

State Superintendent's Advisory Council Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Tuesday October 27, 2015
CESA 1 Pewaukee- Conference Room A119
Notes

Voting members: Margaret James, Cookie Roang, Amy Schuh, Kory Koneazny, Cookie Roang, Beth Larimer, Lisa Perry-Burkhardt, Kip Jackson, Amy Otis-Wilborn, Paula Minix.

DPI Staff: Marcy Dicker, Marla Walsh, Maria Rivera, Rita Dietzel, Dr. Barbara Van Haren

Note taker: Rita Dietzel (Maria Rivera typed up the minutes)

Interpreters: Sara Miller and Leia Sparks

Guests: Brian Lievens, Carol Schweitzer

I. Introductions

- a. Call to order
- b. Housekeeping
- c. Agenda review
 - i. May minutes accepted, and October agenda accepted with the revision of: End time for this meeting will be 3pm instead of 3:30pm. Beth motioned, Kory Seconded the motion, motion was carried unanimously.

II. 9:30 a.m. DPI Reports

- a. Marla Walsh and Brian Lievens WSD Report: See Attachment A
- b. Marcy Dicker WESP-DHH Outreach Report – See Attachment B

III. 10:30 a.m. EIPA Discussion

- a. Carol Schweitzer- Update
 - i. Andrew moved that the discussion on EIPA be moved to closed session. Michelle seconded. Motion passed.

IV. 2:00pm Setting Council Priorities

- a. It was agreed that from the list of topics on the agenda that, 'providing guidance regarding the EIPA' will be of priority this school year.

V. Next meeting date set for Thursday, January 14, 9-3 at WSD in Delavan.

Adjourned at 3:00pm

VI. ATTACHMENT A

WESPDHH Director's Report October 26, 2015

WSD Online Courses

Brian Lievens, teacher at WSD shared an update on the status of the online courses offered through WSD. This year, we are offering 3 classes online. The challenge has been block schedules and timing, as we have different class schedules that other schools around the state. Classes are offered for middle school and high school. Elementary was considered, although there would need to be assistance on the student's end to make sure that the student keeps their attention. Another option we have been exploring is providing ASL instruction to parents, families and students in the evenings.

New initiatives

Marla Walsh is the interim Director for WESP-DHH as Alex Slappey has retired as of June 2015.

CEASD Accreditation will be addressed in the Spring, as the following new initiatives are currently a priority for the school.

WSD is in the process of transitioning to Google Apps for Education (GAFE) as an email and communication system. This will be a great transition, and will require extensive training for teachers, students, and other WSD staff. We expect to be fully transitioned by December.

The State of Wisconsin is transitioning to the STAR Project for business and time reporting operations. This too requires training for all of our staff.

WSD will be using a new IEP software called IEP Anywhere. This will streamline our IEP process and ensure smooth collaboration and information sharing.

Along with the new IEP software, WSD is working on implementing a new Behavior Plugin for our Powerschool program.

Other news

WSD has hired it's first male nurse, Steve Schradel. We are looking forward to working with him, as this is the first male nurse WSD has had. The Health Center has done an amazing job with health initiatives for our students and staff, including health fair (Field Trip to Wellness), staff exercise classes, and community 5k (being planned for this spring).

Joel Olsen is our new Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds and is getting acclimated to the campus, working with John Brown to learn the ropes. Projects in the works are dorm bathroom renovations, Kastner Hall basement renovations, and repairing the Powerhouse chimney.

We are currently looking for a new School Psychologist, as our former school psychologist Kent Schafer has moved on to a new position elsewhere. Currently, our IEP needs will be covered by Hollie Barnes-Spink from the WESP-DHH Outreach team.

Our school Social Worker Jamie Chapin is working with an intern this semester.

We have established a new policy on free meals, limiting free meals to students and assigned staff with non-duty free lunch.

WSD will be hosting the Great Plains Schools for the Deaf tournament February 11-13. 8 schools from the GPSD conference will be on our campus the entire weekend. We are looking forward to a great event.

The Jr. NAD students will be going the Jr. NAD conference in Orlando, FL November 11-22. We are sending 3 students to this conference to learn about leadership and self discovery.

Enrollment

Currently, WSD has 91 students enrolled in the school, compared to 86 last year at this time. There are 6 potential new enrollments- 4 of those, as a direct result of the Family Conference. Our greatest growth has been seen in the preschool and elementary grades.

