

Continuing Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2022- Hybrid Meeting
9:06 AM - 1:08 AM

CAC Attendees: Agatha Thibodeaux, Jen Stratton, Laura Villareal, Amy Litzinger, Teresa Bronsky, JoAnn Wofford, April Estrada, Barbie Ezell, Aaron Bangor, Diana Nelson, Sheryl Kubala

CAC Absentees: Susan Nichols, Shemica S. Allen

Texas Education Agency: Justin Porter, Stephanie Koch, Jerry Klelotta, Marilyn Cook, Brittany Brettschneider, Susan Bineham

9:06 Welcome and Opening-Jen Stratton, CAC Chair

Quorum was reached at 9:06, Jen Stratton opened the meeting and reviewed meeting guidelines, and agenda for the day. Quorum was present.

9:10 Presentation by Justin Porter TEA, State Director of Special Education

Updates from TEA

- SB 89 – Requires increased documentation as part of the monitoring process.
- USDOE: OSEP corrective action.
- Texas Commission of Special Education Funding -
- <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>

Presentation by Brittany Brettschneider, TEA

- Orientation Training for new and existing members.

Presentation by Jerry Klelotta, TEA

Potential On-the-Job Funding

- Program Guidelines 2022-2023 Special Education Consolidated Grant Application (Federal)
 - Authorized by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), as amended by the IDEA Improvement Act of 2004, Public Law 108-446, Part B
- Texas Workforce Commission-Vocational Rehabilitation
 - TWC-VR does have a funding source to pay for internships and would be coordinated with your local VR counselor. Payment made by TWC-VR is used but needs to be aligned with the IEP and transition goals.
 - [Vocational Rehabilitation - Youth & Students | Texas Workforce Commission](#)

Presentation by Keith Swink, TEA

- Proposed Rule Text regarding Dispute Resolution.

Presentation by Marilyn Cook, TEA

- Answers questions on Education Certification

10:01 Public Comment

Steven Aleman – **with Disability Rights Texas**

- Finance Reform Commission on Special Education
 - Cohesive message to the Legislature on Special Education

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

Link to Last Legislative Report:

<https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/2021-CAC-SPECIAL-EDUCATION-POLICY-RECOMMEDATIONS-REPORT.pdf>

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
 - ***The report should reflect that the responsibility of digital technology not fall on the shoulders of the student or the parent.***
- 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
 - ***Job Coaching, Job supports, technology supports***
 - ***Students transiting in an increasingly digital world***
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- 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
 - ***Broaden questions in the ARD meeting in which social emotional/trauma be discussed.***
 - ***Informational campaign aimed at teachers and staff of all mental health resources available to them both in-person and virtual.***

12:47 Discuss Possible Future Meeting Dates and Take Possible Action on Current and Future Topics

- Request information about the process for updating TEA's Long-Range Plan for Technology including whether there is input from stakeholders representing special education and those with knowledge of assistive and accessible technologies.
- Request update from Teacher Vacancy Task Force.
- Request Information from Justin Porter on OSEP.
- Request for update on the digital Curriculum Advisory Committee.
- Request an update on TEA's Inclusion Network including what training is available to general education teachers to prepare them to teach students with special needs in an inclusion setting.
- Requesting information on transition planning and data pertaining to post graduate transition implementation and success.
- Request for updates on current mental and behavioral health for students with special needs.
- Continued work on legislative report
- Proposed meeting dates of September 21, 2022 and October 19, 2022.

1:07 Approve Minutes

Minutes were approved. Amy Litzinger moved to approve the minutes. April Estrada seconded the motion.

1:08 Motion to Adjourn

Amy Litzinger made a motion to adjourn. Jen Stratton seconded motion. Meeting adjourned at 11:57.