



# State Advisory Panel

## For Special Education

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**Minutes**  
**State Advisory Panel Meeting**  
**September 17-18, 2015**  
**Macon Marriott, Macon, Georgia**

**September 17, 2015 – Room 306, Convention Center**

| Time                     | Events  |  |              |              |                          |                    |             |              |             |                          |               |               |              |                  |             |                  |                     |                    |              |                 |               |                    |                |                     |            |                 |               |               |
|--------------------------|---|--|--------------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------------|------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| 7:30 – 8:30              | CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST (provided)                    |  |              |              |                          |                    |             |              |             |                          |               |               |              |                  |             |                  |                     |                    |              |                 |               |                    |                |                     |            |                 |               |               |
| 8:30 – 9:30              | Welcome<br>Panel Member<br>Introductions and Update | <p>Kyle Berry, Chair, and Pam Hunter Dempsey, Vice-Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed members. Panel members provided input and comments they wished to share.</p> <p><b><u>The following members were present:</u></b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Bales, Scott</td> <td>Barnes, Rita</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Barnes-Watson, Constance</td> <td>Beard, Kimberleigh</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Berry, Kyle</td> <td>Brown, Susan</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Burns, Beth</td> <td>Constantinides, Michelle</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cross, Deanna</td> <td>Dunn, Teresia</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gant, Alicia</td> <td>Gaston, Shemekia</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hall, Juree</td> <td>Hardeman, Juliet</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hunter-Dempsey, Pam</td> <td>Little, Jacqueline</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Moody, Susan</td> <td>Murphy, Annette</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nayak, Ganesh</td> <td>Niederhoffer, Eren</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lipson, Leslie</td> <td>Redmond, Jevondolyn</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Riner, Sue</td> <td>Sayeh, Patricia</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shyman, Laura</td> <td>Smith, Laurie</td> </tr> </table> | Bales, Scott | Barnes, Rita | Barnes-Watson, Constance | Beard, Kimberleigh | Berry, Kyle | Brown, Susan | Burns, Beth | Constantinides, Michelle | Cross, Deanna | Dunn, Teresia | Gant, Alicia | Gaston, Shemekia | Hall, Juree | Hardeman, Juliet | Hunter-Dempsey, Pam | Little, Jacqueline | Moody, Susan | Murphy, Annette | Nayak, Ganesh | Niederhoffer, Eren | Lipson, Leslie | Redmond, Jevondolyn | Riner, Sue | Sayeh, Patricia | Shyman, Laura | Smith, Laurie |
| Bales, Scott             | Barnes, Rita  |  |              |              |                          |                    |             |              |             |                          |               |               |              |                  |             |                  |                     |                    |              |                 |               |                    |                |                     |            |                 |               |               |
| Barnes-Watson, Constance | Beard, Kimberleigh                                  |  |              |              |                          |                    |             |              |             |                          |               |               |              |                  |             |                  |                     |                    |              |                 |               |                    |                |                     |            |                 |               |               |
| Berry, Kyle              | Brown, Susan  |  |              |              |                          |                    |             |              |             |                          |               |               |              |                  |             |                  |                     |                    |              |                 |               |                    |                |                     |            |                 |               |               |
| Burns, Beth              | Constantinides, Michelle                            |  |              |              |                          |                    |             |              |             |                          |               |               |              |                  |             |                  |                     |                    |              |                 |               |                    |                |                     |            |                 |               |               |
| Cross, Deanna            | Dunn, Teresia                                       |  |              |              |                          |                    |             |              |             |                          |               |               |              |                  |             |                  |                     |                    |              |                 |               |                    |                |                     |            |                 |               |               |
| Gant, Alicia             | Gaston, Shemekia                                    |  |              |              |                          |                    |             |              |             |                          |               |               |              |                  |             |                  |                     |                    |              |                 |               |                    |                |                     |            |                 |               |               |
| Hall, Juree              | Hardeman, Juliet                                    |  |              |              |                          |                    |             |              |             |                          |               |               |              |                  |             |                  |                     |                    |              |                 |               |                    |                |                     |            |                 |               |               |
| Hunter-Dempsey, Pam      | Little, Jacqueline                                  |  |              |              |                          |                    |             |              |             |                          |               |               |              |                  |             |                  |                     |                    |              |                 |               |                    |                |                     |            |                 |               |               |
| Moody, Susan             | Murphy, Annette                                     |  |              |              |                          |                    |             |              |             |                          |               |               |              |                  |             |                  |                     |                    |              |                 |               |                    |                |                     |            |                 |               |               |
| Nayak, Ganesh            | Niederhoffer, Eren                                  |  |              |              |                          |                    |             |              |             |                          |               |               |              |                  |             |                  |                     |                    |              |                 |               |                    |                |                     |            |                 |               |               |
| Lipson, Leslie           | Redmond, Jevondolyn                                 |  |              |              |                          |                    |             |              |             |                          |               |               |              |                  |             |                  |                     |                    |              |                 |               |                    |                |                     |            |                 |               |               |
| Riner, Sue               | Sayeh, Patricia                                     |  |              |              |                          |                    |             |              |             |                          |               |               |              |                  |             |                  |                     |                    |              |                 |               |                    |                |                     |            |                 |               |               |
| Shyman, Laura            | Smith, Laurie                                       |  |              |              |                          |                    |             |              |             |                          |               |               |              |                  |             |                  |                     |                    |              |                 |               |                    |                |                     |            |                 |               |               |
| 9:30 – 10:00             | New Panel Member<br>Orientation                     | Twelve members were appointed to the State Advisory Panel for a three-year membership. New members introduced themselves and shared some of their background and interest in special education with the Panel.   |              |              |                          |                    |             |              |             |                          |               |               |              |                  |             |                  |                     |                    |              |                 |               |                    |                |                     |            |                 |               |               |
| 10:00 – 10:15            | BREAK   |  |              |              |                          |                    |             |              |             |                          |               |               |              |                  |             |                  |                     |                    |              |                 |               |                    |                |                     |            |                 |               |               |
| 10:15 – 12:00            | New Panel Member<br>Orientation                     | Kyle Berry, Chair, and Pam Hunter Dempsey, Vice-Chair shared a power point for new members appointed to the State Advisory Panel. The presentation provides an overview of the Panel and outlines the policy and procedural guidance with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities in the State.   |              |              |                          |                    |             |              |             |                          |               |               |              |                  |             |                  |                     |                    |              |                 |               |                    |                |                     |            |                 |               |               |
| 12:00 – 1:00             | LUNCH (provided)                                    |  |              |              |                          |                    |             |              |             |                          |               |               |              |                  |             |                  |                     |                    |              |                 |               |                    |                |                     |            |                 |               |               |