ATTACHMENT B

WESPDHH Outreach Director's Report October 26, 2015

OUTREACH STAFF UPDATES

- **Laurie Nelson**, Parent Liaison, was formerly a .80 FTE employee. She has become a 1.0 FTE (full time) employee as of September 2015.
- **Jennifer Meyer**, Diagnostic/Educational Consultant is currently on medical leave. She is pregnant with twins and due in early November!
- **Sherry Kimball**, Early Childhood: Deaf/Hard of Hearing consultant left her position in August, 2015.
 - o Interviews for this position are being held in early November. The position was posted once, and we had one potentially qualified candidate, whom we interviewed. We then reposted the position, and will be interviewing again. Position was announced at the recent conference, and I had several inquiries this time around. We are hoping for a larger pool of candidates. Interviews will be scheduled on 11/23 and 11/25.

PAST EVENTS

- **Summer Institute – August, 2015, Carroll University, Waukesha**

Used presenters from Outreach staff collaboratively with outside presenters and developed a format that allowed for increased “hands on application” of principles.

Topics offered:

 - o **Universal Design for Learning and Technology**
Presenters: Lindsay Raclaw, WESP-DHH Outreach Technology Coordinator and James Tomasino, Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing
 - o **American Sign Language (ASL) Skillbuilding**
Presenters: Marika Kovacs-Houlihan and Jen Hayes, UWM ASL Studies Dept.
 - o **Mental Health and Students who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deafblind**
 - **Part 1: Shift Your Perspective: Understanding the Impact of Trauma and Early Childhood Adversity**
 - **Part 2: Trauma in Children: What Do We Do to Help Our Students?**Presenters: Joann Stephens, Family Relations Coordinator, Wisconsin Office on Children's Mental Health, DHS and Eve Dicker-Eiseman, Mental Health Therapist, Hollie Barnes-Spink, WESP-DHH Outreach School Psychology Consultant.
- **Deaf Awareness Week Collaboration: Adult Role Models**
 - o Collaboration with UWM
 - o “Deaf Stories” (Thursday) – Brice Christianson identified and worked with six diverse deaf/hard of hearing adults to present their “stories.” All were videotapes and will be on the “Adult Role Model” page of our website (see below)
- **Annual Statewide Professional and Family Conference**
 - o Held in Fall (October 22-25, 2015) for the first time, at Olympia Conference Center and Hotel.
 - o Theme: “**Moving Forward**” (Transition; College and Career Readiness)
 - o Keynote Presenters:
 - **Tom Holcomb** is considered a leading authority on Deaf culture. His presentation to parents encouraged families to love and be inclusive of their d/hh children. To professionals, he suggested the Deaf culture offered solutions for communication access and effective communication between the deaf and hearing worlds:
<http://www.americandeafculture.com/about-me.html>
 - **Djene Morris**, inspirational speaker with a focus on family, interpersonal and cultural dynamics and parent/professional partnerships: <http://www.todaywithdjene.com/>
 - o ASL Skillbuilding for Professionals (Saturday): **Melissa Smith**, author of “More than Meets the Eye: Revealing the Complexities of an Interpreted Education”
(<http://digiterp.com/new/faqs/educational-interpreting-resources/>).

- o Deafblind Strand – **Margaret Gilbride**, from Rutgers University Center for Excellence in Development Disabilities Education, Research and Service: http://rwjms.rutgers.edu/boggscenter/faculty_staff/Gilbride.html. Presentation for families with children who were deafblind and deaf-plus focused on person-centered planning.
 - o Spanish Speaking Family Strand
 - o Children’s Activities – incorporating College and Career Readiness Activities (What do you want to be when you grow up? What NOT to wear to an Interview, etc.). Scott Kendziorski and Chris Rawlings, from WSD, worked with children.
 - o Role Model Panel – Brice Christianson facilitated; Five diverse individuals participated
 - o Exhibit Hall – incorporated College and Transition Fair exhibits (colleges, post-secondary programming and supports) into the exhibit hall
 - o Conference Ambassador – Michelle Pandian
 - o Attendance – lower this year than previously for the families
 - o Plans for the future
 - Timing
 - Location
 - Duration/cost of conferences
- **Indicator #14 of the State Performance Plan (SPP) – Post High School Outcomes** - Indicator 14 helps DPI describe the further education and competitive employment experiences of youth with disabilities as they transition from high school to adult life. Indicator **requires states report an unduplicated count of the:** *“Percent of youth who are no longer in secondary school, had IEPs in effect at the time they left school, and were:*
 - A. *Enrolled in higher education within one year of leaving high school.*
 - B. *Enrolled in higher education or competitively employed within one year of leaving high school.*
 - C. *Enrolled in higher education or in some other postsecondary education or training; or competitively employed or in some other employment within one year of leaving high school”*

