



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 Sept. 18, 2020 Business Meeting

I participated in two meetings of the National Coalition on Personnel Shortages in Special Education and Related Services (March 5, 2020 and May 14, 2020). The focus of our March meeting was on interviewing individuals from selected on line therapy programs and asking them to address specific questions which we had given each representative in advance. There was also discussion about OCALI in Ohio being willing to help the National Coalition make new video tapes about the shortage at a much-reduced cost. Our May meeting focus was on Pandemic related issues including on line therapy follow up. We decided at that meeting that since funds would not be available this year due to cuts to all schools and government agencies had to make, that we would not pursue OCALI making videos for us. Our July meeting was cancelled and our September Meeting was changed to later this month on September 24. OAPSA has a section on our OAPSA website dedicated to the shortage of special education staff and that includes a link to the National Coalition's website and I encourage you to visit that site to learn more information about the nationwide shortage.

I'm pleased to announce that Ohio's Related Service Workgroup will be starting regular meetings again this year to follow progress on the recommendations of their report which was issued in October 2019. That report is also available on our OAPSA website in that same area on the shortage. When you follow that link, it will take you to a page on ODE's website which has that work-group's final report, as well as one-page flyers

on each related service group which may be helpful for you to include on your district or agency website. It also has a variety of video clips that you could use in combination with those 1-page flyers in your district either on your website, or as a means to help administrators and staff understand the role of each type of related service provider. You could also use those resources to encourage your students in your district to consider a career in related services. By the way, if you looked at the videos before and weren't impressed, Joe Petrarca, Associate Director at OEC, and I finally figured out that the original videos that were on there were actually some unedited versions. So, we got that fixed in the spring of 2020. Also, on the Special Education Shortage page of our website you will find the Memorandum that was released by ODE in 2019 to offer districts actions that they could take to provide some flexibility where there are shortages of school psychologists. I encourage you to check out that section of our website for those resources that I mentioned plus even more resources that will be helpful to you in case of shortages problems.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Stelzer, OAPSA Executive Director