

**SUMMARY MINUTES ARE DRAFT UNTIL
APPROVED AT THE May 19, 2022 MEETING**



**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
State Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children (SAPEC)
MEETING SUMMARY**

FEBRUARY 17, 2022

Hampton Inn, Frankfort, KY

ATTENDANCE: Ashley Barlow, Christa Bell, Jeni Bolander, David Bradley, Traci Brewer, Tiffanie Clark, Tal Curry, Tonika East, Emily Fox, Tammy Gilles, Esther Hayslett, Maria Kemplin, Mary Lavin, Brian Lovell, Cora McNabb, April Miller, Michelle Morgan, Tyler Reed

MEMBERS ABSENT: Alison Amshoff, Lacheena Carothers, Jeffrey Coles, Amy Crump, Jason Jones, Kent Kelsch, Brittany Kleiner, Chadwick Noel, Krista Payne, Cassie Jo Robinson, Kathy Sheppard-Jones, Daniel Slaton

Summary

Agenda Item: Welcome and roll call of members, Call meeting to order at 9:01 am EST.

Presenter: Brian Lovell, Chair

Summary of Discussion: Brian Lovell, Chair, provided a welcome to open the meeting and he took roll call of members (the meeting attendance is reflected above). Tonika East made a motion to approve the meeting agenda and this was seconded by David Bradley. The motion passed all in favor without any objection.

Feedback: n/a

Follow-up Required: n/a

Agenda Item: Review meeting norms

Presenter: Joe McCowan, OSEEL

Summary of Discussion: Joe McCowan provided review of the norms for meeting.

Feedback: n/a

Follow-up Required: n/a

Agenda Item: Public Comment Period

Presenter: Brian Lovell

Summary of Discussion: Brian Lovell explained the new process for public comment and reminded the members about the opening and closing statements. The previous public open forum statements were used as reference and these were used to write the opening and closing statements for the public comment. Accessibility is a concern for these meetings. Members asked if a virtual option could be considered for participation during the public comment to provide ease of access for participants.

Guidelines for public comment have been drafted for review. April Miller made a motion to approve the draft SAPEC guidelines for public comment and this was seconded by Dr. Tonika East. The motion passed all in favor without any objection.

Feedback: There were no written, email or onsite public comments provided.

Follow-up Required: Communication and Stakeholder Engagement committees will discuss ways to improve attendance and participation about gathering feedback from the public. The public comment opening and closing statements will be added to the SAPEC meeting folder.

Agenda Item: Review and approval of meeting minutes

Presenter: Brian Lovell

Summary of Discussion: Brian Lovell asked the members to review the November 22-23, 2021 and December 13, 2021 meeting minutes. David Bradley made a motion to approve the November 22-23, 2021 meeting minutes. The motion passed all in favor without any objection. Tyler Reed made a motion to amend the November 23, 2021 meeting minutes to reflect Tonika East attendance and this was seconded by April Miller. The motion passed all in favor without any objection. David Bradley made a motion to approve the amended November 22-23, 2021 meeting minutes and this was seconded by Tonika East. The motion passed all in favor without any objection. Tonika East made a motion to approve the December 13, 2021 meeting minutes and this was seconded by April Miller. The motion passed all in favor without any objection.

Feedback: Tonika East is listed as absent in the meeting minutes at the November 23, 2021 meeting and this needs to be updated to reflect her being present in the minutes.

Follow-up Required: Tonika East was removed from absent to present in the November 23, 2021 meeting minutes. The December 1 date was corrected to 13 in the December 13 meeting minutes.

Agenda Item: OSEEL update on final due process hearings and findings

Presenter: Sylvia Starkey

Summary of Discussion: There are no due process hearings and findings since the last SAPEC meeting. This information is shared with all SAPEC members prior to each meeting and this will continue to always be a common agenda item on future meeting agendas.

Feedback: n/a

Follow-up Required: Sylvia Starkey and Joe McCowan will continue to coordinate this information. Members were reminded about the due process and findings webpage on the KDE website where they can find all information. Members may request to review any of this information by letting Brian, Joe or Sylvia know in advance of all meetings.