|              |                          |   |
|--------------|--------------------------|---|
| 1:00 – 2:30  | GaDOE updates            | <p>Debbie Gay, Special Education Director</p> <p>GaDOE updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alternate Math Course Sequence developed.</li> <li>• Reviewed 2012-2015 patterns of graduation rates. Rates have increased but data does not reflect 4 year cohorts.</li> <li>• Rules before state board focus - Elimination of waivers/variance (we no longer have high stakes testing).</li> <li>• Plans for suicide prevention mandated for each district</li> <li>• CCRPI recalculations - focus on more weights being placed on students growth (Agency overall push is to shift from results to compliance)</li> <li>• GaDOE has partnered with Appleseed on Equity projects.</li> <li>• 416 new schools have joined for the 2015 school year.</li> <li>• RESAs have part-time School Climate Specialists.</li> <li>• More training will be provided.</li> <li>• Juvenile Code has been rewritten (status offenders-truancy, homeless youth most impacted) are requiring more services in the schools. Also SAMSA grant is in use at this time addressing MH needs.</li> <li>• Reviewed the GNETS letter of findings issued to the Governor from the Department of Justice.</li> <li>• 12 million in bond money to improve GNETS facilities.</li> <li>• 2 full-time positions have been funded to support and monitor the GNETS program. GNETS enrollment is down by 700.</li> <li>• Overall GNETS vision has changed / Strategic planning for the last 3 years to include providing services to local school districts to maintain if appropriate students in their home school communities.</li> </ul> |
| <b>BREAK</b> |                          |   |
| 2:45– 4:00   | IEP Facilitation Project | <p>Jamila Pollard, Program Manager/Legal Officer<br/>GaDOE Dispute Resolution</p> <p>The GaDOE will pilot an IEP facilitators program beginning January 2016. Facilitators will be trained to ensure communication is clear during IEP meetings. The focus is to help reduce the need to access the formal dispute resolution processes. Applications are available now on DOE website. Agency has been working with CADRE for staff training. Districts who volunteer will be included in a pilot.</p>   |
| 4:00 – 6:00  | Check in Hotel           |   |

|      |                |  |
|------|----------------|--|
| 6:00 | DINNER         |  |
| 7:00 | Public comment | Public Comments is limited to 5 minutes or less depending on the number of individuals signed up to provide comment. There were no public comments |

**September 18, 2015 – Room 306, Convention Center**

| Time          | Events  |   |
|---------------|---|---|
| 7:00 – 8:00   | CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST (provided)                  |   |
| 8:00 – 9:15   | Committee Meetings                                | All committees met during this time or on the previous evening.   |
| 9:15 – 10:00  | Committee Reports                                 | Committees reported out to panel on current activities and recommendations.   |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | BREAK and CHECKOUT                                |   |
| 10:30– 11:00  | P2P Survey and training opportunities             | Laurie Smith, Support Services Manager<br>Parent to Parent of Georgia<br><br>Laurie Smith presented on seven core services:<br>1. Special Needs Database<br>2. Roadmap to Success<br>3. Supporting Parents<br>4. One-On-One Assistance<br>5. Navigator Project<br>6. Free Trainings<br>7. On-Line Opportunities |
| 11:00-12:00   | State and local Determinations                    | Kachelle White, Program Manager<br>GaDOE staff<br><br>Reviewed the State Determination for FY15 and how that determination is made by the Office of Special Education Programs. Presented the proposed rubric to make local school district determinations. Questions and guidance form the SAP solicited.      |
| 12:00 – 1:00  | LUNCH (provided)                                  |   |
| 1:00 – 2:00   | Student Success update                            | GaDOE staff   |
| 2:00 – 3:00   | State Advisory Panel Planning for Future Meetings | Panel members provided input on topics for future meetings<br>Next SAP meeting will be held in Savannah, Georgia;<br>November 19-20, 2015   |

Please note that the times listed above are approximate and may change except the public comment period. Every effort is made to begin the public comment at the appointed time. Pursuant to Panel Policies and Procedures, a full 30 minutes is always allowed even if the start has been delayed. Comment time is limited 5 minutes per speaker so that all have a chance to be heard. For individuals desiring to make comment via telephone conference call, comment time needs to be scheduled with the SAP Chair a minimum of 3 business days prior to the meeting.