

SUMMARY
March 11, 2022 Meeting
Indiana State Advisory Council (SAC)
on the Education of Children with Disabilities
Online Virtual Meeting

<u>Council Members:</u>	<u>Present</u> <u>(Yes/No)</u>
Kim Dodson , The Arc of Indiana	Y
Bethany Ecklor , Division of Mental Health & Addiction, Indiana FSSA	Y
Melaina Gant , Department of Child Services	Y
Dennis Heathfield , Cummins, Inc.	N
Dr. Nancy Holsapple , Office of Special Education, Department of Education	Y
Theresa Koleszar , Division of Disability & Rehabilitation Services, Indiana FSSA	N
Funmi Ige-Wright , parent representative	Y
Aleesia Johnson , Indianapolis Public Schools	N
Donald Koors , Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired	Y
Kristi Linson , Children's Special Health Care Services, State Department of Health	Y
Molly McGuire , parent representative	Y
Dr. John Nally , Department of Correction	N
Dr. Leah Nellis , Indiana University-Kokomo	N
Lesa Paddack , IN*Source	Y
Aura Roblero , Family Voices Indiana	N
Tiffany Sanders , parent representative	N
Linda Schroeder , Old National Trail Special Services	Y
Dr. George Van Horn , SAC Chair, Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation	Y
Sarah Watson , Archdiocese of Indianapolis	Y
Lucy Witte , Indiana School for the Deaf	Y

Also Present:

Tracy Brunner and Brandon Myers, Department of Education

Call to Order

Chair Dr. George Van Horn called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m., after a delay to accommodate those experiencing virtual meeting technical difficulty. Thirteen of twenty members were present.

Action Items

Funmi Ige Wright moved to approve the November meeting summary; Melaina Gant seconded. The motion passed.

Information Items

1. Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) Updates

State Director of Special Education Dr. Nancy J. Holsapple began by reporting that, beginning March 21, a new special education specialist will join the Office of Special Education (OSE) Monitoring and Compliance team; and she and the OSE Assistant Director-Fiscal are now pulling together data required for the State's Part B Grant Application and budget, which directs the majority of these funds to local educational agencies (LEAs). She advised the draft application will be available online for review within the next two weeks, with the window for public comment extending from the week of March 21 until the week of May 16.

Nancy reminded those present that the March meeting reminder email included a copy of Special Education child counts per district, commonly called the "December 1 Count," demonstrating the number of students attending public and non-public schools, for which LEAs must provide special education and related services in the coming year. Nancy and local special education cooperative director Dr. George Van Horn responded to members' questions and comments on addressing long-term impacts of delayed identification due to parents' pandemic-related concerns about young children attending pre-kindergarten. Then Nancy moved on to the next agenda item, State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP), reminding members the SSIP is part of the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report and that Indiana's focuses on building and measuring schools' capacity to implement evidence-based practices that support early literacy. She asked members to watch for a follow up email sharing the report of the previous year's results and implementation plan for the upcoming year, which will be posted on the OSE's website soon. After listing upcoming SSIP stakeholder meeting dates, Nancy encouraged council members to participate and shared the contact information to sign up.

Nancy concluded IDOE informational items with updates on the State's implementation of the new Graduates Prepared to Succeed (GPS) dashboard; I-SEAL (Indiana Special Education Assisted Licensure); joint "Office Hours" webinars offered through OSE's ongoing partnership with IN*Source; and the role of the recently added IDOE Office of Student Supports and Accessibility (OSSA), which will provide LEA technical assistance for English learners, migrant education, and certain aspects of special education. She explained that OSSA will oversee the work of some of the Part B-funded special education TA centers commonly called "IRNs" or the Indiana Resource Network. In response to questions about ASELI (Aspiring Special Education Leadership Institute), Nancy gave an overview of typical curriculum and the number of participants since the program's inception. Having served as an ASELI mentor, George added that he and other mentors are also learning from the fresh perspectives and insights of educators with differing backgrounds, ethnicities and cultures, all of whom have more recently taken educator preparation coursework and joined the workforce.

Discussion Items

1. Council Member Reports and Concerns

In-depth discussion followed one member's expression of concerns about recently observed reluctance to transition students with disabilities back to in-school placements following residential facility or other step-down services in a more restrictive environment. Members commented about possible related factors, including that impacts of the pandemic have exacerbated the already widespread and crisis-level shortages of qualified personnel.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Next SAC Meeting Date

The Chair reminded everyone the next meeting is scheduled for June 10, 2022, noting it will be held virtually and his intention to conduct a poll about members' comfort level with future in-person attendance.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.