

Iowa Special Education Advisory Panel

Date: February 15, 2019

Facilitator: Nancy Ankeny Hunt

Panel Secretary: Beth Bueller-Sapp

Present: Cynthia Blackard, Sandra Smith, and Daniel VanSant, Jennifer Aldrich, Carma Betz, Dawn Bonsall, Peter Bunnell, Kate Cole, Margaret Ebersold, Susan Etscheidt, Elizabeth Hockey, Jessica Iverson, Kelly Ramus, Bryan Sage, Shannon Tackes, Rachel Terry, Ruth Frush, Joel Weeks, and David VanHorn, Mary Jackson

Department Staff Present: Barb Guy, Nancy Ankeny Hunt, Beth Bueller-Sapp

Absent: Valeria Baker, Craig Barnum, Jodi Bonnett, Healthier Brand, Christina McFadden, Wendy Parker, Erin Torruella, Jason Yessak, Helen Stevens, Doug Wolfe

Presenters: Barb Anderson, Melissa Tandy, Shanlyn Seivert

Public Comment: None

Handouts for the September 2018 meeting:

- [Agenda](#)
- Suicide Prevention - [Draft Guidance](#)
- [ACES Study](#)
- [Legislative Update](#)

Welcome/Introductions:

The meeting was called to order by co-chair Elizabeth Hockey at 9:00 a.m.

Welcome Activity:

Video: The video features work that's going on at Ruby Van Meter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The [membership application](#) is available. If you know of anyone that would be interested, please encourage them to apply. We have 8 open slots.

Elizabeth solicited volunteers for the membership committee to select new member candidates. Cynthia Blackard, Bryan Sage, and Jennifer Aldrich volunteered to join Elizabeth Hockey on the Membership Selection Committee.

Suicide Prevention and Postvention; Identification of ACES and mitigation of toxic stress response – Draft Guidance (Barb Anderson)

Barb reviewed draft guidance for Senate File 2113, which was signed by Governor Reynolds in March 2018. The legislation requires school districts to have protocols and annual training for

suicide prevention and postvention, and the identification of adverse childhood experiences (ACES) and strategies for the mitigation of toxic stress response. All school staff who receive a license, certification or statement of authorization from the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners is required to complete the annual, evidence-based, evidence-supported trainings.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death for Iowans ages 15 to 34 and 3rd leading cause of death for Iowa children ages 10 to 14. Nationally has increased by 33% in the last 20 years; but has decreased globally by 30 percent. What might we learn from other countries and their suicide prevention efforts?

An AEA suicide prevention workgroup, led by David Van Horn, worked with AEA Learning online to develop a one hour suicide prevention and postvention training that will be available to school districts at no charge. Barb reviewed the [Draft Guidance](#) and welcomed questions or comments.

The suicide prevention and postvention training is required to be at least one hour. The law did not specify the length required for the identification of ACES and the mitigation of toxic stress training, but it must be in addition to the one hour of suicide prevention and postvention training. It is recommended but not required that the additional training be at least one hour. Decisions on which trainings are selected is made at a local level.

Barb also reviewed the technical assistance [appendices](#) and requested feedback. The appendices describe the resources that are available and the considerations we hope schools will think about as they select their trainings.

Universal suicide prevention trainings are called “Gatekeeper trainings.” Postvention trainings address after suicide has been completed. Postvention training is an important part of a comprehensive suicide prevention plan. Iowa code 281-14.4 (1) defines postvention as, “the provision of crisis intervention, support, and assistance for those affected by a suicide or suicide attempt to prevent further risk of suicide.”

David Van Horn can provide a link to the on-line training module. The training is for those in the school system but if Panel members are interested in viewing the modules, David can make the connection.

Identification of adverse childhood experiences and the mitigation of toxic stress response.

Barb provided background on the original [ACES study](#) and showed the video: [How Brains are Built: The Core Story of Brain Development](#)

If through childhood a student has experienced adverse childhood experiences, toxic stress, without a caring, responsive adult to buffer the stress, it can become toxic stress. The toxic stress impacts the way the brain is built. Some students who have experienced toxic stress or traumatic events, may be hyper aroused as a coping mechanism. Creating safe, predictable, caring learning environments help all students, but are especially important to support those students who have experienced toxic stress to be able to learn. If we create environments that

are safe and nurturing with positive interactions with adults, we can mitigate the toxic stress response. Research tells us that caring interactions help to create positive neuropathways in the brain; to create healing from toxic stress.

The suicide prevention and postvention trainings are listed on national registries of best practice, but the research around ACES is still fairly new. Consequently, there are not yet national registries that evaluate the trainings related to ACES. Guidance for the identification of ACES and mitigation of toxic stress will have content that is evidence-supported and evidence-based, but the trainings themselves have not yet been evaluated.

Special Education Guidance System Update – Melissa Tandy

Melissa provided an [update](#) on the work that has been going on in the last 6-9 months around a statewide special education guidance system. The procedures governance council is meeting monthly to connect and provide feedback. In addition, there are several task team completing work. The team is re-examining the procedures around eligibility and evaluations and how we provide procedural guidance to AEA and LEA staff. The goal is organize the information in a concise way that guides practice so that procedures are followed.

We are close to having a contract in place for the new IEP/IFSP system and so that will be an opportunity for us to look at our whole EER process. This group will be working on that.

We have another group that's working with designing and planning the website system itself and providing on-going feedback. I've also starting meeting with different subgroups of providers and staff across the state. For example, right now around health services, there's a group of nursing and how do we factor in and determine health services and document those. OT's and PT's speech, all of those different groups are starting to funnel in to the work and develop the work with that. We're going to work with a vendor sub-contracted through Heartland AEA. Throughout the process, there will be several usability and focus groups given an opportunity to provide feedback. The system will be open (no login required). We will also work to ensure there is alignment between this and the new IEP/IFSP system.

We will be gathering feedback from SEAP on the new IEP/IFSP system in the future.

Legislative Update - Shan Sievert

There are many new legislators this legislative session. In the senate education committee the chair person is Amy Sinclair who has been the chair for senate education, this would be her 3rd year. The vice chair is Chris Connoyer who is from the Pleasant Valley area and this is her 1st year. Heron Corvach is the ranking member and he has been in the senate education committee for years. On the house education committee we now have Cecil Dolechek who used to be the chair for joint appropriations on the house side and now he is the chairperson on the house side. The vice chair is Ted Gassman and he's been in education for quite some

time and then the ranking member is Ross Smith and he's from the Waterloo area and I think this is probably his 2nd or 3rd year that he's been in the house education committee.

Shan provided a list of bills she is currently tracking: [Legislative Update](#)

Links to the bills being tracked is available on our website: [Bill Tracking](#)

SEAP members are welcome to sign up for legislative updates [here](#).

FYI – There has been a role change around section 103, it's open for public comment right now through March 5th.

Future Agenda Items that would we would like to Discuss

None

Adjourn

David Van Horn made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Jessica Iverson seconded the motion.

Next meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 10, 2019 at the Grimes State Office Building, Room B100