

October 3, 2016, Continuing Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting - Minutes
Texas Education Agency, Travis Building | PDC 7
1701 N. Congress Ave., Austin, TX 78701
9:30 am – 3:30 pm

CAC Attendees Jana Burns, Jennifer Cantu, Debra Emerson, Julia Erwin, Robin Lock, Vickie Mitchell, Nagla Moussa, Laurie Rodriguez, Erin Wilder, Myeshi Williams-Briley

CAC Absentees Elvia Espino, Susan Johnson, Debbie Unruh, Jen Wylie

Texas Education Agency (TEA) Resources Heather Reisman, Michelle Rosales, Keith Swink

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| Welcome and Opening – Keith Swink | Mr. Keith Swink welcomed participants. He explained the committee would not have an outside facilitator for the meeting. |
| Public Comments – Vickie Mitchell | None. |
| Business Meeting – Vickie Mitchell | <p>The committee reviewed the August 10, 2016 minutes. The minutes were approved after a motion from Ms. Wilder, seconded by Ms. Vickie Mitchell and approved, unopposed, by all the committee members. The committee discussed any concerns/issues since the last meeting.</p> <p>Ms. Debra Emerson discussed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). She said that when the state removes children from their home, it is in their best interest to continue in their school of origin. Her agency works with local educational agencies (LEAs) to get students transported to their school of origin. She also informed the committee she will be transitioning off the CAC, but that Ms. Christine Mahjer, state office educational specialist, would be applying to be her agency replacement for the CAC.</p> <p>Ms. Mitchell discussed the Texas Council grant that was submitted, but Texas was not selected to receive it.</p> <p>CAC members wished to discuss then-recent news articles related to child find.</p> <p>TEA informed the committee that the Division of Federal and State Education Policy has been renamed IDEA Support.</p> <p>Ms. Myeshi Williams-Briley stated there needs to be a representation of diversity on the board for new members coming in.</p> |
| DARS Update – Erin Wilder | <p>Ms. Erin Wilder discussed the Texas Workforce Solutions Vocational Rehabilitation Services, VR or VRS for short. Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) regulations came out at the end of June, and VRS are continuing to review those and understand how it applies to Texas. The final regulations are not much different from the proposed regulations. VRS is working with Division for the Blind Services (DBS) to update guidance for the field.</p> <p>Ms. Myeshi Williams-Briley stated that she is still interested in the plan/process moving forward regarding the replacement for adaptive technology. Ms. Wilder said she would see if she could get more information regarding that.</p> |
| Dialogue Time – Vickie Mitchell | <p>CAC members discussed Indicator 10 and then-recent news articles related to the topic.</p> <p>TEA shared a copy of the Commissioner’s response to the news articles.</p> <p>The CAC proposed two possible action items. 1) a subcommittee regarding under-identification; and 2) a disproportionality discussion at the February meeting.</p> <p>Ms. Jennifer Cantu asked who would chair the new subcommittee regarding under-identification. Ms. Nagla Moussa, Ms. Emerson, Ms. Robin Locke, and Ms. Laurie Rodriguez (resource only) volunteered to be on the subcommittee. It was suggested that committee define the purpose and provide a time limit for the subcommittee.</p> |

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| Subcommittee Update | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CTE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The subcommittee has not finalized the questions it plans to send to TEA. The goal is to have questions to TEA within the next two months from across the state from special education and CTE directors. • Juvenile Justice (JJ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The subcommittee passed out information advising TEA of unmet needs and implementing policies in coordination of services. The next steps identified are to discuss at an ESC face-to-face (F2F) meeting and consider a symposium. ○ Ms. Mitchell commented that the ESCs would be a great place to get information out to the LEAs. Mr. Swink recommended that this be brought to the F2F meeting. ○ Committee discussed the retention rate of minutes and documents. Ms. Mitchell liked the idea of giving minutes from the past two years to new members. She stated she would create a chart of what was covered and the results of the unmet needs. ○ Ms. Emerson motioned that the committee accept the information from the JJ subcommittee and present it to TEA. Ms. Williams-Briley seconded. The committee vote approved the motion. | |
| Complaints Feedback activity – Keith Swink | Prior to the meeting, the committee reviewed the complaints acknowledgement letter that TEA sends to the LEAs and complainants regarding the complaint. The CAC offered a few comments and suggested edits, and TEA will incorporate those into the letter. | |
| STAAR – Justin Porter & Mariana Vassileva | Mr. Justin Porter and Ms. Mariana Vassileva discussed changes in STAAR L and STAAR A and responded to questions from the CAC. | |
| Possible Future Topics – Vickie Mitchell | <p>Ms. Rodriguez asked for an update about cameras in the classroom. Ms. Heather Reisman explained that the cameras in the classroom issue is a health and safety issue, not a special education issue.</p> <p>Ms. Rodriguez asked for a legislative update.</p> <p>Ms. Mitchell asked about positive behavior intervention and support (PBIS).</p> <p>Ms. Mitchell mentioned the ad hoc committee for transition services. The committee will look at it again in February to establish a purpose and determine committee membership.</p> <p>Ms. Cantu asked about onboarding of new members.</p> | |
| Closing for the Day | Meeting ended at 3:30pm | |
| Future Meeting Dates | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 15, 2017 @ESC 13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 2, 2017 @ESC 13 |