

**ILLINOIS STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL
ON THE EDUCATION OF
CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES**

**Eisenhower Cooperative
5318 West 135th Street
Crestwood, IL 60445**

BUSINESS MEETING

June 11, 2009
9:00 a.m.

I. Procedural Business

ISAC Chair Susy Woods called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. A quorum was present.

ISAC Members Present

Marva Campbell-Pruitt
Beth Conran
Deb Fornoff
Teresa Garate
Carrie Janes
Suzanne Lee

Heather Munz
Jennifer Naddeo
Marjorie Olson
Mike Otte
Beth Purvis

Rick Ramirez
Jim Surber
Stanley Valentine
Lanée Walls
Susy Woods

ISAC Members Absent

Nora Donahue
Frances Elbert
Anel Gonzalez

Kyle Packer
Rahnee Patrick

Sharon Slover
Kristine Stanley

ISBE Members Present

David Andel
Celia Arresola
Scott Beaver –presenter
(via phone)

Andy Eulass - presenter
Jodi Fleck – presenter
(via phone)
Melanie Fleenor

Paul Nijensohn
Kathy Stratton

Guests Present

Terry Munz, Sr
Cheri Sinnott

Guest
Illinois Service Resource Center

Introductions

Chair Woods welcomed ISAC members, staff and guests and asked that they introduce themselves.

Adoption of Agenda

Motion #1 –Marjorie Olson **moved** to “adopt the agenda as presented.” Beth Purvis **seconded** the motion. **The motion carried.**

Approval of Business Meeting Minutes from April 23, 2009.

Motion #2 – Deb Fornoff **moved** to “approve the minutes of April 23, 2009 with the correction to The Transition Committee Report stating that the White Paper is the product of ISAC Transition Committee.” Marjorie Olson **seconded** the motion. **The motion carried.**

Approval of Business Meeting Minutes from May 6, 2009.

Motion #3 – Marjorie Olson **moved** to “approve the minutes of May 6, 2009 as presented.” Rick Ramirez **seconded** the motion. **The motion carried.**

II. Public Participation

Cheri Sinnott, Director, Illinois Service Resource Center, shared with ISAC the services that are offered by this agency. The Center serves deaf/hard of hearing student behavioral needs. Ms. Sinnott distributed materials that further describe what resources they have to offer students and families.

III. Equip for Equality Presentation

Zena Naiditch, President & CEO and Olga Pribyl from Equip for Equality shared the services they offer to students and families through Equip for Equality and the Special Education Clinic. The areas of legal practice are special education, safety from abuse and neglect, and CSA: Community Integration, Self-determination, & Anti-Discrimination. Other areas of focus include the public policy and training institute. The Special Education Clinic – Securing a Free Appropriate Public Education for Students with Disabilities offers self-advocacy assistance, negotiation and mediation, discipline issues, samples letters and forms, training and education, least restrictive environment, information and referral, legal advocacy, and eligibility. Ms. Naiditch also addressed the issue of restraint and seclusion in schools.

IV. Illinois State Board of Education Update

Hearing Officer Evaluations – Closed Session

Motion #4 - Jim Surber **moved** that “ISAC enter closed session at 10:50 a.m. for the purpose of discussing recommendations for Impartial Due Process Hearing Officer Renewals.” Suzanne Lee **seconded** the motion. **The motion carried.**

Andy Eulass, Due Process Coordinator for ISBE, reviewed the Due Process Hearing Officer recommendations with the Council.

Motion #5 - Heather Munz **moved** that “ISAC come out of closed session at 11:25 a.m.” Marjorie Olson **seconded** the motion. **The motion carried.**

Motion #6 – Stan Valentine **moved** that “ISAC recommend the renewal of all 15 hearing officers.” Marjorie Olson **seconded** the motion. **The motion carried.**

Agenda Item B – Discussion of Recommendations for Stakeholder Examination of Due Process Reform – will be presented at the September meeting.

Annual Performance Review Update

Jodi Fleck and Scott Beever, Principal Consultants, ISBE, described how the LEA Determinations affect AARA funds. As of June 5th, the US Department of Education has allowed more flexibility. Previously a district was not allowed to use the AARA money for their Maintenance of Effort if they did not have a Meets Requirements designation. Now districts are considered as “meets substantial” compliance at 95%. This will allow them the flexibility to use the funds for their Maintenance of Effort. The stakeholder

group also voted to allow districts to use a “cell” size of 45 students to match what the AYP allows. This will allow smaller districts to “meet requirements” for the 95% compliance that is needed. With this new flexibility, 710 school districts Meet Requirements and 158 Need Assistance. Previously there were 321 districts that fell into the Needs Assistance category without the new cell size flexibility. Letters will be sent within the week to all districts whose designation has now changed.

