

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL MINUTES**

**Virtual Meeting via WebEx**

**9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**January 19, 2023**

### **PRESENT:**

Lisa Balazs, Volante' Blackman, Tranesia Brown, Felicia Carswell, Lisa Holley Clayton, Tara Cook, Valencia Curry, Kristen Dial, Pamela Fossett, LeAnna Feely, Tasha Harrison-Betts, Shakela Ford-Johnson, Beth Joseph, Jasetta Manning-Jones, Jean Marzullo, Carin Mayo, Temeyra McElrath, Tiffany Moore, Jessica Pelt, Hank Poore, Kathy Poore, Lisa Powell, Graham Sisson, Shana Smith Alyssa Spivey

### **NOT PRESENT:**

Jason Martin, Michelle Wood

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

- ALSDE-SES Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) team representatives –DaLee Chambers, Ashley Cawley, Beth Herndon

The meeting was called to order by Chair Graham Sisson. Lisa Balazs motioned to approve the September 19, 2022, minutes; Carin Mayo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **INTRODUCTIONS:** Ashley Cawley

- The SEAP
- ALSDE-SES Members: DaLee Chambers, Ashley Cawley, Beth Herndon
- Welcome New Members

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- A public comment was received via email by Garth Smith and was read aloud by Dr. Chambers. Mr. Smith shared his concern about students in a LEA in Alabama being pulled for PST interventions when they are already being served through special education. The concern was how long students were out of the general education classroom to receive the interventions.
- Dr. Chambers stated that the Panel would consider Mr. Smith's concern.

### **SES DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Dr. DaLee Chambers**

- Dr. Chambers reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the SEAP. She also shared that Alabama Administrative Code (AAC) changes would be coming soon, and the Data team will meet with the SEAP to receive feedback on the data for the SPP/APR (state performance plan/annual performance report). Dr. Chambers spoke briefly about DHR's involvement in Turnaround Schools and how SES might be helping with this.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Lisa Balazs gave a membership committee update and discussed recruiting new members. The committee will meet when new applications are received for the first quarter. She explained the different representatives who are required to serve on the panel, and the representatives needed to serve on the panel in the upcoming months due to the end of the term for some panel members. The panel currently needs more parents or individuals with disabilities to serve. Dr.

Chambers stated that a Media Advisory could be sent for recruitment if necessary. Panel members were encouraged to recruit family members or individuals with disabilities.

- Ashley Cawley shared that she will be reaching out to each panel member to verify contact information, to share the member's start and end dates of term on the panel, and to identify the committee the member is on.
- Graham Sisson discussed the Bylaws Committee, the Stakeholder and Public Engagement Committee, and the role of each committee. Dr. Sisson stated he can no longer serve as the Bylaws committee Chair since he now serves as the SEAP Chair. He opened the floor for a volunteer to serve as the Bylaws Committee Chair. Panel member Carin Mayo volunteered. Dr. Sisson also discussed the need for a Stakeholder and Public Engagement Committee Chair. Panel member Tara Cook volunteered to serve in this role.
- Ashley Cawley described the role of the Student Achievement and Data Committee. Tiffany C. Moore, ALSDE-SES SEAP representative, will assist this committee. Alyssa Spivey will serve as Chair.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Ashley Cawley

- Hands and Voices: Dr. Cawley summarized the concerns of Hands and Voices shared at a previous SEAP meeting, and in a follow-up meeting with ALSDE-SES. The Hands and Voices Board wants to ensure students who are deaf or hard of hearing are correctly identified and receive the appropriate services through their IEP. Hands and Voices want to make sure individualized services for students who are deaf or hard of hearing, identified in the IEP, are implemented across the school setting, and all needs of the students have been identified and addressed (i.e. students who are deaf or hard of hearing and also have a secondary disability). Hands and Voices recommend the use of a rubric to help guide IEP Teams for students who are deaf or hard of hearing. ALSDE-SES is considering these concerns.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Graham Sisson/Ashley Cawley

- Travel Reimbursement (STAARS) – The SEAP members must register in STAARS to submit requests for travel cost reimbursement. Dr. Chambers recommended possible office hours to assist panel members with the registration process.
- SPP/APR Review – work sessions to advise SES on slippage and targets. A one-hour virtual session will be held with the SEAP members on Wednesday, January 25 from 9:00-10:00.
- MEGA State Education Conference- July 17-21, 2023

Graham Sisson asked for any questions or comments from the panel. There were no questions or comments.

Chair Sisson adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING:**

April 12, 2023  
9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Montgomery, AL