



# State Advisory Panel For Special Education

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**MINUTES**  
**State Advisory Panel Meeting**  
**November 13-14, 2014**  
**Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, Georgia**

**November 13, 2014**

Time	Events																															
1:00 - 1:30	Welcome Panel Member Introductions	<p>Brian Mosley, Chair and Kyle Berry, Vice-Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed members</p> <p><b><u>The following panel members were present:</u></b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Stephanie Alexander</td> <td>Uzoma Anadu</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>Sonya Davis</td> <td>Steve Derr</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fanthnechia “Nisey” Dunbar</td> <td>Morgan Felts</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Juree Hall</td> <td>YaShonda Hiles</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pam Hunter Dempsey</td> <td>Jacqueline Angel Little</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Linda Meiring</td> <td>Brian Mosley</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mike Newton</td> <td>Sue Riner</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Danette Rogers</td> <td>Patricia Sayeh</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Laura Shyman</td> <td>Laurie Smith</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Karen Thrasher</td> <td>Paul West</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Melissa Williams</td> <td>Crystal Perry</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jeff Allen</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Stephanie Alexander	Uzoma Anadu	Scott Bales	Rita Barnes	Constance Barnes-Watson	Kimberleigh Beard	Kyle Berry	Susan Brown	Sonya Davis	Steve Derr	Fanthnechia “Nisey” Dunbar	Morgan Felts	Juree Hall	YaShonda Hiles	Pam Hunter Dempsey	Jacqueline Angel Little	Linda Meiring	Brian Mosley	Mike Newton	Sue Riner	Danette Rogers	Patricia Sayeh	Laura Shyman	Laurie Smith	Karen Thrasher	Paul West	Melissa Williams	Crystal Perry	Jeff Allen	
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1:30 - 2:00	Occupational Horizons Youth Empowering Activities (OH YEA)	<p>Brian Mosley, Chair - SAP Employment Skills Training Coordinator Walton Options</p> <p>Mr. Mosley provided an overview on the pilot program, OH YEA, located in August, Georgia. Services are provided to students in preparedness from middle to high school.</p> <p>Presentation included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction &amp; goals</li> <li>• OH YEA Curriculum &amp; Implementation</li> <li>• Benefits</li> <li>• Target-groups</li> <li>• Expectations</li> <li>• Limitations &amp; parameters</li> <li>• Modulation</li> </ul>																														

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2:00 – 2:30	Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)	<p>Jeffrey Allen, MS, CRC Coordinator for Transition Services GA Vocational Rehabilitation Agency</p> <p>Mr. Allen provided an update on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act which places significant new responsibilities on several state agencies that have the responsibility for increasing the employment of individuals with disabilities, particularly the Department of Labor, Georgia Vocational and Rehabilitation Agency and the Department of Education.</p> <p><a href="http://www.eeoc.gov/eeoc/interagency/curb_cuts.cfm">http://www.eeoc.gov/eeoc/interagency/curb_cuts.cfm</a></p>
2:30 - 3:00	<b>BREAK &amp; CHECK-IN</b>	
3:00 - 3:30	GaDOE, Division for Special Education Services & Supports Update	<p>Debbie Gay, Director GaDOE, Special Education Services &amp; Supports</p> <p>Ms. Gay provided an update on activities at the Department and what’s next in Special Education at the state level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State Systemic Improvement Plan</li> <li>• Compliance Indicators</li> <li>• Performance Indicators</li> <li>• Stakeholders in authentic engagement</li> </ul>
3:30 - 4:30	Committee meetings	<p>All committees met and reported out to the group:</p> <p><b><i>Dispute Resolution:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All decisions are reported on GaDOE website</li> <li>• Dispute resolutions hearings have increased this year</li> <li>• Formal complaints are down</li> <li>• Mediations can be requested free of charge to resolve special issues that are occurring</li> <li>• Complaints are a violation of IDEA and more broad than a due process hearing</li> <li>• Most frequent complaint is a failure to evaluate</li> <li>• One due process hearing was reviewed from Glynn County requesting extended school year and the finding was in favor of the district</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Operating Procedures:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussed that we model best practices for accessibility making sure all of our materials are accessible in multiple formats</li> <li>• Discussion about DOE building working relationships with nonprofit and service organizations</li> </ul>

Time	Events	
		<p><b>Public Comment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing parent education</li> <li>• Inconsistency of executing services across the state varying from county to county specifically the concern about denial of services due to budgetary constraints – is there oversight provided to make sure there is consistency</li> <li>• Discussed move from college and career readiness tracks</li> <li>• HHB – Hospital and Home Bound Services – what are the guidelines given to make sure services are individualized</li> </ul> <p><b>Family Engagement:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussed social media campaign – “Did you Know” to increase family engagement</li> </ul>
6:00 - 7:00	<b>DINNER (provided)</b>	
7:00 - 8:00	Public Comment Session	<p>Public comment were limited to 5 minutes or less depending on the number of individuals signed up to provide comment.</p> <p>Three individuals submitted Public Comments in writing to be read at the meeting. The comments included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Services for students with disabilities are inconsistent throughout Georgia and that it would be helpful for school systems to share best practices</li> <li>• More parent education opportunities and more options for high school diplomas, do not assume all kids who get a regular education diploma are going to college</li> <li>• Strong support for students at school and at home</li> <li>• More life skills and trade skill classes</li> <li>• Services for students with disabilities are below sub-standard compared to other states, especially in the north</li> <li>• Need more services, respite/day care for students with disabilities during school breaks</li> <li>• There seems to be empathy for what parents go through</li> <li>• Ask parents questions of what they need and provide what they need, no excuses</li> <li>• Not enough being done, there’s only one moderate classroom in the area and teachers are lacking skills</li> <li>• Services for students with disabilities needs improving, especially in South Georgia</li> <li>• Services for students with disabilities can be improved by providing better instruction while out on HHB services</li> </ul>

Time	Events	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teachers need to be more open and understand that every student is different and they each learn differently</li> </ul>

**November 14, 2015**

Time	Events	
7:30 - 8:30	<b>BREAKFAST (provided) &amp; CHECK-OUT</b>	
8:30 - 9:00	<b>TRAVEL TO ROOSEVELT WARM SPRINGS</b>	
9:00 -10:00	Overview of Roosevelt Warm Springs	Roosevelt Warm Springs Staff gave an overview of the programs available at Roosevelt Warm Springs
10:00 -12:00	Site Visit	Roosevelt Warm Springs Staff lead the panel on a site visit of the campus

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 to 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.