



# State Advisory Panel For Special Education

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## Minutes State Advisory Panel Meeting December 1-2, 2016 Macon Marriott, Macon, Georgia

### December 1, 2016 – Magnolia A&B

Time	EVENTS																											
9:30 am – 10:00 am	Welcome Panel Member Introduction	Kimberleigh Baird, Vice Chair and Steve Derr opened the meeting and welcomed members.  <b><u>The following members were present:</u></b>  <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Rita Barnes</td> <td>Constance Barnes-Watson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kimberleigh Beard</td> <td>Christina Brown</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Elizabeth (Beth) Burns</td> <td>Sally Cannon</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Joya Carter-Hicks</td> <td>Michelle Constantinides</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kristi Cox</td> <td>Deanna Cross</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Steve Derr</td> <td>Alicia Gant</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gloria Glass</td> <td>Juree Hall</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Juliet Hardeman</td> <td>Susan Moody</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Annette Murphy</td> <td>Ganesh Nayak</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Denise Burrell</td> <td>Jevondolyn Redmond</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Julia Rusert</td> <td>Patricia Sayeh</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Laura Shyman</td> <td>Laurie Smith</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Paul West</td> <td>John Wight</td> </tr> </table>	Rita Barnes	Constance Barnes-Watson	Kimberleigh Beard	Christina Brown	Elizabeth (Beth) Burns	Sally Cannon	Joya Carter-Hicks	Michelle Constantinides	Kristi Cox	Deanna Cross	Steve Derr	Alicia Gant	Gloria Glass	Juree Hall	Juliet Hardeman	Susan Moody	Annette Murphy	Ganesh Nayak	Denise Burrell	Jevondolyn Redmond	Julia Rusert	Patricia Sayeh	Laura Shyman	Laurie Smith	Paul West	John Wight
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10:00 am – 11:00 am	Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Education	Cheryl Benefield, Project AWARE Family Engagement Specialists, GaDOE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funded through a grant (ends in 2019) to develop access to services for families in the community to provide mental health first aid. Project AWARE does not provide direct mental health services but provides access to services.</li> <li>• Griffin/Spalding, Muscogee, Newton Counties are participating in this grant.</li> <li>• 2016 Student Health Survey results were shared.</li> </ul> Discussion Questions “What are the roles of our school counselors, school																										