OSEP’s Response

Ms. Fleck updated ISAC regarding OSEP’s letter that ISBE received on June 1st with the State of Illinois’s determination. Illinois received the designation of Needs Assistance for the third year. OSEP did acknowledge improvement with Indicators 9, 10, 11, 16 and 20 but would like more improvement in Indicators 13, 15, and 17. ISBE now must report on where they are getting resources, what activities they are involved in and report to OSEP by October 1st what impact these technical assistance measures have had on the indicators that still need improvement.

Agenda Item D - Targets for SPP 1 & 2 – will be presented at the September meeting.

Status of “The Educational Rights Guide for Students Who Receive Special Education Services”

Andy Eulass, Due Process Coordinator and Principal Consultant at ISBE, reviewed the newly published “The Educational Rights Guide for Students Who Receive Special Education Services” with members. This user-friendly handbook is available on ISBE’s website. CDs and one print copy of the guide will be sent to each district in Illinois. ISBE will print a total of 5,000 copies to be distributed as needed. Due to restrictions on printing from the Governor’s office, everyone will be encouraged to use the on-line version or print their own copies as needed. Districts will be encouraged to make copies available to parents on an as needed basis. ISAC members offered their congratulations to Mr. Eulass, Deb Kunz and their committees on a job well-done. This comprehensive guide is easily understood and will be easily updated as needed.

Other

Mr. Andel further reviewed funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. He discussed how and when districts will receive their funds. 38 districts indicated their interest in receiving their funds in FY-09. 12 actually did apply and were approved by the May 31st deadline. Those districts that receive their funds in FY-10 must have these expended by September 31, 2011. Mr. Andel commended Bonnie Douglas and Penny Kelly, Principal Consultants with the Special Education Division, ISBE, for their efforts in this area.

Mr. Andel reviewed the status of Focused Monitoring for the 2008-2009 school year. A lot of the errors were due to district data reporting errors. ISBE is trying to work with districts on checking their data before submission to avoid these findings in the future.

Mr. Andel told ISAC members that ISBE will be receiving a compliance visit from OSEP in the fall. Weekly telephone calls until that time will be held to update ISBE on what they will be looking for. Note: following this meeting, ISBE was notified that OSEP has delayed their visit until Fall 2010.

Mr. Andel reminded ISAC members of the upcoming Directors Conference August 5-7, 2009 in Peoria. ISBE is currently finalizing speakers and session topics. Registration is now open and posted on ISBE's website.

State Board Meetings / Future Meetings

Chair Woods will review the 2009-2010 State Board Meetings calendar and ask for volunteers from ISAC at the September meeting.

V. Committee Reports

Committee reports are attached at the end of these minutes.

Due to time commitments, the order of the committee reports was altered.

Comprehensive State Plan – Beth Conran, Chair – A telephone conference call was held to discuss the two proposed withdrawals that were presented at the Committee of the Whole meeting yesterday.

Motion #7 – Beth Conran **moved** that “ISAC send a letter to ISBE requesting the agency obtain the following information that was not adequately presented in the comprehensive plan for withdrawal of the Manteno CUSD # 5 from KASEC prior to approval of the withdraw plan:

1. A written strategic plan of improvement relative to the gap in learning.
2. Further define the districts services for students relative to transitioning from high school to post secondary, career, and independent living.”

Beth Purvis **seconded** the motion. **The motion carried with one abstention.**

Motion # 8 – Beth Conran **moved** that “ISAC send a letter to ISBE requesting the agency obtain the following information that was not adequately presented in the comprehensive plan for withdraw of the DeKalb CUSD # 428 from DCSEA prior to approval of the Comprehensive Plan:

1. Clearly define the plan for ELL services.”

Stan Valentine **seconded** the motion. **The motion carried with one no vote and three abstentions.**

Executive – Susy Woods, Chair – No meeting was held so there is no report at this time.

Access – Kris Stanley, Chair – No meeting was held so there is no report at this time.

Ad Hoc Communications – Rick Ramirez – No meeting was held so there is no report at this time. Mr. Ramirez would like to produce two newsletters during the 2009-2010 ISAC meeting year. He thanked Beth Conran and her organization's contribution to printing the documents.

Bilingual – Tere Garate, Chair – The meeting will be held following the Business Meeting. The report will be available at a later date. (Subsequent to the meeting, the report was completed and is attached.)

Family Communications – Beth Purvis, Chair – No meeting was held so there is no report at this time.

Finance – Mike Otte, Chair – No meeting was held so there is no report at this time.

General Supervision/Due Process – Rick Ramirez, Chair – No meeting was held so there is no report at this time.

