

ISBE – Behavior Committee

November 6, 2009

Present: Nathalie Deutsch, Al Podowski, Deborah Conn, Michelle Sauthey, Sol Rappaport, Paul Nijensohn, Sarah Sebert, Jeannette Lindsey, Gwen Rollins, Jolie Brown, and Sally Wilson-Gamble.

Each agency present reviewed their behavior charting/point/level systems. Some forms include individual goals while others are related to either demonstrating pro-social behaviors or not demonstrating problematic behaviors. Others combine all of the above.

The agencies then reviewed other data collection forms used, such as various questionnaires/tests to assess behavior and emotional functioning. Included in this were the use of SWIS, a program based out of Oregon to collect behavioral data. Non purely behavioral data questionnaires include the Piers-Harris Self-Concept Scale, the Child Symptom Inventory, the Function Assessment Interview Record, the Developmental Assets, and the Achenbach CBCL. There is a wide range of types of data collected among the different schools/agencies.

There was a discussion around whether we, as a group, are going to recommend specific questionnaires/inventories for schools to use, or give a range of inventories/questionnaires for schools to choose from. There is some indication from Paul that if possible it would be nice for data to be collected in such a way that all schools with similar types of students could be combined. However, without using the same system of data collection it will be difficult to do this. Paul indicated he does not want to try to increase the amount of work or money schools spend to collect the data.

There was also a discussion around not just collecting data on behavior and emotional functioning, but also on things such as time out of class, or time not focusing on what a student is supposed to be focused upon. There was an agreement that the committee is not ready to break up into subgroups yet and we still need to clarify what our goals are.

The next meeting will be at Easter Seals in Chicago. It will be on Tuesday, January 12, 2009 from 10-noon.