Brian Lovell requested a motion to suspend rules for open discussion. Tonika East made a motion to suspend rules for open discussion and this was seconded by Tiffanie Clark. The motion passed all in favor without any objection.

Agenda Item: SAPEC business and planning

Presenter: Brian Lovell

Summary of Discussion: Brian Lovell provided a brief overview of the organization, purpose and planning needs for the SAPEC. The next step goal is to develop a strategic plan and this includes gathering feedback from members about priorities. A committee structure will be used in addition to the full panel to address the priorities and goals of the panel. Members expressed a need to fully understand their purpose and role in order to provide feedback about priorities. A national Council for Exceptional Children new strategic plan, “Forward Together,” was shared by Brian Lovell as a north star guiding vision and members asked for this to be added to the SAPEC meeting folder. Members were reminded to review the SAPEC meeting materials, especially the SAPEC orientation presentation and materials provided by the Center for Technical Assistance and Excellence in Special Education (TAESE) and John Copenhaver. The National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE) strategic plan was referenced also and this report will be loaded into the SAPEC meeting folder. Gretta Hylton, Associate Commissioner, is President of the 2020-2021 NASDSE Board of Directors and Kentucky is fortunate to have a presence on this national group.

Feedback: Members expressed a need to fully understand their purpose and role in order to provide feedback about priorities.

Follow-up Required: The Council for Exceptional Children new strategic plan, “Forward Together,” needs to be added to the SAPEC meeting folder.

Tyler Reed mad a motion to re-apply Robert’s Rules of Order for the full panel and this was seconded by Tonika East. The motion passed all in favor without any objection.

Agenda Item: Panel business and sub-committee work

Presenter: Brian Lovell and sub-committee leads Jeni Bolander and Traci Brewer

Summary of Discussion: A legislative priority was brought up by panel members in relation to House Bill 51. There is a sense of urgency around this bill and the members discussed what this bill is about. The bill is focused on eligibility options school districts choose to identify dyslexia in students they serve. A sub-committee is formed to begin drafting a letter to Legislators about this bill.

Another subcommittee is formed to look at helping to identify the priorities and focus of the panel and committee structure. The members chose to participate in one of the two subcommittees prior to lunch. The sub-committees continued this work together after lunch also.

Feedback: A formal letter is being drafted on behalf of the panel in response to House Bill 51.

Follow-up Required: The SAPEC letter will need to be reviewed, approved and sent to the appropriate Legislators once complete.

Tal Curry made a motion to extend the sub-committee work until noon when the panel will break for lunch. Lunch will then be noon until 1:00 pm ET. The motion was seconded by Tonika East. The motion passed all in favor without any objection.

Lunch: the panel paused the meeting to allow members to get lunch from noon-1:00 pm ET.

Agenda Item: Panel business and sub-committee work continued

Presenter: Brian Lovell and sub-committee leads Jeni Bolander and Traci Brewer

Summary of Discussion: The panel reconvened at 1:02 pm ET to continue the two sub-committee areas of work. Both groups continued working together and they each provided a summary of their work to the full panel. Jeni Bolander provided a summary for the sub-committee group working on the SAPEC letter and Traci Brewer provided a summary for the sub-committee group working to identify the priorities and focus of the panel and committee structure. This work was finished at 1:50 pm ET.

Feedback: A formal letter is being drafted on behalf of the panel in response to House Bill 51.

Follow-up Required: The SAPEC letter will need to be reviewed, approved and sent to the appropriate Legislators once complete. The information shared related to the priorities and focus of the panel will be used to inform the continued committee group work.

Agenda Item: Panel business and committee work

Presenter: Brian Lovell and six committee leads

Summary of Discussion: Brian Lovell reviewed the SAPEC committee structure and the members of each committee. The following SAPEC committees met and provided the following reports:

Communication committee members: Jeni Bolander, Amy Crump, Kent Kelsch, Mary Lavin and April Miller

Communication committee report:

Consistent and effective verbiage between schools and parents, public forums publicized and used effectively (creating a system for soliciting feedback and reporting back out).

Increasing use of social media. Consider developing polls to ask specific questions. Share information and resources so people know where to go to get help.

