

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

Illinois State Board of Education  
100 North First Street  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room  
Springfield, IL 62703

**Business Meeting Minutes – Virtual Only  
April 13, 2022  
Noon  
(via GoTo Meeting)**

**ISAC Members Present**

<b>Katrina Anthony Elizabeth Campos-Hamilton Yun-Ching Chung Keith Dronen Judy Hackett</b>	<b>Diana Kon Christy Lee Gary Lewis Jennifer Naddeo</b>	<b>Carolina Schoenbeck Deborah Stein Cynthia Winfield Susy Woods</b>
--	---	--

**ISAC Members Absent**

<b>Ancel Montenelli Katie Blank ShaRhonda Dawson</b>	<b>Stephanie Jones Debra Vines Bambi Bethel-Leitschuh</b>	<b>Mary Wyman Lauren Proby</b>
--	---	------------------------------------

**ISBE Staff Present**

<b>Barbara Moore Peggy O’Neal Sue Taylor</b>		
--	--	--

**Guests Present**

<b>Alyssa Hart, Dunlap School District</b>	

**I. Procedural Business**

**A. Call to Order/Roll Call**

Elizabeth Campos-  
Hamilton/ Peggy O’Neal

Vice Chairperson Elizabeth Campos-Hamilton welcomed ISAC members and asked that they introduce themselves

B. Adoption of Agenda/Roll Call

Elizabeth Campos-Hamilton/ Peggy O'Neal

**Motion #1** –. Susy Woods made motion to accept agenda. Judy Hackett seconded. Motion passed.

C. Adoption of Special Business Meeting Minutes

Elizabeth Campos-Hamilton/ Peggy O'Neal

**Motion #2**

Katrina Anthony moved to accept Special Meeting Minutes. Jennifer Naddeo seconded. Motion passed.

D. Adoption of 2-22 Business Meeting Minutes

Elizabeth Campos-Hamilton/ Peggy O'Neal

**Motion #3**

Susy moved to adopt the 2-22 Business Meeting Minutes. Katrina Anthony seconded. Motion passed.

**II. Public Comment**

(Testimony Limited to Five Minutes per Person)

*Reasonable accommodations are available upon request. Individuals requiring special accommodations should contact the Illinois State Board of Education (voice: 217/782-5589 and TTY: 217/782-1900) at least one week prior to the meeting date to allow time for making accommodations.*

None.

**III. Illinois State Board of Education Update**

Barb Moore, ISBE

- A. Personnel Updates
- B. Data Updates
- C. Fiscal Updates
- D. OSEP Differentiated Monitoring System 2.0
- E. Children's Behavioral Health Transformation Initiative
- F. Residential Placements

**ISBE Personnel Updates -**

A new supervisor in our department will be announced soon that will be working with our nonpublic facilities, working with residential placement facilities, etc. Since our last meeting, we have filled positions for a monitor, grant specialist, and a technical assistant position. We are still looking for a director, as the department will be dividing into two

departments. We are still looking for a data manager, one additional monitor, and a program specialist.

**Data Updates** –We will be reviewing our annual performance report and our state systemic improvement plan with the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education, and find out if there are any corrections they are requesting of us. We have submitted our child count data; our number of students with disabilities who are receiving special education services: 289,165. which is slightly less than the previous year. 22, 755 are early childhood students, and school-age students 266,410. Out of those special education students who are English learners 56,831, which was a slight increase.

**Fiscal Updates** – Our IDEA Grant application is still open for public comment. We are still waiting for our allocations for FY23.

**OSEP Differentiated Monitoring System 2.0** – We are in Cohort 2, we anticipate monitoring beginning in October, phase 1 will be them requesting a number of documents from us, 2 would be on-site review, and 3 would be corrective action. As part of this process, they will be looking at parent input, and will be reaching out to ISAC.

**Children's Behavioral Health Transformation Initiative** – This is an initiative through the Governor's Office which is an interagency initiative including ISBE, DCFS, DHS, etc. The Governor's Office has hired an independent consultant, Dana Whiner, from the University of Chicago Chapin Hall, and she is looking at behavioral health supports for our students, and we are meeting with her to meet the mental health needs of our students with disabilities. Also, a press release was announced today that a 17.5 million dollar initiative to expand partnerships to promote mental health supports, and a number of community partnership grants totalling 86 million dollars that ISBE is working on which will provide more community support with regional offices of education on social and emotional learning hubs, which will support trauma-informed practices, with consideration of our children with disabilities and mental health needs.

