

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes – May 8, 2015

9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Brendelyn Ancheta, Tammy Bopp, Mary Brogan (for Jenny Gong), Bob Campbell, Debbie Cheeseman, Annette Cooper, Shari Dela Cuadra-Larsen, Gabriele Finn, Martha Guinan, Barbara Ioli, Valerie Johnson, Amanda Kaahanui, Debbie Kobayakawa, Dale Matsuura, Barbara Pretty, Kau`i Rezentes, Susan Rocco, Rosie Rowe, Tricia Sheehey, Ivalee Sinclair, Tom Smith, Lani Solomona, Todd Takahashi, Dan Ulrich, Jasmine Williams, Susan Wood

EXCUSED: Bernadette Lane, Stacey Oshio, Zaidarene Place, Amy Wiech

ABSENT: Natalie Haggerty

GUESTS: Brian De Lima, Dallas Hernandez, Flora Switzer

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Call to Order	Chair Ivalee Sinclair called the meeting to order at 9:17 a.m.	
Announcements	Ivalee relayed the sad news that Linda Machado, Executive Director of Hawaii Families as Allies, has passed away unexpectedly. Jasmine Williams announced that she has written a children’s book entitled “Daddy, Who am I?” and invited members to a book signing June 21 st at Na Mea Hawai`i.	
Introductions	Members introduced themselves to two guests—Flora Switzer, retired bi-lingual teacher from Virginia and grandmother of a three-year-old with Noonan Syndrome, and Dallas Hernandez who works on special projects for Bayada Behavioral Health. Flora said she wants an inclusive education program for Mia who is not yet walking or speaking.	
Discussion Regarding Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs) and Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA)	Tom Smith asked Dallas to talk about the sufficiency of BCBAs in Hawaii, given the passage of recent legislation requiring insurance carriers to provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of autism. Bayada is encouraging their staff providing Behavioral Instructional Support Services (BISS) to become board certified. Dallas shared that to become a BCBA, you must have a Masters degree, seven courses and 1500 hours of supervised clinical work. Tricia Sheehey added that the University of Hawaii has a program offering BCBA courses, and all of their faculty are studying to take the exam. Tammy Bopp said she has heard that there are 150 BCBAs on Oahu. The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs is developing a licensure program for BCBAs, and any analyst in good standing can apply in July. Susan Wood offered that Medicaid does not yet have a policy about performing ABA on school premises. Dallas added that some schools are open to providing services, but the IEP team has to distinguish between medically necessary goals and IEP goals.	SEAC’s Legislative Committee (via Tom Smith) will take the issue of ABA in educational settings to the Coalition for Children with Special Needs for further discussion.

<p>Review of Draft Minutes for 3/13/15 and 4/17/15 Meetings</p>	<p>Deborah Kobayakawa asked that her son Ian Nieblas be added to the roster of those present for the March meeting. Jasmine Williams clarified that she was excused and not present at the April meeting.</p>	<p>The minutes for both meetings were approved as corrected.</p>
<p>Input from the Public</p>	<p><u>Inappropriate placement</u> Debbie Cheeseman said she ran into a former student of hers who is now at Castle High. An autism training program was brought onto the high school campus, and it took over the first floor classroom where this student was receiving services. Now he is inappropriately included in the autism program, because he is a wheelchair user and needs an accessible classroom. Debbie offered that the problem could be solved by building a ramp for him to access the fully self-contained classroom with his former special education teacher.</p> <p><u>Itinerant teacher for students who are Deaf</u> Amanda Kaahanui said she was contacted in her role as the Hands and Voices President regarding the loss of a position in Honolulu District for an itinerant teacher for students who are Deaf. However, when she contacted Complex Area Superintendent Ruth Silberstein, she received her assurance to look into the matter. Within two hours she was told that the position will not be eliminated.</p> <p><u>LDAH's list of 11 procedural violations</u> Rosie Rowe reported that LDAH took the eleven points identified a year ago and gathered additional data from CCC Co-Chairs on where and how often these violations have been noted. The discussion offered potential solutions that DOE could utilize to address these problem areas. Shari Dela Cuadra-Larsen expressed concern that the issue is being formally brought to SEAC, when she has been waiting for more information in order to act. Tom Smith offered that these eleven violations are not viewed as individual complaints, but rather as systems issues.</p> <p><u>Questions/comments from members and guests</u> Q. Does this report mean that transportation services are being denied? A. (Rosie) Yes. Q. Is there a timeframe for when these incidences occurred? Can we identify whether they are still ongoing? A. (Rosie) The original list was a</p>	<p>Shari Dela Cuadra-Larsen will look into the matter and report back to SEAC.</p> <p>Rosie distributed notes from a Solution Driven Session with CCC Co-Chairs on February 7, 2015, and a graph showing violations by number and district.</p>