Use of Facebook Live. Consider issue related to commenting-FERPA violation. Turning comments off might be considered. Over 900 subscribers. Excellent tool for public forum. This may increase participation. Virtual participation might increase more participation.

Outreach: all DoSEs and private schools, CTE and colleges/universities. Develop a panel of these groups to identify issues they have.

Cooperative regions: grouping those counties together and encourage communication with one another (with stakeholder groups listed above). Report to the panel about challenges. Example, Eastern Kentucky challenges in relation to Fayette County. Solicit the KDE to assist with challenges through resources, data and information.

This connects to stakeholder engagement also.

Solicit KDE about data and information they would like to connect on the Facebook page.

Consider other social media platforms: Twitter and Instagram.

Free and Appropriate Public Education Committee members: Esther Hayslett, Jeffrey Coles Ashley Barlow, Tiffanie Clark and Krista Payne

Free and Appropriate Public Education Committee report:

Discrepancy Model vs. RTI model.

District policies - Provide guidance for districts on pros/cons of each model including information on using a blended model.

Support Response to Intervention (all tiers- academic and behavioral supports) to ensure that all students have access to appropriate instruction and support.

If districts feel they must use the discrepancy model because they have identified that their RTI tiered instruction is not strong, what supports are available to assist districts to improve these instructional/social emotional practices?

Clarifications for teachers/districts on eligibility options for those with diagnoses that may not have been previously accepted (ex: dyslexia)

Disproportionality and Equity

Explore resources that the Diversity Equity Inclusion Council could provide districts to address these issues.

Parent involvement committee members: Lacheena Carothers, Traci Brewer, Tammy Gilles, Emily Fox and Michelle Morgan

Parent involvement committee report:

How to get parents involved, better communication, parent education especially newly diagnosed, making use of public forum more effectively. Is it implied that this includes foster parents, grandparents, caregivers? Do we want to change the name or to inform committee that parent implies other caregivers?

Educate and communicate to parents.

Public comment on each meeting agenda. What does this look like and what happens?
Infographic?

Clarified that we can make recommendations to overall parents. Recommend to KDE on the IEP process to parents as a communication support.

Social media presence.

Public comment flyer can be redesigned to be parent friendly and explain the public comment. Share this on social media and ask panel members to share, send to schools and e-mail.

What are the ways to become more informed in the IEP process?

Survey via text (Google form via mobile device). Third party calling and following up with parents.

Pre-IEP checklist before the ARC meeting to help parents be more prepared. IEP guidance document that is parent friendly.

Stakeholder engagement members: David Bradley, Alison Amshoff, Jason Jones, Brittany Kleiner, Chadwick Noel

Stakeholder engagement report:

(Teachers/Administration): informing with most up-to-date information, most recent information shared with this group from KDE-what does the data say, current issues, current trends. Who are the stakeholders-coops, regular education teachers? Who will be impacted by our work and creating a system for soliciting feedback and reporting out? Consistent and effective verbiage.

Joined the Communications Committee and must work with this group to reach stakeholders.

SAPEC needs to identify who the stakeholders are such as students, parents, teachers, medical professionals, CTE staff, employers.

Data can be supplied by KDE of past issues/trends.

Solicit feedback from parents, educators and DoSEs. Regional meetings between DoSEs and CTE, college/postsecondary. Identify issues and resources in a regional approach.

Supervision and legislative members: Tyler Reed, Daniel Slaton, Christa Bell, Maria Kemplin, Cassie Jo Robinson

Supervision and legislative report:

HB 51, HB 226, SB 9 (passed) other current educational issues, tier 1 to SPED, being proactive in looking at current legislation to address the next legislative session by examining any legislation that is not inclusive or negatively impacts students with disabilities. Federal legislation-fully funding IDEA, reauthorization of IDEA which is overdue. Are there things we want to take from state level to federal level, knowing federal legislative session dates. How will state funding affect local schools, students, and teachers? Be informed on NASDE/CEC priorities and see how that aligns with our state and how we might impact those priorities.

Coordinate with the Communications Committee to partner in a timely manner effectively.

