



## Report on Ohio Coalition for Education of Children with Disabilities (OCECD) for December 6, 2019 OAPSA Business Meeting

Representing OAPSA, I serve as the Representative for Statewide Organization Representative on the OCECD Executive Committee and I also represent OAPSA on the Governing Board of OCECD. I participated in meetings with that Executive Committee and Governing Board on September 24 and November 12, 2019. Both sets of meetings on both days were held at Delaware County Board of Developmental Disabilities in Lewis Center, Ohio.

### Highlights from September 24, 2019 Meeting

- In 2022 OCECD will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- We reviewed the OCECD Governing Board Membership Report, noting that in August invitations were sent to ESCs, SSTs, and former members, the result of which included Columbiana ESC and the Mercer ESC joining as new members and a number of individuals rejoining the Coalition.
- There was discussion about whether or not it might be beneficial to use technology that would enable video-conferencing, rather than using teleconferencing for Executive Board and Governing Board meetings. We will look into the possibility of using a type of video-conferencing for meetings.
- Lisa Hickman, Executive Director of OCECD, reported that the Coalition has received questions regarding the Autism Scholarship, particularly regarding translation services not being offered to students who are on the scholarship, though such services are paid for under the scholarship. Marbella mentioned that there are also issues with the Peterson Scholarship, specifically in regard to "who pays for what?" and students on the scholarship having to give up the right to FAPE. The question was asked whether parents truly understand FAPE. It was noted by a member that this issue is also relevant to students in community schools.
- Lisa shared some other issues with which the Coalition has been dealing, such as: vocational schools not allowing students with disabilities in all programs, and, a new teacher certification in "deaf-blind" education.

- Lisa has been reviewing internal policies and spoke about the announcement regarding Marbella as Assistant Director and that Lisa and Marbella will be co-directors of PTI.
- Under New Business, Lisa reviewed HB 305, the Ohio Fair Funding Bill, which proposes using weights and multipliers for special education funding.
- The OCECD 2018 Annual Report was approved for distribution.
- Lisa led a discussion regarding “re-formatting” the process used to conduct board meetings and the topic-content of meetings. She would like to see more opportunity to participate by board members, suggesting the use of subcommittees by the board. Such subcommittees could include: Constitution and By Laws, Membership, Policy; such a structure could possibly allow for smarter meetings, wherein there could be more discussion and debate, problem-solving, and policy-development; recommendations could be made on things that should happen. The result could be getting more people involved and more participation by those present. Further discussion will be had later.

#### **Announcements:**

Lee Ann Derugen has submitted a letter of resignation and is retiring from her position as PTI Director and Webmaster, effective September 30, 2019.

Donna Stelzer updated the Governing Board on the work of OAPSA and that OAPSA will become the newest CASE (Council of Administrators of Special Education) chapter in Ohio.

Brenda George updated the Governing Board on her new organization, Ohio Related Service Personnel Network. The purpose of that group is to network, share resources, and provide training.

#### **Highlights from the Annual Meeting on November 12, 2019**

- Lisa Hickman and Barbara Rice shared that the Horn/Walter/Burley awards need additional sponsors. Coalition has been picking up difference between costs and what sponsors provide in the amount of approximately \$3000 each year. Would like to see other groups contribute to the event. Marbella Cáceres said we can ask for donations. Donations can be applied toward joining the Coalition. Barbara offered the Marion Coalition office to reach out by developing a letter and individually talk to some organizations. Donna Stelzer was asked if OAPSA would consider donating. Barbara will put together next steps and move forward. Donna will ask OAPSA Executive Board and advise.

- Lisa indicated Parent Mentor Orientation went very well. SST and District reps were also present with the new parent mentors.
- Marbella shared that a series of professional development meetings for the OCECD staff have been occurring with additional sessions upcoming. A comprehensive PD calendar is being developed for 2020. Imbedded in the programming are sessions designed to address the emotional and mental health needs of staff.
- Lisa shared that a proposal was submitted on 10/31/19 for a grant offered by the Bailey Cavalieri Law Firm. If awarded, the grant funds would be used to host a one-day, multi-agency conference on the opioid crisis with a focus on Central Ohio. The target audience would include parents, school personnel and other agencies to increase awareness of the potential for an expanded impact upon the future educational needs of children who are both exposed or become early users.
- Lisa also shared that conversations have occurred with juvenile judges and legal aid representatives in Marion County regarding how to ensure that judges have the information about the needs of students with disabilities who may come before them in court. She mentioned that OCECD staff member Amy Freeman has experience working with the system and that Amy was reaching out to the Summit County Court for discussion. Marbella added that Summit County has a program administrator who focuses on youth with special education needs. Lisa also indicated that JDAI counties are moving away from lock-up and toward more community-based services. Barb indicated that for the years in which she has been involved with OCECD she has always asked herself whether the RFPs, grants, and contracts that are developed align with the organization's mission. She concurred that there is a need to remain mindful of the mission in the development of the next PTI proposal. She stated that the organization needs to continue to provide top quality training and is not equipped to provide direct service.
- Webmaster Position is currently posted. This position will also cover IT needs as well as website. Want to make website fully accessible and do rebranding.
- Continued discussion on creating committees to encourage meaningful participation of all of our Governing Board Members. Discussed it if would make more sense to do strategic plan first and then determine if we should have committees and what committees would address.
- Ohio Coalition's accounting firm offered free training on Board Member responsibilities to Board Members next week. Unfortunately, both opportunities conflict with OCALICON. 2 Reps will attend.

**Announcements:**

- Jon Peterson passed away October 10, 2019. Still waiting to hear about memorial details. Board members will be advised when the arrangements are announced.
- Cooper Snyder passed away October 13, 2019. The Coalition sent in a memorial donation to an organization named by the family that was involved in

The next meeting time for the Executive Committee and the Governing Board of OCECD is March 24, 2020 at Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, 2879 Johnstown Rd, Columbus, OH 43219. This site is very close to Airport in Columbus.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Stelzer

Executive Director of OAPSA