<p>Input from the Public (cont.)</p>	<p><u>Questions/comments from members and guests (cont.)</u> compilation of two years of reports. They are from 2013 to the present. Q. Have some of the complaints been resolved? A. (Rosie) Some of our clients' issues have been resolved. C. I appreciate this issue being raised, because as a parent, I am experiencing problems mainly around the provision of related services. A pre-meeting was held prior to my daughter's IEP and the IEP draft suggested reduced service hours. C. I heard that East Hawaii has tried to cut back on one-to-one therapy. C. There are models for transdisciplinary team members to take a therapeutic role and transfer to other people on the team; the problem is often a lack of communication. Ivalee summed up the discussion by acknowledging calls for training, which is usually provided by the Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Student Support (OCISS).</p>	<p>Ivalee asked Shari to provide any updates about these issues that she is able to gather at the next meeting.</p>
<p>Report from the Special Education Director</p>	<p>Shari reported on the following issues: <u>Application for IDEA funds</u> Hawaii's application for IDEA funds will be sent out the week of May 11, 2015. <u>Annual Performance Report/State Systemic Improvement Plan</u> Shari recently returned from an Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) conference where she learned the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State determination letters based on the submission of the APR for SY 13-14 will be coming out in June. • The APR will continue to look at NAEP scores as a way to compare state performance. • The SSIP will not be counted as an accountability measure until Phase III. <p><u>Federal funding of IDEA</u> A few weeks ago, the Chief Counsel of State School Officers informed Shari that the U.S. Department of Education might be looking at a \$2 billion cut in funding for special education.</p>	

<p>Report from the Special Education Director (cont.)</p>	<p><u>Questions/comments from members and guests</u> C. Even though SEAC did not have direct input into the description of how IDEA funds would be used at the state level, it appears that the Department used SEAC’s funding priorities for the previous year. C. If SEAC needs to track federal bills and budgets, Bayada has a national office that follows legislation.</p>	
<p>Approval of By-Laws Amendments</p>	<p>Susan reviewed the by-laws amendments offered at the April meeting. Members decided not to name the standing committees in the by-laws as they may change over time. There was a brief discussion about SEAC’s functions—which are required by law and whether a function of SEAC might be to acknowledge good work done by the Department. Ivalee clarified that SEAC can always thank the Department or the Board of Education for positive action. However, the identification of unmet needs of students with disabilities is SEAC’s primary focus.</p>	<p>The by-laws amendments were passed unanimously.</p>
<p>Report from the Nominating Committee</p>	<p>Bob Campbell, Tom Smith and Kau`i Rezentos served on the ad hoc committee to nominate candidates for SEAC leadership positions for the SY 2015-16. Bob and Tom reported that they are nominating one individual to serve as SEAC Chair—Martha Guinan—and the three Vice Chairs will be voted in at a future meeting once the standing committees are defined. The three main activities that they identified as a basis for committee selection are 1) legislative activities, 2) SSIP activities, and 3) activities related to WestEd and other special education reform efforts. Brian De Lima added that the Board of Education’s Audit Committee recently voted to move up an audit of the Special Education Section to the Fall of 2015. He advised DOE’s internal auditor to work with SEAC. Members discussed briefly the option of adding an Audit Committee, and reached consensus to focus on the three aforementioned activities. Tom Smith volunteered to be considered for the Legislative Committee Chair, Susan Wood offered to chair a committee on comprehensive special education reforms and Tricia Sheehy offered to head up an SSIP group, should Bob Campbell not be available. Amanda Kaahanui reminded members that all are expected to serve on a committee.</p>	<p>Martha Guinan was elected unanimously to serve as SEAC Chair for the SY15-16. Martha asked for Ivalee’s continued guidance as she moves from Vice Chair to Chair.</p>