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		<p>social workers, and school psychologists?”  “What would you use in tiered family engagement?”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training can be provided at no charge; contact Cheryl Benefield: Project Aware. There are nine trainers.</li> </ul>
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Promoting School-Based Mental Health Awareness and Supports	<p>Darlene Meador, Ph.D.  Toni Simms, LMSW  Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities</p> <p>Georgia Project Apex</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Began in 2015-2016 school year and provides up to \$330,000 in resource support to build community infrastructure. The project has been renewed for 2016-2017 school year.</li> <li>• Program goals are to provide early detection of mental health needs, access to services, and coordination between providers and school districts. There are 29 providers throughout the state.</li> <li>• Supports a “multi-tiered intervention model”.</li> <li>• Referrals come through school social workers, counselors, local interagency planning teams, or student intervention teams.</li> <li>• Data shows that when mental health supports are in place, school attendance, academic performance engagement, and access to services are increased.</li> <li>• Other related projects include: Project AWARE, Project LAUNCH (early intervention program for ages 2-8), PBIS, and Mental Health First Aid.</li> </ul> <p>Discussion Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is there a best practice model?</li> <li>• How can we coordinate services between agencies and school systems?</li> <li>• Challenges of Identification of mental health disorders with students with intellectual/developmental disabilities. (IDD) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cognitive Limitations</li> <li>- Language Deficits</li> <li>- Limited Social networks/narrow range of typical</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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		<p>experiences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Difficulty in determining if student displays learned behaviors or signs of emerging mental illness.</li> <li>• Data indicate that this is an underserved population only 1 out of 10 IDD youth with co-occurring mental health disorders receive treatment.</li> <li>• Information/resources available through Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Development website. <a href="https://dbhdd.georgia.gov">https://dbhdd.georgia.gov</a></li> </ul>
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Magnolia C&D	LUNCH (provided)	
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	GNETS Highlights	<p>Nakeba Rahming, State Director GNETS Programs, GaDOE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently, there are 24 programs with 163 program locations. In 2015-2016 4,492 students were served statewide.</li> <li>• GNETS Strategic Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Leadership</li> <li>- Therapeutic Supports</li> <li>- Instructional and Academic Support</li> <li>- Program Funding and Fiscal Management</li> <li>- Integration of Services and Capacity Building</li> <li>Accountability</li> <li>- Facilities Management and Safety</li> </ul> </li> <li>• All 29 facilities have been trained in PBIS, FBA/BIP development.</li> <li>• Differentiated instruction is occurring within the classroom, utilizing i-Ready computer based program K-8 as an adaptive diagnostic supplemental tool.</li> <li>• GNETS is working collaboratively with other GaDOE agencies to ensure common opportunities for GNETS teachers and Students.</li> </ul>
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	SPP/APR/SSIP Updates	<p>Zelphine Smith-Dixon, State Director of Special Education Services &amp; Supports</p> <p>SPP/APR/SSIP Updates</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Panel discussed the 2016 Special Education Parent Survey Report Results.</li> <li>Stakeholder engagement committee will be led by Dr. Caitlyn Dooley.</li> <li>The Division of Special Education is partnering with CTAE to build stronger partnerships with guidance counselors.</li> <li>GaDOE sponsored a webinar on the Role of Guidance Counselors to support SWD.</li> <li>The Division will provide the SAP an update of Georgia's targets and performance data to incorporate feedback into the February 1<sup>st</sup> submission.</li> </ul>
<b>BREAK</b>		
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Public Comment	<p>Public Comments will be limited to 5 minutes or less depending on the number of individuals signed up to provide comments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 persons submitted public comments using the online survey relative to supports for students with autism/intellectual disabilities, GAA, SB10, and specialized instruction.</li> </ul>
6:00 pm Magnolia C&D	<b>DINNER (provided)</b>	

**December 2, 2016 - Magnolia A&B**

Time	EVENTS	
7:30 am – 8:30 am Magnolia C&D	<b>CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST (provided)</b>	
8:30 am – 9:30 am	Committee Meetings	All committees met

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9:30 am – 10:15 am	Committee Reports	<p>Committees reported to the SAP on current activities and recommendations</p> <p><b><u>Dispute Resolution:</u></b> The committee reviewed available information.</p> <p><b><u>Operating Procedures:</u></b> Discussed the procedures of concerning attendance at SAP meetings.</p> <p><b><u>Public Comment:</u></b> Recognized the trend of increased number of public comments. How can we increase the number of families who take advantage of public comments?</p> <p><b><u>Family Engagement:</u></b> The new parent survey was discussed, and the committee recommended that it be place on the GaDOE site. With an electronic survey, possible downfalls are that parents of non-special education students may complete it.</p> <p><b><u>Membership:</u></b> Future vacancies were discussed and potential recruitment strategies and changes for the application process.</p>
10:15 – 10:45	BREAK and CHECKOUT	
10:45– 12:00 noon	Wrap Up	<p>Kimberleigh Beard, Co-Chair Steve Derr, Executive Committee</p> <p>During the summary and meeting wrap up, the following possible future topics were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Families and young adults need better access to GVRA services.</li> <li>• We would like to know more information about DBHDD pilot project on supportive employment.</li> <li>• We would like to know more about transition planning and post-secondary transition options for the SID/PID population.</li> <li>• We would like to know more about Soft Skills in Transition.</li> <li>• How does Dual Enrollment affect SPED students?</li> <li>• What is the future of Vocational Track in High Schools?</li> <li>• What is the future of Georgia Alternate Assessment?</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can we address an early childhood strand?</li> <li>• What is the outcome of the ESSA feedback?</li> </ul> Meeting Adjourned at 11:41am

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.