Legislation – Stan Valentine, Chair – No meeting was held so there is no report at this time. Mr. Valentine asked that members look at the district testing dates that he distributed and get options back to him within the next couple of days.

Personnel Development – Marjorie Olson, Chair – See the attached report.

Rules and Regulations – Beth Conran, Chair – No meeting was held so there is no report at this time.

Transition – Deb Fornoff, Chair – See the attached report.

Illinois Interagency Coordinating Council on Transition (ICC) – Marva Campbell-Pruitt provided an update on activities that ICC is involved in. Please see the attached report.

VI. Old Business

A. Update on previous motions

Chair Woods reviewed the motions that had been made at the April Business Meeting.

VII. New Business

Carrie Janes was recognized as the Kane County Special Education Educator of the year. Congratulations to Ms. Janes from all ISAC members. Appreciation was expressed to Ms. Janes for her contributions in this area.

A. Approval of 2009-2010 ISAC Meeting Schedule

Motion #9 – Beth Purvis **moved** that “ISAC adopt the proposed 2009-2010 ISAC Meeting Schedule as presented.” Rick Ramirez **seconded** the motion. **The motion carried.**

Motion #10 – Deb Fornoff **moved** that “the ISAC Transition Committee would like approval from ISAC to distribute the White Paper on High Expectations with the changes discussed.” Tere Garate **seconded** the motion. **The motion carried.**

Motion #11 – Marjorie Olson **moved** that “ISBE direct its staff to update or create and post on its website a statewide directory of school service personnel and educators qualified to serve English Language Learners. The directory should include contact information and information about the types of services and languages in which the individual is qualified.” Heather Munz **seconded** the motion. **The motion carried.**

B. Appointment of Nominating Committee to recommend Chair and Vice-Chair positions for 2009-2010

Chair Woods appointed an Ad Hoc Nominating Committee of Marjorie Olson, Chair with members Deb Fornoff, Carrie Janes and Stan Valentine assisting. This committee will recommend the positions of Chair and Vice Chair for the 2009-2010 year. A vote on these nominations will be taken at the September meeting.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Members Present:

Beth Conran, Deb Fornoff

Comprehensive Plan Committee

1. Overview of DeKalb Comprehensive Plan
 - a. Summary was reviewed.
 - b. Questions for DeKalb include:
 - i. Transition
 - ii. Bilingual services
 - iii. State Director
 - iv. Other

2. Review of Manteno Plan
 - a. Summary was reviewed
 - b. Questions for Manteno
 - i. Does the Cooperative support the withdraw
 - ii. Does the ROE support the withdraw
 - iii. Transition Services
 - iv. Discrepancy in data
 - v. Gap in achievement
 - vi. Educational Environment is a concern
 - vii. Bilingual services
 - viii. Other

3. Meeting concluded.

motions would be presented after further clarification of Plan from district and cooperative.

Bilingual Committee Meeting Minutes March 12, 2009

In attendance: Rahnee Patrick, Anel Gonzalez, Tere Garate
Absent: Jennifer Naddeo

Meeting time: 4:00 to 5:00 P.M.

Place: University of Illinois at Chicago, 1640 W. Roosevelt Road,
Chicago Public Schools

The committee reviewed the submission on the goals of the Bilingual Committee for the ISAC newsletter. Jennifer Naddeo prepared the submission for the newsletter and it was sent to Rick Ramirez for inclusion.

The committee also discussed goals for the 2009-2010 year and prepared comments for the RTI minimum requirements document that was issued by ISBE. The committee has many concerns about the future of ELL students and whether districts will be able to identify ELL students as having a learning disability without appropriate tiered supports.

We decided to focus on RTI recommendations as well as developing a survey for all Illinois districts to assess their needs for ELL students. The survey will be developed in draft form and shared with ISAC at the September 2009 meeting. The committee will meet in the summer to work on developing the survey. The results of this survey will be used to guide future work on the committee.

Bilingual Committee of ISAC – Meeting Agenda
Thursday, June 11, 2009

- I. Updates from joint statewide bilingual meeting
 - a. RTI issues
 - b. Certification requirements for bilingual personnel
 - c. Review of existing legislation – scheduled for Monday, 6/15/09

- II. Work-plan for next year
 - a. Meeting took place 3/12/09 at UIC
 - i. Rahnee Patrick, Anel Gonzalez, Tere Garate
 - b. RTI support
 - c. Assessing the needs of the state via a survey

- III. Next Meeting – Summer 2009, in July

Minutes:

Only Jennifer Naddeo and Tere Garate were present, so we discussed issues from the March 12th meeting and agreed to meet in July to develop ELL survey. The Joint statewide committee will meet on June 15, 2009 to review proposed new rules for certification. The ISAC bilingual committee will determine date to meet in July and send to Kathy for posting.

