

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

**Illinois School for the Deaf  
125 Webster Avenue  
Jacksonville, IL**

**Business Meeting  
October 9, 2008  
9:00 a.m.**

**I. Procedural Business**

ISAC Chair Susy Woods called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A quorum was present.

**ISAC Members Present**

Beth Conran  
Deb Fornoff  
Teresa Garate  
Carrie Janes  
Suzanne Lee  
Jennifer Naddeo  
Marjorie Olson

Mike Otte  
Kyle Packer  
Rahnee Patrick  
Heather Perkins  
Beth Purvis  
Rick Ramirez

Sharon Slover  
Kristine Stanley  
Jim Surber  
Stanley Valentine  
Lanée Walls  
Susy Woods

**ISAC Members Absent**

Marva Campbell-Pruitt  
Nora Donahue

Frances Elbert

Anel Gonzalez

**ISBE Members Present**

David Andel  
Scott Beever (via phone)  
Juana Burchell (via phone)  
Jodi Fleck (via phone)

Melanie Fleenor  
Karen Handy (via phone)  
Deb Kunz

Terri McNear (via phone)  
Kathy Stratton  
Gwen Williams (via phone)

**Guests Present**

Amy Veith

Parent

**Introductions**

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

**Adoption of Agenda**

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

**Approval of Business Meeting Minutes from September 11, 2008.**

**Motion #2** –Marjorie Olson **moved** to “approve the minutes of September 11, 2008 as presented.” Beth Purvis **seconded** the motion. **The motion carried.**

## II. Public Participation

Aimee Veith is a parent of a child with Down Syndrome and a mild-to-moderate conductive hearing loss. She is also a teacher of deaf and hard of hearing students and the president of Illinois Teachers of Hard of Hearing and Deaf Individuals (ITHI). Ms. Veith described her experience with the recent IEP held for her daughter. The district wanted to give the label of Developmental Delay, Speech and Language, and Hearing Impairment. (They didn't want to give a HI label thus making it even more difficult to get HI services). Because the "box" of Developmental Delay would be marked, Ms. Veith had to fight to receive any hearing impaired itinerant services and/or audiological services. This seems to be a systemic issue that ISAC member Carrie Janes brought before ISAC at the June Business Meeting. Ms. Veith also asked ISAC members to complete a survey for ITHI that she distributed.

Penny Richards, Learning Disabilities Association of Illinois was not in attendance but submitted the following public testimony:

*I will not be able to attend the ISAC meeting on Oct. 9th to present public statement on behalf of the ISBE Joint Bilingual Special Education Advisory Sub Committee. Kathy, I ask that you please submit the attached Recommendations for a motion to ISAC for a motion and vote to accept by the members of the Council. Susy, we ask that when passed by members of ISAC that action be taken by presenting to Supt Christopher Koch and Asst.Supt Beth Hanselman with written response to the Jt. Bilingual Special Education Advisory Sub Committee on or before Jan. 1, 2009. Thank you Penny Richards member Jt. Bilingual Spl. Ed. Adv. Sub Comm.*

- 1. Request that by Jan 1, 2009, ISBE shall supply a budget for ELL/RTI training for staff and parehts.*
- 2. Request that ISBE documents what they are doing with ELL students in RtI and the appropriateness of the system or the criteria they are using.*
- 3. Request ISBE to utilize the Illinois Resource Center (IRC) to provide technical assistance for RtI/ELL in Illinois.*
- 4. Aspire training must be open to the public. Notification must be given to the public for the dates, place and time for RtI/ELL training. Because Aspire is funded by a federal grant, it comes under the open meetings act.*
- 5. Advise who are the Aspire RtI/ELL consultants and experts hired by ISBE*
- 6. Identify who is in charge of the implementation of Bilingual Special Education in Illinois.*
- 7. ISBE to reinstate and maintain a Bilingual Special Education Directory which will provide contact information for qualified personnel.*

*These Recommendations for a Motion put forth and passed by the Jt. Bilingual Specil Education Advisory Subcommittee June 08*

Tere Garate explained who comprises the bilingual subcommittee and stated that they meet six times per year. Ms. Garate met on September 9th with Beth Hanselman regarding the motions listed above.

RTI/ELL – Ms. Hanselman explained to Ms. Garate at that meeting how the funding for RtI is based on professional development and does not contain a separate budget for any subgroup such as ELL.

IRC – ISBE does agreed with this and will proceed.

Aspire training – Aspire is a statewide grant pilot and implementation of RtI. It is not for the community at large. It is possible that additional training may be developed outside of the district training.

