3. What type of training do the ISBE Principal Consultants receive in conducting focused monitoring? Is there a means to gauge inter-rater reliability? Are the training documents and protocols available for public inspection? If so, what is the process for gaining access to these documents?

The team leaders are trained annually by a federal grant project (Sandy’s group). Additionally, when a new team leader is employed, Dawn Camacho, the Focused Monitoring Coordinator, mentors and trains the new team leader. For the last several summers, the team leaders have conducted inter-rater reliability activities with IEPs. I don’t have all of the training materials, do we need to supply them? We have the training presentations that we provide to selected districts available on the FM webpage, the webinar and presentation.

4. Though focused monitoring relates to Compliance Indicator 5A, a running theme in our discussion related to ISBE focus monitors strongly encouraging districts to find some students as eligible for services under 504 as opposed to IDEA. Under what conditions would a focus monitor strongly encourage the 504 process to districts as opposed to IDEA?

Nine team leaders have responded to this topic, I am still waiting for Julie, Kelly, Melanie, Krista, Denise, and Andrea. So far no one has stated that they recommend a 504 over IDEA.

5. Are the final reports generated by the focused monitors to the districts public and available for release? If so, what is that process for gaining access to these documents?

Final reports can be requested through the district. ISBE does not release final reports until the district has completed their evidence of correction and change (2 year process).