

Continuing Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting Minutes
July 22, 2021-Zoom Meeting
9:00 AM-11:03 AM

CAC Attendees: Agatha Thibodeaux, Alicia Giordano, Laurie Rodriguez, Jen Stratton, Laura Villareal, Elizabeth “Beth” Donaldson, Jana Burns, Amy Litzinger, JoAnn Wofford, Susan Nichols, Teresa Bronsky, Stephanie Martinez

CAC Absentees:, Jana McKelvey, Shemica S. Allen, Rachel Dreiling, RayTr

Texas Education Agency: Keith Swink, Justin Porter, Ed O’Neil, Kelly Goodman

9:01 Welcome and Opening-Jen Stratton, CAC Chair

Quorum was reached at 9:01, Jen Stratton opened the meeting and reviewed meeting guidelines, and agenda for the day. Quorum was present.

9:02 Presentation by TEA Justin Porter State Director for Special Education, regarding Legislative Update

- **Senate Bill 1716** – PASSED, expands the SSES to all students with an IEP in grades PK-12.
- **Senate Bill 89** – Requires LEA’s to include certain documentation in a student’s IEP.
- **House Bill 4545** – Relating to creating an accelerated program to that didn’t pass areas of the STARR testing.
- **House Bill 1252** – Extends the limitation period for filing a complaint and requesting a special education impartial due process to two years from one.
- **House Bill 785** – Requires additional action on the part of LEA’s for students receiving behavioral services.
- **Senate Bill 776** – Relating to the creation of an inclusive sports program by the University Interscholastic League to provide students with intellectual disabilities access to team sports.
- **House Bill 159** – Relating to training and staff development for primary and secondary educators to enable them to more effectively serve all students.
- **House Bill 2256** – Relating to creating a bilingual special education certification to teach students of limited English proficiency with disabilities.
- **Senate Bill 40** – Relating to the provision of telehealth services by certain health professionals licensed by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.
- **Additional appropriation from the Texas 87th Legislature of \$44M.**
 - Additional funding to flow to LEAs to support Special Education programming.
- **American Rescue Plan of 2021**, additional funding of \$275M to flow to LEAs to support IDEA implementation.

9:50 Presentation by TEA Ed O’Neil and Kelly Goodman, Update on Supplementation Special Education Services (SSES).

Ed O’Neil and Kelly Goodman present an Overview of Supplemental Special Education services and updates with current legislation.

- Apply to Students enrolled in the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school year are eligible to apply. Online accounts in a digital marketplace for families to shop for goods and

services using the \$1500 per student in their digital wallet. 18,000 accounts are available each year through the Fall of 2024.

- Current Numbers for the programs include:
 - 9,575 students have/will soon have accounts on ClassWallet
 - Over 47,000 educational items have been approved and purchased
 - Over 12,400 educational orders have been approved and purchased
 - Approximately 890 additional services invoices approved.
- How it Works:
 - Families apply through TEA website
 - TEA approves (yes or no) that the student meets/does not meet eligibility
 - Provides an approved family directions and link to their online account
 - If family appeals non-approval, they will be referred to SSES Team for guidance
 - Family registers for the online account
 - Immediate access to the money and market place is made available
 - Families do not have access to actual money and the account is only accessible through the online portal and available to use with approved vendors, goods, and services within the portal.
- What families can purchase:
 - Tutoring in all subjects
 - Educationally related services (OT, PT, BCBA, SLP)
 - Textbook, curriculum, or other instructional materials to be used at home
 - Computer hardware, software, or other technological devices that are needed for education
- Upcoming changes to SSES:
 - Who's eligible – Final details to be released August 2021

Link:

www.SSES.tea.texas.gov

Link to video:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLYCCyVaf2g1uuJubYUp-qoSyAqAUr9MG2>

Purchasing Guideline Link:

<https://classwallet.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/SSES-Purchasing-Guidelines-2-amended.pdf>

10:35 Public Comment

Linda Litzinger – **with Texas Parent to Parent**

10:38 Discuss, Recommend, and Take Possible Action on Current and Future Topics

- Ongoing Updates on Legislative Session and TEA Policy and Procedure.
- Discuss topics for our next legislative report
- Update on progress of rule making
- Amy to present progress on our legislative items from our last report
- Brainstorming of ideas for a longer meeting in November for a 5 hour

10:47 Jen Stratton moved to have our November 10th meeting last 4 hours from 9-1. JoAnn Wofford seconded that motion. The committee voted and approved.

11:02 Minutes were approved. Amy Litzinger moved to approve the minutes. Jen Stratton seconded the motion.

11:03 Motion to Adjourn

Jen Stratton made a motion to adjourn. Alicia Giordano seconded motion. Meeting adjourned at 10:37.