 on ODE's website as well as on our OAPSA website on our Sp Ed Personnel Shortage page. The report is very thorough and includes specific recommendations for our legislators to consider for short term and long-term solutions to the shortages and includes lots of helpful information in the ***Appendix*** section of the report. Also, we now have a dedicated ***page on ODE's website*** which has the ***resources*** we created to help districts. You will find video links promoting individuals to go into the field of educational related services as well as videos and fact sheets about each individual related service area. You could use those ***handouts and those videos*** to help inform administrators, school staff and parents of what each related service provider is able to do in the school setting. Those same videos and handouts are great to use at Middle School or High School Career Fairs to encourage young people to go into one of the shortage areas. It was my honor to be a part of the group that did that work and now we all need to work to help others understand the seriousness of the shortage and explain possible solutions.

As a result of OAPSA's participation as a member in the NCPSSERS, OAPSA has added a section to OAPSA's web site to include articles of interest on Special Ed and Related Service Shortages. It includes information about Ohio's Workgroup on Related Service Shortage and a link to ODE's web page addressing the work of that group plus a link to NCPSSERS website which has a wealth of resources. It also includes access to: **Toolkit for Shortages in Special Education for Developing Local Strategies with a Facilitation Guide**. Those tools were developed through a collaborative effort between the Center on Great Teachers and Leaders and the Collaborative for Educator Development, Accountability and Reform (CEEDAR Center) both funded by the Office of Special Education Programs.

The page on OAPSA's website dedicated to Special Education Personnel Shortage resources is a wonderful resource page for you to get statistics related to the shortage and does include the memorandum that went out in the spring from ODE regarding options to deal with the shortage of school psychologists.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Stelzer, OAPSA Executive Director