Implementation of ELL – Ms. Hanselman explained to Ms. Garate that ISBE is looking at a couple of staff members for this but no one is currently in that role. Ms. Hanselman is trying to identify 2-3 people so everything is consistent.

Bilingual Special Education Directory – The ISBE website has an area where you can look up all teachers and certificates by the person or school. ISBE will see if it is possible to organize this information by subject.

### III. ISBE Update

#### LEA Determinations

Ms. Jodi Fleck stated that out of the 500 districts that needed to submit improvement plans, 394 are approved (as of October 1<sup>st</sup>) and ISBE is still consistently receiving plans. Ms. Fleck explained that they are looking into improving the process in the future including training on completing the template. This year's process went smoother than last year and she anticipates that trend to continue. Scott Beever stated that the statewide data that is being submitted is much better in terms of actual percentage for Illinois. He is already looking through the data to determine the next steps.

#### Focused Monitoring Update

David Andel stated that yesterday's presentation covered most topics for the focused monitoring system. He did restate that the two trainings will take place on 10/30/08 at Eisenhower Cooperative and on 11/06/08 at Edwardsville High School. Council members did not have any additional questions at this time.

#### Disproportionality

Scott Beever, Principal Consultant, reviewed a document which discussed Disproportionate Representation and Significant Disproportionality. Juana Burchell, also a Principal Consultant with ISBE discussed the weighted risk ratio and activities that will address this issue. They then answered questions from Council members.

**Motion #3** – Jim Surber **moved** that “ISBE use a weighted risk ratio of 4.0 or higher for a particular racial/ethnic group for significant disproportionality in educational environments where there are at least 20 students in the racial/ethnic group in question and at least 20 students in the comparison group, remaining consistent with the criteria used for significant disproportionality with regard to identification.” Jennifer Naddeo **seconded** the motion. Suzanne Lee asked to amend the motion to include “ask that ISBE staff share how, through the focused monitoring process and State Performance Plan evaluation, it will comprehensively monitor, target, and support improvement in districts with regard to disproportionality by race/ethnic group across educational environments.” Jim Surber and Jennifer Naddeo both agreed to the amendment. After further discussion, the motion carried.

#### Discipline Data Indicator 4

Now – ISBE aggregates data from every building in the state in terms of the number of students with IEPS who were expelled/suspended greater than 10 days (not together) – rate of that # of students suspended/expelled divided by 2.2% or higher are considered to be significantly discrepant with 5 or more students – districts that showed up for 1 or 2 years were designated to receive a lower level of T.A. - once a district was on the list for 3 years, there was a higher level of T.A. for them. OSEP was not completely satisfied with the structure of this particular tiered system. As a means to improve the structure, ISBE is considering adding language to the definition of significantly discrepant to address OSEP concerns. ISBE is proposing to change the definition to be a 3-year to begin with – define it first in definition and then use the tiered system. Basically add “for three consecutive years”.

**Motion - #4** – Suzanne Lee **moved** that “ISBE add the language ...three consecutive years...to the current definition of significant disproportionality in the rates of suspensions and expulsions of children with disabilities for greater than 10 days in a school year for SPP 4.” Marjorie Olson **seconded** the motion. **The motion carried.**

## **Other**

Comments were received and changes made to “Positive Behavioral Support and Interventions in Schools: Guidelines August 2008.” It will be on the ISBE website soon.

The revised parents’ rights guide is waiting for input from one other stakeholder group. It will then be forwarded to Legal and throughout ISBE for comment. At this time there is no release date.

401 Rules – On 09/16/08 JCAR prohibited the amendments to 401 Rules which dealt with aversive behavior treatments. The reason that has been given is that JCAR felt it would undermine the IEP process and override local control. Council members discussed options in light of this prohibition. It was noted that the Illinois School Code does prohibit aversive behavior techniques to be used on Illinois students and as such cannot be allowed or written into an IEP.

## **State Board Meetings / Future Meetings**

Chair Woods reviewed the list of State Board Meetings scheduled and the ISAC members who have agreed to attend. Future scheduled attendance includes: October - Springfield – Marjorie Olson; November – Springfield – Beth Conran (later changed to Chicago); December – Springfield – Marjorie Olson; January – Springfield – Suzanne Lee; February – Springfield – Susy Woods; March – Springfield – Lanée Walls.

## **IV. Committee Reports**

Committee reports will be available in the next ISAC packet.

*Executive* – There was no meeting so there is no report at this time.

*Access* – Kris Stanley, Chair – Chair Susy Woods approved the change from Kyle Packer as Access committee chair to Kris Stanley. The committee reviewed the goals they had previously set including: reviewing accessibility for special education students to the general education curriculum and educational materials in alternative formats; reviewing accessibility for students on field trips; literature review of best practice; and reviewing available resources .