<p>DOE Progress on WestEd Reforms</p>	<p>Ivalee reminded members that at the April 10th Informational Briefing on the 2011 and 2012 WestEd Report recommendations, Ronn Nozoe indicated that he would be providing Representative Takumi and Senator Kidani with an update of DOE activities related to the WestEd reform recommendations. Brian De Lima added that he took Ronn’s presentation at the briefing as an indication that the Department would be working on these activities soon. Shari has been discussing the issue with Leila Hayashida, the Assistant Superintendent in charge of OCISS. The two are planning to work with Malia Espinda, Government Affairs Specialist, on another channel to get information out to the community. Ivalee told Shari that it would be helpful to know the results of the job functions that the DOE has put together. She proposed that a subset of SEAC meeting with Deputy Superintendent Stephen Schatz, Leila Hayashida, Brian De Lima and Shari to talk about how to begin implementing the recommended reforms.</p>	<p>Susan Wood, Tom Smith, Martha Guinan, Jasmine Williams, Ivalee Sinclair and Brende Ancheta expressed interest in meeting with DOE leadership.</p>
<p>Legislative Report</p>	<p>Tom Smith reported on three bills that passed with SEAC support—autism health insurance coverage, licensure of BCBA’s, and the administration of epinephrine in school settings. SEAC also submitted testimony on a Board policy regarding school climate and discipline; however, due to a late posting of information about the policy, SEAC’s testimony was somewhat off focus. The issue of receiving Board information in a timely manner has also been raised by a frequent Board visitor, Vanessa Ott, who has put together a Facebook group asking individuals to show their support for videotaping of Board meetings. Brian De Lima responded that the Board is also in favor of timely postings; however information from the Department is not always provided in sufficient time to meet posting requirements. He added that the reason the Board does not utilize Olelo for public broadcasting is that BOE’s budget has been cut significantly, and they do not have the staff to tape nor money to pay for airtime. Ivalee asked if the Department could provide a staff person for taping, and Tom suggested that SEAC look into how this might be done.</p>	

<p>Preparation of the SEAC Annual Report</p>	<p>Ivalee reminded members of SEAC’s obligation to publish an annual report of activities by July 1st and present it to the Superintendent and other interested parties. She asked committee chairs to share input with Susan on what activities were accomplished by the committee, as well as future directions for the upcoming school year.</p>	<p>Committee Chairs will send any relevant information to Susan by the end of May.</p>
<p>A Parent’s Guide to Partnership in Special Education</p>	<p>Members were given copies of the May 2015 printing of the reader-friendly flip Guide on special education rights and responsibilities. Susan said that 4000 copies were printed initially, in time to distribute at the SPIN Conference in May. She encouraged members to read the Guide with an eye to any need for editing changes and to provide that feedback directly to SPIN.</p>	
<p>Farewell from Longtime Chair Sinclair</p>	<p>Ivalee thanked all members present for their support over the years. Although she is stepping down as Chair, she looks forward to continuing her membership on SEAC in the year to come.</p>	
<p>Special Acknowledgements</p>	<p>Susan and Amanda thanked members for their year-long commitment to SEAC and provided small rewards to members with exemplary attendance. Certificates of Appreciation signed by Superintendent Matayoshi are being prepared and will be mailed to members over the summer break.</p>	