ISAC Committee Report

Committee: Personnel Development

Date of Meeting: June 10, 2009

Location of Meeting: Eisenhower Coop

Members in attendance: Suzanne Lee, Marva Campbell-Pruitt, Jim Surber, Marjorie Olson

Members absent: Terre Garate

Name of person who chaired meeting: Marjorie Olson

Matters discussed:

First item for discussion: New proposed rule changes concerning certification of school personnel that were just posted on the ISBE website. Committee will review and convene a telephone conference call prior to the due date of public comment (July 25th). If comments are needed, the Personnel Committee will contact ISAC members outlining the concerns as well as providing a draft letter for the ISAC Chair's review and signature addressing our concerns.

Second item for discussion was the need for the resurrection and update of the statewide Bilingual Register.

Action items for consideration by ISAC (if any): Motion made that ISBE direct its staff to update or create and post on its webpage a statewide directory of school service personnel qualified to serve English language learners. The directory should include contact information and information about the types of services and languages in which the individual is qualified

Marjorie Olson

ISAC
TRANSITION COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

June 10, 2009

Location: Eisenhower Cooperative, Crestwood, IL

Members in attendance: Melanie Fleenor (ISBE Staff), Sharon Slover, Beth Conran, Rick Ramirez, Tere Garate, Marva Campbell-Pruitt, Deb Fornoff

Attending by phone: Sue Walter

Members absent:

Guest members: Mike Padavic: IAASE and IAG's Select Committee

Person chairing meeting: Deb Fornoff

Agenda Items:

- Made additional changes to White Paper on High Expectations, adding core values statements that will replace the committee mission. Will ask for ISAC approval with these changes.
- Discussed agenda and details for the July 15 joint planning meeting with ICC.

July 15 Agenda

Time: 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Site: Bloomington, probably at Heartland Community College

10:00 – 10:30	Welcome and Introductions
10:30 – 12:30	Planning / Vision Development Process led by Sharon Slover
12:30 – 1:00	Break and Lunch
1:00 – 2:00	Small work groups
2:00 – 2:30	Reporting
2:30 – 2:50	Action Steps
2:50 – 3:00	Schedule

We will share our white paper and questions developed from it to focus participants prior to the meeting. Lunches will be ordered in for participants who are interested in purchasing.

Beth Conran will bring an evaluation for the meeting.

- Sharon Slover reported on plans she is making with Sarah Johnston-Rodriguez of NIU for a Transition Symposium on October 19, 2009. State and national leaders in transition will be invited to present. They are inviting anyone interested in helping with the process of developing an agenda for this symposium as well as training modules for credit (nature yet to be determined) at NIU. They are planning to use a model that incorporates the use of teams and ongoing training with implementation

Sue Walter shared that ISBE is working on on-line training modules for some of the other projects and might be able to provide some assistance if that is appropriate. Sue also shared the names of other university folks who might be interested in assisting (Debbie Sheldon from ISU and someone new who has just been hired at U of I). She also noted that the Transition Practices Self-Assessment that was developed with Loyola is now up on the ISBE Indicator 13 webpage and might be useful as a part of this training development.

The TOTAL modules currently available on the ISBE site were also mentioned as good resources for this planning.

Next meeting: The ISAC Transition Committee along with the ICC will be meeting on July 15 for a Planning/Work Day in Bloomington from 10 AM to 3 PM.

Notes prepared by: Deb Fornoff

ICC Report to ISAC

June 2009

IICC Last Meeting

May 27, 2009

Annual Transition Conference

The conference is planned for November 8-10th in Schaumburg, IL. Registration documents can be located at www.illinoistransitionconference.org

Post-Secondary Roundtable

IICC is collaborating with Illinois Council on Dev Disability, ISBE, IBHE, ICCB and DRS to plan strategies to increase access to college programs for students with intellectual disabilities. The first point of action is to host a summit for college and university presidents, provosts, transition chairmen and other leaders to develop increase awareness surrounding this issue

HR117

ICC brought together key agencies to address the House Resolution pertaining to equalizing the aging out process of students with whom they provide services.

Attorney General Special Education Committee

I made a presentation to the AG's Committee last month. We are looking at the feasibility of a representative from IICC serving on this committee

DHS – DRS

A Leadership Academy is planned for Transition Planning Committees Chairmen on September 23 – 24, 2009. Topics will include Best Practices in Transition, a Roll-out of a Statewide Transition Committees web-site, Increasing Partnerships on Local Committees, and Review of the Data Collection Process.