

**Continuing Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2020
Region 13 Education Service Center
5701 Springdale Rd. Austin, TX 78723**

CAC Attendees: Agatha Thibodeaux, Shemica S. Allen, Jana Burns, Laura Villareal, JoAnn Wofford, Elizabeth Donaldson, Amy Litzinger, Teresa Bronsky, Stephanie Martinez, Alicia Giordano, Jen Stratton, Laurie Rodriguez, Jana McKelvey

CAC Absentees: Rachel Dreiling, Ray Tijerina, Kristine Mohajer

Texas Education Agency: Sandra Serna, Michelle Rosales, Susan May, Jonel Peralta

9:02 Welcome and Opening- Agatha Thibodeaux, CAC Chair

Agatha Thibodeaux opened the meeting, reviewed meeting guidelines, and agenda for the day. Quorum was present.

Update on Special Education Allotment Committee-Agatha Thibodeaux

Agatha reviewed the purpose of the Special Education Allotment Committee. The committee was formed as a result of the 86th Legislative Session passing House Bill 3. The committee was developed to make recommendations regarding methods of financing special education under the public school finance committee. Agatha is a member of the Allotment committee.

Update on 2019 TEA Annual Report-Agatha Thibodeaux

Reviewed Top 4 Special Education priorities.

Updates on CAC Standing Sub-Committees

Due Process Summaries-JoAnn Wofford discussed her findings with the due process summaries from recent due process hearings. JoAnn found that a majority of the due process summaries concerned students diagnosed with emotional disturbance and the lack of a Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) in their IEP. Laurie Rodriguez discussed what her district is currently implementing to better serve students with emotional disturbance and behavior issues. Teachers and paraprofessionals in her district are being trained as a Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) to better help serve students with emotional disturbance and behavior issues. There are 38 teachers, parents, and paraprofessionals being trained. JoAnn also said she found a few due process summaries regarding placement issues.

SPED Current Events-Shemica Allen discussed trends she has seen regarding charter schools and compliance with IDEA and lack of training of general education teachers and special education paraprofessionals. Laurie shared that her district had two days of training at the beginning of the school year for special education paraprofessionals. Amy Litzinger shared that she wished more of her paraprofessionals had been adequately trained. There was also discussion on why better training of general education teachers and paraprofessionals has not occurred. Discussion around this question and the implementation of the autism supplement took place. Amy volunteered to give a presentation at the next meeting on how she advocated for her needs in college classes.

9:45-10:00 Break

Presentation by Dr. Valerie Mazzotti, Associate Professor in the Department of Special Education and Child Development at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte. Dr.

Mazzotti presented on the streamline process for SPP Indicator 14 data collection. Indicator 14 is now a state reporting feature in the Texas Student Data System (TSDS). The TSDS Core Application will include the Indicator 14 collection. The Indicator 14 collection will be used to gather data from students with disabilities enrolled in grades 9-12 who have exited a local education agency (LEA) and their post-secondary plans. This data will be used to inform all stakeholders about the effectiveness of educational programs and student outcomes for youth who are no longer in secondary school and had an Individual Education Program (IEP) in effect at the time they left school. Dr. Mazzotti then took questions from the committee and will email her presentation to the CAC email address.

Discussion, recommendations, and possible action on CAC 2021 Legislative Report-Agatha Thibodeaux

Committee began discussion on Legislative Report Table of Topics. Amy presented a report on 2019 Legislative Report and which topics will be included in the new Legislative Report. Discussion on formation of topic subcommittees took place. The following topic subcommittees were formed-Teacher Certification/Qualifications of Paraprofessionals, Dispute Resolution-IEP Facilitation & Impartial Hearing Officers, Mental Health, Data Privacy, and High School Graduation Requirements-VAC class counted as a State Elective Credit & Funding of 18+ Transition programs.

11:45-12:50 Lunch

Public Comments-Agatha Thibodeaux

Public comments began at 1:00 pm.

Linda Litzinger, Policy Specialist for Texas Parent to Parent, discussed SHARS billing and some billing issues from some companies. Some families have approached Linda to discuss erroneous & irregular billing practices.

Steven Aleman, Policy Specialist for Disability Rights, discussed the proposed amendment that would implement a procedure for appointing a parent or appropriate individual to represent the educational interests of a child with a disability who has reached the age of majority and who has been determined not to have the ability to provide informed consent with respect to his or her education.

Steven also informed the committee of the Special Education Allotment Committee online virtual town hall meeting to discuss special education funding that will take place Thursday, March 26 at 6:00 pm. Steven will send the registration link to the CAC email address.

Public comments ended at 1:08 pm.

Officer Elections-Agatha Thibodeaux

Nominations for officers were taken and committee voted on officers for Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. The following are the officers 2020-2021:

Chair-Agatha Thibodeaux

Vice Chair-Jen Stratton

Secretary-Shemica S. Allen

Setting meeting dates-Agatha Thibodeaux

Discussion was held on meeting dates for 2020-2021. The following are the meeting dates for 2020-2021. Discussion was held if meeting dates are going to be by calendar year or school year.

March 31, 2020

May 6, 2020

July 23, 2020

September 28, 2020

November 10, 2020

February 18, 2021

Discussion, recommendations, and possible action on CAC 2021 Legislative Report-Agatha Thibodeaux

Committee members were assigned to Legislative Report Subcommittees.

Teacher Certification/Qualifications of Paraprofessionals

Shemica S. Allen

Amy Litzinger

Stephanie Martinez

Alicia Giordano

Dispute Resolution-IEP Facilitation & Impartial Hearing Officers

Jana Burns

Jen Stratton

JoAnn Woffard

Mental Health

Elizabeth Donaldson

Agatha Thibodeaux

Teresa Bronsky

Laura Villareal

Data Privacy

Jana McKelvey

Rachel Dreiling

High School Graduation Requirements-VAC class counted as a State Elective credit & Funding of 18+ Transition programs.

Laurie Rodriguez

Agatha Thibodeaux

Discussion, recommendations, and possible action on current minutes and future meeting topics-Agatha Thibodeaux

Future meeting topics include Amy's presentation on how she advocates for her needs in various settings. Also topic of new teacher certification requirements. Current minutes were reviewed and accepted by the Committee.

3:34 Motion to Adjourn

JoAnn Wofford made a motion to adjourn. Jen Stratton seconded motion. Meeting adjourned at 3:34.