

IDEA Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, June 9, 2010
Comfort Inn
Bismarck, ND

IDEA Members Present: Ed Boger, Debra Huber, Tara Bitz, Cindy Lund, Anthony Arnold, Rita Weisz, Robbin Hendrickson, Barb Swegarden, Cathy Haarstad by phone

ND Department of Public Instruction Staff: Alison Dollar, Brenda Oas, Gerry Teevens, Guy McDonald

Ed Boger called the meeting to order. Ed asked for a motion to the March minutes. The minutes were approved. Alison gave an update regarding Bob.

Response to Intervention (Rti) Update

Brenda Oas gave a presentation on the Rti/PBS interventions. DPI received a letter from Public Broadcasting said that NDDPI, by using "PBS" for the Positive Behavioral Support initiative, is infringing upon the PBS trademark. DPI needs to have their PBS name changed by June 11, 2010. NDDPI has decided to change the name to RTI-B (Response to Intervention-Behavior). NDDPI will be updating the documents on the website with a statement saying effective June 11, 2010 we have changed the name to RTI-B on the website and all other references to the initiative. Brenda asked the IDEA Advisory for a formal approval of the name change. Brenda explained that the State Teams for the two initiatives combined in 2009. See attached PPT. Brenda showed materials from Pennsylvania that established a process for schools to use RTI as Evaluation for SLD identification. Brenda said that they need to put together a RTI and SLD Identification Workgroup and asked for two representatives from the IDEA Advisory Committee volunteer to be on the workgroup. The consensus was that Alison will send out an e-mail to all IDEA Advisory Committee members explaining how much time is involved and ask for volunteers. See attached PowerPoint presentation.

ACT Requirements (House Bill 1400)

Ed Boger, Principal at Hazen High School gave an update on ACT Requirements. Every junior has to take the ACT test. Ed said he is hearing that students with disabilities were not provided the accommodations for the ACT test. People developing the IEP are not willing to provide the accommodations because it takes a lot of work. Students with disabilities are missing out on scholarships because of their ACT scores. Every accommodation has to be approved through ACT before the test is given. If on the IEP they don't list that tests should be read to the student, ACT won't allow the student to have the test read to them. Rita Weisz asked if students are given the option of taking the Work Key test. Ed said the student is going to go to college the Work Keys test isn't accepted. The student will have to still take the ACT to attend college.

Early Childhood Least Restrictive Environment (Indicator 6) Update

Guy McDonald will be presenting for Nancy Skorheim on indicator 6 data changes. OSEP changed the Early Childhood Least Restrictive Environment data collected. The two areas changed are A and B on the attached document. Data changes will be made in Tienet so the transition should be easy. We hope to have these changes in Tienet by July 1, 2010.

Secondary Transition (Indicator 13) Update

Gerry Teevens gave an update on Secondary Transition. State Transition Advisory Council meets quarterly and serves as an advisory group to secondary transition. There are four sub-committees (Practice groups) within the State Transition Advisory group. The first Practice group developed a transition assessment matrix which is located on DPI's website <http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/transitn/matrix/matrix.pdf>. The group meets again next week and will be working on a student transition portfolio template. The next Practice group is Sharing of Information and they have developed a Parent and Student brochure that includes information regarding preparing for the transition IEP meeting. There is also a Youth Leadership Practice group. This group is working with the Federation of Families to sponsor a state conference. It is scheduled for July 25 & 26, 2010 for parents and students. There will be stipends available to families to attend this July conference. It will be at the Seven seas in Mandan. Please contact Carlotta McCleary for information on stipends.

The Healthy Transitions Practice group is working with the ND Integrated Services Project to help develop health transition curriculum.

The State Transition Community of Practice Advisory Council State Team attended a national meeting in Charlotte, NC in May 2010. Seven CoP members attended two national meetings to develop a state plan. The plan focused on the increase of the use of Indicator 13 data for program improvement. Gerry currently has a monitoring team reviewing transition IEPs for compliance to Indicator 13. The data is being broken down to determine if and what types of transition assessments are currently being used by case managers. Another activity of the state plan is to bring regional transition committee chairs to a planning meeting. State VR and State DPI go out to regional transition committees and follow up on goals of committee. They provide technical assistance as needed and assist the regional committee in assessing their progress. An interagency protocol (utilizing the resource map interagency teams have in place tool will be developed also.

Indicator 13 was changed to an eight question checklist from a six question checklist. There now needs to be proof that the student attended the transition meeting, where before that wasn't needed. OSEP changed the number of items correct required for compliance to the indicator regarding Levels of determination to OSEP from 4/6 to 8/8. Rita Weisz asked if there is any common theme the committee is seeing when reviewing the IEPs. Gerry noted that the committee is not seeing interagency collaboration link.

Indicator 14 was changed to three measurements by OSEP but the change won't affect how ND collects the data. The change will only affect how ND reports the data to OSEP. Future activities for indicator 14 is develop a task force to study the initiation of the following:

- District training on how to examine post-school outcome data, and
- Follow-up interview process at the unit/district level.

See attached PowerPoint presentation.

NDMILE Update

Alison Dollar gave an update on ND MILE (North Dakota Moving to Improve Learning for Everyone). The NDMILE training and technical assistance committee just finished their first year. The NDMILE is an online questionnaire used as a school improvement plan and process for all students. The questions are for all students not just students with disabilities. All data are based on schools not district information. One of the purposes of this committee is to improve the sharing of data within DPI for school improvement. The committee is looking at how each unit monitors the schools and if they can collaborate and monitor together or share the data within the department. All the schools involved in NDMILE right now are by invitation only but DPI would like to see all schools involved.

Language Change Letter to OSEP Update

Alison gave everyone a copy of the letter to OSEP regarding the MR language change. The letter was sent to OSEP on May 12, 2010. NDDPI hasn't heard anything from OSEP yet. The change was to change Mental Retardation to Intellectual Disability. Alison commented that NDDPI sent out the Parent Surveys this year by mail. Typically, they are done electronically through NDDPI website. A lot of parents commented about ND using Mental Retardation on their parent surveys and that they would like to see that changed. Alison thanked Cathy Haarstad for her help in writing the OSEP letter. Robbin Hendrickson stated that Alison might want to contact some of the other states that have changed their language to see what their experience was with dealing with OSEP. Robbin Hendrickson said the change will probably include some legislative changes. Rita Weisz asked if NDDPI should contact legislative council and see how this might be received before the legislative session starts. Robbin Hendrickson commented how this change will affect the December 1 child count and if OSEP will accept the change.

Annual Yearly Progress Update

Alison gave an updated on the Annual Yearly Progress report. Alison commented that several of the districts that didn't make AYP was because of the special education subgroup. The special education office had a meeting with the special education directors and explained how to adjust students so schools could make AYP. The special education office is stressing that local special education directors need to work more closely with schools in this area. Ed Boger asked if the 2% is going to be eliminated this year. Alison is going to check with Doreen Strode.

Annual Performance Report Submission and Monitoring Update

Alison handed out a copy of North Dakota's Letter of Approval from OSEP for the SPP/APR. North Dakota has *Met Requirements* for the second year and is still waiting to hear if they will receive a monitoring visit from OSEP this fall.