

RIVESP Advisory Board
Tuesday, May 13, 2008
5:00PM – 6:30PM
TechAccess
110 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02888

Minutes

Present:

Paul Loberti
Chris Butler
Gloria Stuart
Richard Gaffney
Stephanie Russo

Ex Officio members

Deb Garneau (DH)

Non members

Clare Irwin
Judi Hammerlind-Carlson

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order by Paul Loberti 5:15 P.M.

Acceptance of Minutes:

Minutes of 4/8/2008 meeting were save to thumb drive and there was a misunderstanding and will be emailed

New Business

- Reviewed elements of final report and the charges for RIVESP and the advisory board. Paul addressed the concept as he understood it of strategic directions as appearing on the agenda of this meeting. Some members have asked what strategic directions imply. Paul mentioned that it is important for all members to read the statute that governs the advisory board (RIVESP AB). There are several "charges" and points Paul addressed and they are found in the statute (Chapter 16-26.1) of the AB:
1. The board of regents shall establish strategic directions for the education of blind and visually impaired children.
 2. The Board of regents shall provide parameters for budget requests, recommend a budget, and participate in budget development. We shall need to ask for an interpretation on this from the board of regents so we can review the budget and where it stands in this and next fiscal year. Again our role is as advisors.
 3. The commissioner of elementary and secondary education shall recommend parameters for the overall budget requests, recommend a budget and participates in budget development. We shall inquire what the parameters and again ask to see the budget for the program at hand.
 4. We must meet at least quarterly and members have discussed this in the past and believe that once a month with workgroups assigned as needed is critical for success. We must also keep records of our meetings and report annually to the commissioner, board of regents the general assembly and the state library.
 5. The law says we, the RIVESP AB shall recommend to the RIVESP:
 - (1) The needs of the blind and visually impaired children in the state.
 - (2) The educational and service policies required to meet the needs of (children) served by RIVESP.
 - (3) Policy and guidance and suggestions for budget development.
 - (4) Methods which ensure that all students are taught by educators of the highest possible quality (dovetails with highly trained professionals in IDEA).
 - (5) Appropriate committees/workgroups as needed to provide guidance and feedback on the goals and outcomes of RIVESP.
 - (6) Make themselves available to the board of regents, RIDE, HEALTH and DHHS to provide a link to these agencies. We shall use the Final Report of the Commission to guide and advice on policy.
 - (7) The educational policies to meet the needs of the blind and visually impaired children and to advise on implementation of policies established by the board of regents and RIVESP

- We discussed the need for a plan of action for next meetings so we can address each of these as part of the ongoing agenda of meetings and then decide on needed workgroups/committees. When to meet with the board of regents was discussed and how the report should be structured was also discussed. We thought it best to hold these issues until we had more robust attendance.
- An update of Goals 1 & 2 of the RI Agenda for BVI children was done by Clare and Paul.

After review of Goal #1

Clare provided an update and Paul spoke to the issues of needing to create the updated information in a revised agenda format. We will address the how after a small work group meets to discuss the way in which the RI agenda gets reviewed and revised. Also roll out of the agenda is critical to the success of the Advisory Board and its strategic directions.

Need for more information from Linda Hughes on fundamental issues for Early Intervention.

Brenda Duhamel – from Department of Human Services and discuss the referral process.

Denise Ashen RITAP Clarification of regulations with vision services and the IEP process. Also Barry Grossi was suggested as a guest for the next meeting to discuss eligibility requirements and changes to the regulations.

Mr. Loberti will work with Phyllis Lynch to invite guests to the next meeting.

- Briefly discussed Goal #2

Next meeting agenda

Needs strategies to activate and create timeline and dialog on Goal of 3 & 4

Title 5 review to be provided by Deb

Recommendations of RIVESP Strategic Directions

- To consider at next meeting; Update Title V, Goals 3-5 of RI Agenda, and discuss RI Agenda with group.
- Next meeting June 10, 2008 meeting 5:00 P.M.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:36 P.M.