

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL MINUTES
TUSCALOOSA, AL
9 AM – Noon
April 23, 2024

PRESENT – Lisa Balazs, Tranesia Brown, Kameron Carden, Rebecca Carroll, Allie Cunningham, LeAnna Feely, Tasha Harrison-Betts, Shanquail Horton, Holly Knott, Jean Marzullo, Carin Mayo, Kathy Poore, Kate Simmons, Graham Sisson, Katie Stuart

NOT PRESENT – Valencia Curry, Evandra Jackson, Jane Lamb, Keren McElvy, Ashley McLeroy, Tiffany Moore, Jessica Pelt, Hank Poore, Lisa Powell, LaDonna Rudolph, Shana Smith, Sheneika Weatherly

OTHERS PRESENT

- Alabama State Department of Education, Special Education Services (ALSDE, SES) Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) representatives – DaLee Chambers, Ashley Cawley, Elizabeth Herndon, Latasha Kendrick
- ALSDE, SES Staff – Robert Dunn, Kemeche Green

The meeting was called to order by Chair Graham Sisson. Katie Stuart motioned to approve the February 22, 2024, meeting minutes; LeAnna Feely seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Sisson conducted Roll Call.

UPDATE ON THE STATE PERFORMANCE PLAN ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2022:

- Data and Dispute Team Administrator, Kemeche Green, presented an update to comments received from The Office of Special Education Programs regarding indicators 4, 8, and 17 of the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR). Dr. Green also reminded stakeholders to ask parents to complete the 2023 Parent Survey.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- No public comments were received by the ALSDE, SES prior to the meeting nor requested at the meeting.

ALSDE, SES DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Dr. DaLee Chambers

- Dr. Chambers provided an overview on updated legislation concerning *The Choose Act*, the Proposed 2025 Budget, and the Temporary Special Education Certificate (TSEC).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP (Ashley Cawley represented for Committee Chair: Lisa Balazs)

- Two new candidates were presented to the board and voted on.
 - Jason Fisher: parent of a child with disabilities
 - Dr. Richard Templeton: special education coordinator
 - Candidates were unanimously voted in.

BYLAWS (Ashley Cawley represented for Committee Chair: Carin Mayo)

- Current Bylaws will be reviewed during the upcoming summer work session.

STAKEHOLDER AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT (Ashley Cawley represented for Committee Chair: OPEN)

- Katie Stuart will chair this committee.

OLD BUSINESS

- Deaf or Hard of Hearing Focus Group update from SEAP and focus group member Kameron Carden:
This newly formed stakeholder group consists of stakeholders from the deaf and hard-of-hearing community, sign-language representatives, and spoken-language representatives. The group met to discuss implementing a Communication Plan with local individualized education program (IEP) Teams. Alabama Hands and Voices has drafted a plan to address:
 - Appropriate categorization at eligibility.
 - Using a rubric aligned with IDEA regulations.
 - Optimizing outcomes for students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.
- Dr. Chambers expressed gratitude to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Focus Group for the efforts made to further support the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community.

NEW BUSINESS

- The upcoming Alabama Educational Technology Conference (AETC) will be held in Mobile, AL June 19-21.
- SES is currently working with The Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS) and other stakeholders to plan the First Biennial State Transition Conference for Spring 2025.
- Dr. Cawley reminded SEAP about the upcoming MEGA Conference to be held in Mobile, AL July 8-12.

SEAP MEMBER NEWS

- Chair Sisson asked for any comments or questions from SEAP members. No additional comments were received.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM.

NEXT MEETING:

August 2024

Location: Virtual