Data for this indicator is be collected through the Post School Outcomes Survey (<http://www.wipso.org/>). Historically, we have not been able to segregate out or get good data on our D/HH students. Maryann Barnett, WESP-DHH Outreach Transition Coordinator, has been working with trainers to provide interviewers with the ability to interact with D/HH students and provide those individuals with training. We are looking forward to seeing the results of these efforts in providing more comprehensive data on D/HH students and post school outcomes.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES/PROJECTS

- **Website**
 - o Branding – WSD, DPI and Outreach are working together to develop logos that align us with DPI branding, and also align WSD and Outreach more closely.
 - o The website has been re-designed. It has a different look, allows for more embedding of video and technology, and the Home Page better reflects and describes our connection.
 - o Highlighted: Our new Adult Role Models page: <http://wespdhh.org/outreach/students/rolemodels/>
- **Consultations** – We are in the process of redesigning our consultation process to include more follow up and opportunities for ongoing coaching and modeling.
- **Support Groups** – We piloted an initiative last year, bringing together several school districts for four meetings throughout the year. Hollie Barnes Spink facilitated these groups, and worked with teachers to determine topics. We will continue to grow this program; four different areas of the state will participate; topics will be consistent from region to region. Hollie will meet, in person, with each “group” for their first meeting, and will use technology to join and facilitate the rest of the sessions. Sessions are scheduled on a monthly basis for four months during second semester.

- **Partners in Listening (PiL)** – This program focuses on supporting the listening and spoken language needs of young students, through professional development and parent education. This year, we will be focusing on training for Birth to 3 professionals. We are in discussions with the Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program to ensure good attendance and that our training meets the needs of these professionals. The symposium is scheduled for the spring, March 3-4, 2016 but details have not been determined. In addition, we will be infusing PiL trainings at other events that we provide (such as the recent Professional and Family Conference).

DPI INITIATIVES

- **Focus for DPI initiatives will become focus for Outreach Programming:**
 - College and Career Readiness
 - Results Driven Accountability: Literacy
- **Assessment Accommodations** – With a the new statewide assessment, teams from WCBVI and WESP-DHH will be involved prior to implementation of the test, to determine necessary accommodations for students with disabilities.

FUTURE EVENTS

- **PST (Program Support Teachers) Meetings**
 - **Collaborative PST Meeting (for all Special Ed)**
 - December 10 & 11, 2015 – Wisconsin Dells
 - “Ownership By All: Promoting Literacy”
 - There will be a breakout session to discuss application for children who are D/HH and B/VI.
 - For more information, go to: <http://sped.dpi.wi.gov/collab-pst>
 - For a meeting agenda, go to: http://sped.dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sped/pdf/pst_collab-agenda.pdf
 - **Regional DHH PST Meetings – Topics TBD** – These all-day meetings are designed to share information related to DPI updates and initiatives, specifically as they apply to professionals in the field of Deaf education, to gather information from D/HH professionals, and to provide valuable networking opportunities with other professionals.
 - Winter Meetings
 - Wednesday, February 24, 2016 – CESA 6
 - Thursday, February 25, 2016 – CESA 10
 - Spring Meetings
 - Tuesday, April 19, 2016 – CESA 6
 - Tuesday, April 26, 2016 – CESA 10
- **Spanish Speaking Family Weekend** – This weekend is specifically for Spanish speaking families, and is planned in collaboration with WSD. Maria Rivera, along with Parent Liaison, Laurie Nelson, are overseeing the event and it will be held at WSD. The weekend has been rescheduled for 3/11/16-3/13/16 due to low registration numbers for previously scheduled weekend in August. Flyers were distributed to Spanish speaking families at the conference, and all in attendance registered for the March event. Downloadable flyers will be on our website as well. Please help spread the word!