The ability to build a process with KDE for communication, especially through the legislative session. Work with Tracy Goff-Herman on bills. There have been legislative updates at previous meetings and this information could be shared.

Legislative issues that would be proactive, not just reactive.

HB138 and SB79 appear to be identical and they are dyslexia bills. Requires local school boards to have policies.

Indicators and questions from members. Disseminate as they are reviewed.

Accountability system-L3 groups and looking at this data.

We want to clarify the title of our committee: Supervision and Legislative.

The supervision would be related to any findings and monitoring.

A subcommittee has been formed to address HB51 to craft a letter to Legislators.

Transition members: Kathy Sheppard-Jones, Tonika East, Tal Curry, Cora McNabb

Transition committee report:

Post-secondary, competitive integrated employment, being involved and contributing to your community, self-sufficiency, students to be able to participate wholly in coop and vocational programs, access to career pathways, connecting with OVR, scholarships-KHEAA.

The importance of the ARC transition meetings and the support to families. Willing to be open and honest about their family unit and this can lead to greater resource sharing. OVR and other school staff.

Talk to other parents to help them not feel alone.

Self-advocates that could go with family members to an ARC meeting. It is too much to keep everything straight as an individual. This is a difficult process that takes time, but parents have the rights to understand.

Parent advocacy and involvement with parents.

ARC meetings-consistency with post-secondary and CTE tracks. Resources and support. OVR documents and resources.

Parent involvement committee.

Large goal-how do we change this pipeline? Prepare students for next steps. How do we make changes in this area?

Looking at past KDE data sets, KYPSO (YOYO) data, how many students are dual enrolled and taking advantage of courses.

HDI and cooperatives.

Collaborating with other state councils. Asking SPED Cooperative Directors on their issues. To create a better system of two-way communication. KY Advisory Council on Autism.

How do we do a better job to tying into newer language? Autism example.

Look at indicator set and examples from the council. Data from ARC meetings and meetings with parents.

Two members: OVR and HDI. Critical partners.

Being able to just have the dialogue opportunity is very important and it makes you not feel alone.

Transition and medical transition and what that looks like. Not just academics.

Emphasis on students and getting them involved. Responsibility is something we nurture for our students.

Consider the area of families and how they engage with advocates. This does take time, but it is a support that can help. Understand roles and responsibilities. Goal oriented.

Advocacy for the safety of the child is important to consider also. Digital citizenship is important.

A toolkit and list of resources is helpful for parents. There are some gaps in understanding that are showing up in college level courses. How do we provide resources in this area?

Feedback: SAPEC committees met and reports were shared with the full panel.

Follow-up Required: The SAPEC committee reports are loaded into the SAPEC meeting folder. The system administrator of the current Facebook page needs to be contacted and a transition to the new panel needs to be established. Joe McCowan will contact the individuals involved to fully coordinate at transition for the Facebook page system administrators and follow up with the current SAPEC members associated with social media.

Agenda Item: Closing comments and adjourn the meeting

Presenter: Brian Lovell

Summary of Discussion: Brian Lovell provided closing comments. He asked for permission to send out a contact list to all panel members. Members expressed a need to review the list. Brian will send out the list for review and once verified by all members, this will become a SAPEC directory.

The 2022 meeting schedule was reviewed as follows:

May 19, 2022 (General Butler State Resort Park) (9:00 am-3:00 pm ET)

August 18, 2022 (Lake Cumberland State Resort Park (10:00 am-4:00 pm ET/9:00-3:00 pm CT)

November 19-20, 2022 (Louisville, prior to the KYCEC Conference) (1 day and a half meeting)

Tonika East shared a good news story about her daughter, a student at Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB), preparing for a trip to Los Angeles. She mentioned she will be sending more information to SAPEC members about this soon.

David Bradley made a motion to adjourn the meeting and this was seconded by Tyler Reed. The motion passed all in favor without any objection. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm ET.

Feedback: Members would like the opportunity to review the contact list to verify information before it is shared.

Follow-up Required: Brian Lovell will send out the contact list for all members to review. Tonika East will send the information and story about her daughter's upcoming trip.

DRAFT