

**SUMMARY**  
**June 11, 2021 Meeting**  
**Indiana State Advisory Council (SAC)**  
**on the Education of Children with Disabilities**  
Online Virtual Meeting

| <b><u>Council Members:</u></b>   | <b><u>Present</u></b><br><b><u>(Yes/No)</u></b> |
|--|---|
| <b>Kim Dodson</b> , The Arc of Indiana   | N   |
| <b>Bethany Ecklor</b> , Division of Mental Health & Addiction, Family & Social Services Admin. | Y   |
| <b>Melaina Gant</b> , Department of Child Services   | N   |
| <b>Dennis Heathfield</b> , Cummins, Inc.   | Y   |
| <b>Dr. Nancy Holsapple</b> , Office of Special Education, Department of Education              | Y   |
| <b>Theresa Koleszar</b> , Division of Disability & Rehabilitation Services, Indiana FSSA       | N   |
| <b>Funmi Ige-Wright</b> , parent representative  | Y   |
| <b>Donald Koors</b> , Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired                       | N   |
| <b>Lisa Kovacs</b> , Hands & Voices International and parent representative                    | Y   |
| <b>Tom Lindenman</b> , parent representative   | Y   |
| <b>Kristi Linson</b> , Children's Special Health Care Services, State Department of Health     | N   |
| <b>Mary McCoy</b> , Archdiocese of Indianapolis  | N   |
| <b>Danielle Molter</b> , parent representative   | N   |
| <b>Dr. John Nally</b> , Department of Correction   | Y   |
| <b>Dr. Leah Nellis</b> , Indiana University-Kokomo   | Y   |
| <b>Danny O'Neill</b> , parent representative   | N   |
| <b>Lesa Paddack</b> , IN*Source  | Y   |
| <b>Aura Roblero</b> , Family Voices Indiana  | N   |
| <b>Linda Schroeder</b> , Old National Trail Special Services                                   | Y   |
| <b>Dr. Sharon Johnson Shirley</b> , Lake Ridge New Tech Schools                                | Y   |
| <b>Kristi Tesmer</b> , parent representative   | Y   |
| <b>Dr. George Van Horn</b> , SAC Chair, Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation            | Y   |
| <b>Lucy Witte</b> , Indiana School for the Deaf  | N   |

**Also Present:**

Tracy Brunner and Lisa Truitt, Department of Education; Hannah Carlock, Arc of Indiana

**Call to Order**

Chair Dr. George Van Horn called the meeting to order at 9:30 a. m. Thirteen of twenty-three members were present. The Chair thanked all whose terms expire 7/1/2021 and advised the Council that Theresa Koleszar will take over as the representative of Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services following Kylee Hope's departure from Indiana Family and Social Services Administration.

## **Action Items**

Lisa Kovacs made a motion to approve the March meeting summary; Dr. Sharon Johnson Shirley seconded. The motion passed.

## **Information Items**

### **1. Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) Updates**

State Director of Special Education Dr. Nancy J. Holsapple reported on the status of Indiana's application for IDEA Part B funds and advised that, although states' Part B allocations have been announced but no federal guidance is available yet regarding the additional Part B funds to be issued per the American Rescue Plan of 2021. She shared a summary of Indiana's latest child count data compared to that of the previous year and updated Council members on staffing changes at the Office of Special Education. Nancy noted that the US Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) recommended Indiana increase stakeholder involvement in the target-setting process for its next IDEA Part B State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report, described the State's process for identifying and meeting with an expanded number of stakeholders to seek input for Part B compliance and outcomes measurements, and answered members' questions. At Nancy's request, IDOE School Medicaid Specialist Tracy Brunner provided a brief update and responded to questions on related services delivery and school Medicaid claiming provisions in House Enrolled Act 1405, which was passed during Indiana's 2021 legislative session.

Nancy Holsapple introduced Hannah Carlock, speaking on behalf of The Arc of Indiana, who updated the Council and fielded questions regarding passage of House Enrolled Act 1313. This 2021 legislation requires the State Advisory Council on the Education of Children with Disabilities to update annually a list of post-secondary education and employment opportunity resources for former K-12 students with disabilities, to be distributed by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development to eligible individuals.

At Nancy Holsapple's invitation, IDOE Attendance Officer and Social Emotional Wellness Coordinator Lisa Truitt gave a presentation on technical assistance and resources available from IDOE to help improve social emotional wellness among school staff, students, and parents. She identified where to find information and materials online and spoke about the Indiana Department of Education's plans to reorganize and realign divisions and staff assignments in this program area to serve local educational agencies more effectively. Lisa responded to members' questions; and Nancy Holsapple provided additional details on where to find all division-specific and the Secretary of Education's newsletters on the IDOE web site.

## **Discussion Items**

### **1. Council Member Reports and Concerns**

Several members whose terms end this month expressed thanks for the opportunity to serve on this advisory panel, offered brief comments about their experiences working with the Council, and thanked the other members who will continue its work.

When the Chair welcomed suggestions for the good of the order, one member noted the common use of acronyms during meeting presentations and discussions, pointing out that not all members are familiar with these or their context in relationship to the advisory panel's role. Others voiced similar concerns; after which Council Chair Dr. George Van Horn added his thanks for bringing this to his attention. George offered to do what he can to address this concern and reiterated his thanks to all members whose terms are expiring. He noted that some of these departing members have served multiple terms, some of which predated his tenure on the Council.

## **Public Comments**

At the Chair's request, guest Phillip Parnell from INARF introduced himself and explained his interest in attending Council meetings regularly.

## **Next SAC Meeting Date**

The Chair noted the advisory council's next meeting is scheduled to be held virtually on September 10, 2021, and he asked that all returning members add the now approved 2022 meeting dates on their calendars.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:31 a.m.