

Continuing Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2022- Hybrid Meeting
9:05 AM - 11:57 AM

CAC Attendees: Agatha Thibodeaux, Jen Stratton, Laura Villareal, Amy Litzinger, Susan Nichols, Teresa Bronsky, JoAnn Wofford, Shemica S. Allen, April Estrada, Barbie Ezell, Aaron Bangor, Diana Nelson

CAC Absentees: Jana McKelvey, Rachel Dreiling, RayTijerina

Texas Education Agency: Keith Swink, Justin Porter, Stephanie Koch, Brittany Brettschneider

9:05 Welcome and Opening-Jen Stratton, CAC Chair

Quorum was reached at 9:05, Jen Stratton opened the meeting and reviewed meeting guidelines, and agenda for the day. Quorum was present.

- Introduction of new members and current members.

9:12 Presentation by Justin Porter TEA, State Director of Special Education

Update on the letter from USDOE: OSEP corrective action.

- Texas Commission of Special Education Funding - Planning is taking place and updates will be provided as progress is made.
 - <https://tea.texas.gov/finance-and-grants/state-funding/additional-finance-resources/texas-commission-on-special-education-funding#:~:text=House%20Bill%201525%2C%2087th%20Texas,related%20to%20special%20education%20funding>
- Keith Swink introduced Stephanie Koch as taking over for him as our committee liaison.

9:38 Public Comment

Steven Aleman – **with Disability Rights Texas**

- Steven addresses abuse of students with disabilities in the classroom.
- Improvements to the Funding for Special Education

9:50 Discuss Possible Topics for the CAC's Next Legislative Report

Subcommittees

- Funding (Jo Ann, Amy, Diana, Barbie)
 - Checks & Balance
 - Instructional Arrangement
 - Funding should not depend on setting
 - More funding goes to LRE (least restrictive environment)
 - Staff resources instead of placement
 - Staff Shortages
- Staff Qualifications (Shemica, Teresa, Agatha, April, Susan)
 - Continued Training for Para professionals/Aides
 - State Level

- Level of Education on entry
- Expectation/job descriptions
- Staffing Digital literacy and accessibility (Aaron, Amy)
 - Connectivity in rural areas
 - Procurement
 - Accessibility
 - Staff training
 - Staff literacy of digital media
 - Assistive technology development and troubleshooting
- Transition Planning (Amy, Aaron, Jen)
 - Long and Short Term
 - Virtual Options
 - Lack of opportunities (traditional entry level jobs)
 - Work Programs during/post pandemic
 - More robust health and safety standards
- Mental Health & Behavior Health/Wellness of Staff and Students (Agatha, Barbie, Jen)
 - Restraint and Seclusion
 - Cameras in the Classroom
 - Staff and student well-being post pandemic

11:47 Discuss Possible Future Meeting Dates and Take Possible Action on Current and Future Topics

- Request for information from Educator Support on continued training for Instructional aides.
- Request for Information on Transition Funding for on-the-job training.
- Update from Justin Porter on OSEP.
- Request for update on the digital Curriculum Advisory Committee.
- Continued work on legislative report

11:55 Approve Minutes

Minutes were approved. Jen Stratton moved to approve the minutes. Barbie Ezell seconded the motion.

11:57 Motion to Adjourn

Jen Stratton made a motion to adjourn. Shemica Allen seconded motion. Meeting adjourned at 11:57.