**Residential Placements** – At the last meeting I had discussed rules for emergency placement, specifically regarding emergency or student specific placement in nonapproved facilities. We have seen some districts place students in nonapproved facilities as well as in approved facilities. Progress is being made in this area. Barb then asked for questions. Susy asked about the child find numbers and asked if she thought it had to do with covid. Barb said they are still analyzing this information. She will continue to look at the data more closely. We are still trying to identify the trends over time as to the decrease in numbers and whether it is truly the pandemic or just based on overall population within the state.

Elizabeth Campos-Hamilton asked Barb if she would go over the spit in the Special Education department for new members who were not present at the last meeting. Barb explained that the department will be separating into two divisions, programmatic support and operational support. Barb will still be the director of operational support, and continue to attend ISAC meetings. Dispute resolution and fiscal, legal/rules, etc. will be under operational support. Programmatic support will house the monitoring,

nonpublic education, and implementation of the many projects we fund. Once the new director is hired, I will introduce them to ISAC. Elizabeth Campos-Hamilton asked if ISAC could get a copy of the new department flow charts when finalized. Jennifer asked if there were partnerships with ISBE who would set the reimbursement rates for Medicaid/Medicare. I think one of the obstacles our students face is finding healthcare providers who accept public insurance, with waits up to a year to see a psychiatrist for urgent mental health issues. Does ISBE collaborate with those who set reimbursement rates? Barb stated that our wellness department does serve on some of those discussions. As I hear concerns brought up by schools, there are opportunities that I can share with the wellness department for our students with behavioral health needs.

#### **IV. Dunlap Comprehensive State Plan Presentation:**

Dr. Susy Woods

I would like to run some questions brought up by the subcommittee to the Dunlap representative. Regarding ongoing evaluations to ensure growth, is this embedded within the plan? Yes, we're constantly gathering data, so for program development we have send out surveys, and have evaluation to look at that and make changes, along with a special ed advisory committee to ensure we are working on our needs assessment. We are hiring staff, a new coordinator, social worker, OT and a hearing itinerant. Any questions from the committee? None. Sue Taylor went over the specifics of what the ISAC council duties are in recommending acceptance or modification of Dunlap's comprehensive plan which would be implemented July 1, 2022. ISBE will then take this into consideration, and work with the district for the following year, monitoring and offering assistance as needed. Susy then made a motion that ISAC accept the Dunlap Comprehensive State Plan. Katrina Anthony seconded. The motion passed.

#### **V. Subcommittee Reports**

Executive Committee

Bambi Bethel

Comprehensive State Plan Committee

Susy Woods

They met on 4-1-22 and discussed concerns with Dunlap's comprehensive plan. They will discuss who will be the Vice Chair.

Rules and Regulations will fall under Legislative subcommittee which hasn't met yet. They will meet before the 6-9-22 business meeting.

Jennifer Naddeo said the Significant Disproportionality subcommittee plans to meet before the June 9. Barb advised that Holly Fester w ISBE may be able to meet with your subcommittee and provide support.

Nomination subcommittee – Elizabeth Campos-Hamilton said the subcommittee has not met and is very small so if any members would like to serve on this committee please let her know or contact Peggy.

**VI. Required Trainings Outstanding** – Peggy advised there were several members who had not submitted their certificates for required trainings. Those members will be receiving an email from ISBE legislative liaison Barbara Hobrock.

**VII. By Laws Amendment – Section 2.5** – Elizabeth Campos-Hamilton advised they wanted to reinstate the language for the bilingual liaison, Barbara Moore stated that this revision was also including a liaison for the gifted and talented subcommittee which is a statutory commitment for the ISAC. Susy said she thinks this is a needed piece and would be good for ISAC to make sure we are out there and supporting this. Katrina Anthony asked if this would be one member or two? Barbara Moore stated they had suggested two ISAC members for this. This will be added to the June Business Meeting agenda as an action item.

