



# State Advisory Panel

## For Special Education

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
State Advisory Panel  
February 11-12, 2015  
Georgia Tech Hotel & Conference Center**

**February 11, 2015, Conference Room A**

Time	Events																											
1:00 - 1:30	Welcome Panel Member Introductions	Brian Mosley, Chair, and Kyle Berry, Vice-Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed members.  <u>The following panel members were present:</u>  <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Stephanie Alexander</td> <td>Jeffrey Allen</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Scott Bales</td> <td>Rita Barnes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Constance Barnes-Watson</td> <td>Kimberleigh Beard</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kyle Berry</td> <td>Susan Brown</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Steve Derr</td> <td>Fanthnecia “Nisey” Dunbar</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Morgan Felts</td> <td>Juree Hall</td> </tr> <tr> <td>YaShonda Hiles</td> <td>Pam Hunter Dempsey</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jacqueline Angel Little</td> <td>Linda Meiring</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brian Mosley</td> <td>Colleen O’Toole</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Crystal Perry</td> <td>Danette Rogers</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Patricia Sayeh</td> <td>Laura Shyman</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Laurie Smith</td> <td>Natalie Whitlow</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Melissa Williams</td> <td>Donnie Winokur</td> </tr> </table>	Stephanie Alexander	Jeffrey Allen	Scott Bales	Rita Barnes	Constance Barnes-Watson	Kimberleigh Beard	Kyle Berry	Susan Brown	Steve Derr	Fanthnecia “Nisey” Dunbar	Morgan Felts	Juree Hall	YaShonda Hiles	Pam Hunter Dempsey	Jacqueline Angel Little	Linda Meiring	Brian Mosley	Colleen O’Toole	Crystal Perry	Danette Rogers	Patricia Sayeh	Laura Shyman	Laurie Smith	Natalie Whitlow	Melissa Williams	Donnie Winokur
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1:30 - 2:30	SAMSHA GRANT Project AWARE & GaDOE Updates	Ginny O’Connell, Program Manager GaDOE, Special Education Services & Supports  <u>GaDOE Updates</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Georgia now has a new School Superintendent, Mr. Richard Wood</li> <li>• Under new organization, Special Education is now under Academic Offices/Programs</li> <li>• GADOE is a national leader in the collection and analysis of school climate data through the implementation of its annual health survey</li> </ul> <u>SAMSHA Grant – 5 year 1.9 million/year grant award</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of Project Aware is to build capacity at the state and local level to support districts in integrating school and community-based mental health supports within a multi-tiered framework.</li> <li>• Four program goals: build effective collaboration across organizations at the local and state level, increase equitable</li> </ul>																										

Time	Events	
		access to coordinated mental health services for children, youth, and their families, expand and increase access to mental health supports within an integrated multi-tiered behavioral framework, and increase mental health awareness of youth, families, schools, and communities.
2:30 - 3:00	<b>BREAK &amp; CHECK IN</b>	
3:00 - 4:00	Post-Secondary Programs	<p>Susanna Miller, Community Support Specialists  Youth Leadership &amp; Post-Secondary Education  Center for Leadership in Disability</p> <p><u>Inclusive Postsecondary Education in Georgia and across the Nation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Georgia Inclusive Post-Secondary Education Consortium (GA PSEC) includes Center for Leadership in Disability @ GSU; Ga Department of Education; GA Council on Developmental Disabilities; Institute of Human Developmental and Disability @ UGA, GA Advocacy Office; GA Department of Behavioral Health and DD; and the GA Vocational Rehabilitation Agency</li> <li>• 220 inclusive and post-secondary programs throughout the US</li> <li>• 3 inclusive and post-secondary program in Georgia: Kennesaw State – Academy for Inclusive Learning and Social Growth, Columbus State –GOALS Program, East Georgia – CHOICE Program</li> <li>• GA Tech will begin program in the fall of 2015</li> </ul>
6:00 - 7:00	<b>DINNER (provided)</b>	
7:00 - 8:00	Public Comment Session	<p>Public comments were limited to 5 minutes or less depending on the number of individuals signed up to provide comment.</p> <p>Two individuals submitted Public Comments in writing to be read at the meeting. The comments included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes in special education services from years ago but still room for improvement.</li> <li>• Smaller class sizes seem to work well for students.</li> <li>• Having students with disabilities earn a high school diploma and not a special education diploma would be one thing that I would change.</li> <li>• Each region of the state should be monitored making sure that rules are being followed and install cameras. Seclusion rooms should be sealed off and use of restraints should not be allowed under any circumstances, and teachers should not make fun of students.</li> <li>• Special education services and supports for student in</li> </ul>

Time	Events	
		<p>Georgia are critical in providing students the tools to be successful in achieving their goals and reaching their potential.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Services for students with disabilities can be improved by starting early (14 yrs.) to work aggressively towards a transition plan and working collaboratively with parents and guardians.</li> <li>• Including students in the decision process as it pertains to transition and their IEPs seem to work well.</li> <li>• One change that I would recommend is to work more aggressively to hone skills and individual talents to prepare for the job market when students age out of school.</li> </ul>

**February 12, 2015 – Conference Room A**

Time	Events	
7:30 - 8:15	<b>BREAKFAST (provided)</b>	
8:15 - 9:15	Committee Meetings	<p>All committees met and reported out to the group</p> <p>Operating Procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reviewed operating procedures – no change at this time</li> </ul> <p>Dispute Resolutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One case since last meeting - The claim was dismissed. Resolution in favor of the school district.</li> </ul> <p>Public Comment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussed issues of increasing participation</li> </ul> <p>Family Engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussed the Parent Survey - the survey is distributed in an effort to collect data for the State Performance Plan's indicator 8 to increase the percentage of parents of children receiving special education services who report that schools encouraged parent involvement to improve results for students with disabilities.</li> </ul>
10:15 - 12:00	Site Visit	Tools for Life, Georgia Institute of Technology

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 proposed 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.