*Ad Hoc Communications* – Rick Ramirez – The committee reviewed and edited the Fall, 2008 Newsletter draft. The second draft will be emailed to the Committee of the Whole for review and comment by 10/13/08. The deadline for submission of comments was set at 10/20/08. The final draft will be forwarded to Illinois Assistive Technology (IAT) for printing by 10/27/08. IAT has agreed to sponsor the black and white printing of 250 copies. Marjorie Olson will pick up the newsletter and distribute to the legislators at or around 11/10/08. The next newsletter will be developed in Spring, 2009 in coordination with the Legislative breakfast event. Beth Conran offered to sponsor the printing cost for the Spring, 2009 newsletter.

*Bilingual* – Tere Garate, Chair – Ms. Garate reviewed the issues that were already brought up about ELL, specifically the resource directory. ISAC agrees that it is important and offered the following:

**Motion - #5** –Tere Garate **moved** on behalf of the Bilingual Committee that “ISAC request the ISBE Certification Administrator to run a report of the Certification Database for all personnel (including teachers and related service personnel) with either a Bilingual and/or ESL endorsement and share this report with the Bilingual Committee of ISAC by the next ISAC meeting on December 10-11, 2008.” Jennifer Naddeo **seconded** the motion. **The motion carried.**

*Comprehensive State Plan* – Beth Conran, Chair – There was no meeting so there is no report at this time.

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

*Finance* – Mike Otte, Chair – Mr. Otte and Jim Surber met and discussed the presentation they plan to make to the ISBE Finance and Audit Committee on December 3, 2008. The presentation will be discussed during the November 3<sup>rd</sup> Executive Committee Conference Call. (The call did take place and presentation was approved on November 3, 2008 by the Executive Committee.)

*General Supervision/Due Process* – Rick Ramirez, Chair – The committee reviewed the ISAC General Supervision/Due Process by-laws. The focus of their goals for 2008-2009 will be to review and evaluate the effectiveness of conflict resolution options.

**Motion #6** – Rick Ramirez **moved** that “ISAC request from ISBE the latest due process annual report and all other related dispute resolution conflict data for the 2007-2008 school years to review and provide input as set forth in the ISAC by-laws.” Beth Conran **seconded** the motion. **The motion carried.**

*Legislation* – Stan Valentine, Chair – There was no meeting so there is no report at this time. Mr. Valentine did discuss put a flier similar to a “save the date” page for the Fourth annual Legislative Breakfast into the packets for the Transition Conference.

*Personnel Development* – Marjorie Olson, Chair - There was no meeting so there is no report at this time.

*Rules and Regulations* – Beth Conran, Chair – The committee discussed the status of the 401 Rules with JCAR (see discussion under ISBE Update). Ms. Conran also reviewed the rule making process (JCAR) and the changes to Part 130 Rules – Determining Special Education Per Capita Tuition Charge. This is a technical change only.

*Transition* – Deb Fornoff, Chair – Ms. Fornoff indicated the committee discussed several issues in an effort to formulate goals for the upcoming year including the role of the Transition Committee; how to effectively contribute to helping families and educators understand transition issues; data on transition process and outcomes in Illinois; a possible survey on transition issues for students, parents and educators; and, increasing communication and decreasing duplication of effort with the expansion of this committee.

*Illinois Interagency Coordinating Council on Transition (ICC)* – Marva Campbell-Pruitt was unable to attend the meeting so there was no report. Deb Fornoff is the

ISAC liaison to ICC. She did discuss the upcoming Transition Conference in Peoria on October 24<sup>th</sup> with Council Members. The ICC Annual Report is currently being written.

## **V. Old Business**

- A. Update on previous motions

## **VI. New Business**

- A. Annual Report – Beth Conran will email the draft of the ISAC Annual Report to members and asked that they send comments and suggestions to her directly.
- B. Tour of ISD – ISAC members were given a very enjoyable tour of the Illinois School for the Deaf Campus.
- C. Carrie Janes asked to make a motion that requests ISAC to send a letter to ISBE expressing concerns related to districts that are not providing a secondary label of deafness/hearing impairment in cases of students with other disabilities; thus not allowing hearing impairment services to students who may need it. After much discussion, Chair Woods assigned this issue to the Personnel Committee and Marjorie Olson for further review.
- D. Stan Valentine stated that ISBE is giving a stipend to bring students to the Transition Conference and wondered if it was possible for the same stipend to be given for students to attend the Legislative Breakfast. Mr. Valentine will contact Beth Hanselman regarding this issue.

## **VII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:32 p.m.