**VIII. Areas of Focus for ISAC to dialogue with ISBE** – Barbara Moore stated this is an opportunity for ISAC to mention areas of interest for ISBE to address. Susy stated mental health was a big issue, she hears this from administrators, students and parents. Barbara Moore asked if she had specific concerns to bring to ISBE or just want this to continue to be a focus for ISBE? Susy stated she just wanted to make sure this continues to be addressed.

Barbara mentioned there is a lot of work going on within ISBE in this area, including behavioral strategies, training on effective behavioral intervention plans, and collaboration between departments. Barbara said she has been meeting with the private sector as well and nonpublic team members regarding accepting students, and that this is an area that we do need to continue to provide support. Judy Hackett said maybe we can look at some measures that we have to put those into focus, and hearing some of those ideas that really are making an impact and are working. Jennifer Naddeo also said some of the work that came out of the restraints and seclusion was highly stressful but the outcomes were so successful for kids and there should be a lot of data to support these positive outcomes. Regarding therapeutic day programs, we are in a crisis, most schools are understaffed at this point, they just are not staffed fully and so have to turn down referrals, so kids are stuck in limbo because we can't provide placement.

Barbara Moore agreed that ISBE is hearing that and are working with other agency partners and staffing shortages are a concern that we continue to hear. We are looking at recruitment areas, and how to build up programs and how we can support in those areas. Yun-Ching added that we also see teacher burn out and a decline in teacher enrollment. We need support for current special education teachers and recruitment as this decline is very concerning. Christy Lee also added that we need to start desegregating data as the numbers could look very different. Barbara Moore said maybe that is something I can share in the next meeting, as we collect data by disability areas, educational placement, and provide as a document to everyone.

Elizabeth stated that transition services keeps coming up in her work. She said parents want to make informed decision regarding selection of districts. Barbara Moore mentioned we have two team members who work on transitions. Elizabeth mentioned maybe we could take a look at this data and provide more support. Susy said that early

childhood is also impacted by a lack of openings and staffing for special needs children. Elizabeth brought up services in the IDJJ system. Could we look at the data for these kids. Barbara Moore said that we are looking at IDJJ as well as county detention centers. That is an initiative that ISBE is working on. We need to ensure they continue to receive their special education services in these areas and have smooth integration back into regular school systems.

**IX. June Meeting** – The business meeting will be at the Alzina Building in Springfield and will be in person and virtual. Any members who need a hotel room please let Peggy know. If you are attending and have any special dietary needs, let me know. You will be reimbursed for lodging, mileage, parking, etc. Elizabeth mentioned to please let Peggy know if you will be attending in person. Yun-Ching asked if we would get an invite. Yes, invites with agenda and attachments should be provided at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

#### **X. Recording IEP Meetings**

Christy Lee

Christy stated that she started recording her daughter's IEP meetings as they were being treated very unprofessionally. She has noticed a lot of benefits from these recordings, and she sees it as an unbiased account of what happened in the IEP meetings. It helps to provide an accurate record of what was discussed for the students. She sent out a survey which got a lot of responses supporting recording meetings. She wants this to be standardized to normalize and take away any stigma. Keith would like to get opinions from educators on this, he would not like to see these meetings recorded as he thinks it would negatively impact the free flow of ideas in the IEP meetings. Susy agrees with Keith and would have problems with this unless both parties agreed to recording.

Cynthia thinks it's a great idea. She teaches at the college level and could benefit with the retention of information from these meetings. Elizabeth said this would be a discussion for the legislative subcommittee. They would research and discuss this topic. Were any of the states you mentioned two-party states and did they make an amendment to this? Christy said California was the only two-party state that allowed the right to audio-record provided both sides agree to recording. Elizabeth encouraged members who had an interest in this topic to join the legislative committee in order to research and discuss. Judy said we really have to make sure there is a need for this law/regulation. This can be brought up as old business in the next business meeting. Katrina Anthony asked if this would be a cost issue for districts as well. Elizabeth added this is a good thing to bring to Christy's attention so she can bring this to the legislative committee. Susy said the legislative committee will meet before June.

#### **XI. Adjournment**

Elizabeth Campos-Hamilton

**Motion #4:** Dr. Susy Woods moved to adjourn the meeting; Judy Hackett seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 1:44 p.m.