



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
Shepard Building  
255 Westminster Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Deborah A. Gist  
Commissioner

### ***Rhode Island Special Education Advisory Committee***

*The Rhode Island Special Education Advisory Committee is an active voice in advocating that all students receive superior educational services enabling each student to achieve optimum success throughout the school years and into the world of adulthood.*

**January 17, 2013**

**6:30 pm – 8:30 pm**

RI Parent Information Network  
1210 Pontiac Avenue Cranston, RI 02920

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Donna Alqassar, Lori Barden, Kate Barnas, Wilfred Beaudoin, Eileen Botelho, Ann Brockman, Jennifer Connolly, Susan Donovan, Alyson DuPont, Joanne Eichinger, Gillian Elliot Pearis, MD, Deborah Garneau, Rosemary Gomes, Patti Hien, Pamela O'Brien, Mary Pendergast

**Absent:** \*Princess Sirleaf Bomba,\* Lynn Bouvier Kapiskas, \*Cris Brodeur, \*Amy Canario,\*Laura Laviano, \* Craig Levis,\*JoAnn Nannig, \*Cynthia Notarianni, Robin Pacheco,\*Ann Rudman, Louise Tillinghast, Robert Wall\*

**RIDE/RITAP Attendees:** David Sienko, Beth Pinto

*\* Notes that prior notice was given regarding absence*

**Call to Order, Welcome, Agenda Review:** The meeting was called to order at: 6:36 by Sue Donovan

#### **Announcements:**

##### **Director's Report:**

- OSCAS staff will be briefing the Special Education Directors on February 14, on draft guidance related to students with Emotional Disturbance. We have had a workgroup developing this information and this will be the first opportunity to gather input.
- OSCAS is updating all parent contact information with the districts in preparation for the next Annual Special Education Statewide Parent Survey. Districts will be completing the update by January 25<sup>th</sup>. As you know, each year, approximately 25,000 parents of Rhode Island children aged three through graduation or age 21 whose children have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) receive the Special Education Statewide Parent Survey in their mailbox. This year's survey represents the 7th annual administration of this measure.

- The 11<sup>th</sup> grade NECAP results will be released in the next week or so and the graduation requirement discussion will certainly reemerge. We have Sharon Lee scheduled to attend our March meeting and she will be providing updates on what RIDE has been doing to assist schools to support students in meeting the requirements.
- The National Center on Intensive Intervention (NCII) (<http://www.intensiveintervention.org/about-us/mission-and-action>) will be supporting schools in four LEAs, Bristol-Warren, South Kingstown, West Warwick, and Coventry, to improve outcomes for students with disabilities who require intensive intervention due to persistent learning and behavior problems. Currently, all schools have been interviewed by NCII staff and either already have met or are having their meeting to put together a plan based on the preliminary needs assessment. The interview included a group of mixed stakeholders to get a needs baseline/gap analysis. Plans include an overview of existing LEA activities for behavior, reading, and math interventions; Year 1 implementation goals for behavior, academics, and capacity building/systems; and milestones for implementation of those goals.

RIDE Staff and Consultant coaches are matched to districts as follows:

Bristol-Warren: Emily Klein (OSCAS) & Patricia Carnevale (Math Specialist, RIDE)

Coventry: Nicole Bucka & Michele Walden-Doppke (RTI Consultants)

South Kingstown: Barrie Grossi & Susan Constable (RITAP)

West Warwick: Alice Woods (OSCAS) & Laura Hauerwas (Chair of Elementary & Special Education, Providence College)

For further information on NCII, there is a 15 minute webinar that will provide you with a brief overview of NCII's approach to data based individualization (DBI) and a quick tour through the website. You can access the webinar here:

[http://www.intensiveintervention.org/NCII\\_Introductory\\_Webinar.php](http://www.intensiveintervention.org/NCII_Introductory_Webinar.php).

If you have time, we also recommend that you take some time to view additional NCII webinars:

- An Introduction to Intensive Intervention

(<http://www.intensiveintervention.org/webinar/2012october>)

**Old Business:** Members of RISEAC Leadership Committee presented the RISEAC Annual Report to the Commissioner in a 40 minute meeting.

The Commissioner was receptive and grateful for the work the RISEAC membership on behalf of the special needs children within the State of RI. Commissioner Gist stated that she would be willing to come address the RISEAC membership this year.

A copy of the RISEAC Annual Report is available upon request

Deb Garneau reported that she had been involved in recent Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) meetings addressing reassessing the competencies of Early Childhood [3-5 yr olds] and the impact it may have on the children with special needs. Deb poses an inquiry as to whether a RISEAC member would like to participate in these meetings. Sue Donovan responds that the information was forwarded to the RISEAC membership several times during the 2012 year, and no one's schedule allowed them to participate in these meetings.

David Sienko explained that this is not a Special Ed Initiative, but a reflection of how regular education impacts the special needs population. David reports that there will be public forums on any proposed initiatives prior to initiation of them. David also reports that he has a meeting Jan 21<sup>st</sup> with EI. The question is then posed should time be allotted for a presentation to the membership; decision not at this time as there are presentations already scheduled which will address these same issues. Will Beaudoin questions if Dr. Janis LaBelle will be presenting this year. He reports that her presentation is now a series of small workshops which focus on Social/ Emotional Learning, not solely restraints. Members are referred to the CSEL [Center for Social Emotional Learning] website for additional information.

Joanne Eichinger questions the status of the restraint brochure. Allyson Dupont reports that it was delivered to the printer just prior to Christmas, and is expected to be ready for distribution by the end of January. Joanne requests that RIPIN & PSN be involved in the rollout of the brochure to parents and that Dr. LaBelle's video be included in said presentation

November minutes are approved with changes to attendees motion by Will Beaudoin & seconded by Mary Pendergast.

December minutes are approved with changes to attendees motion by Pam O'Brien & seconded by Patti Hien.

**New Business:**

Susan Wood presented the State Annual Performance Report FFY 2011. The 20 indicators have remained constant from the previous year. The Targets are Rigorous and Measurable. The State met 5 of the 20 Indicators. The State has made great strides in attempting to reach the Indicator Goals. Copies of the Report were given to the membership present and are available upon request. One significant finding was that a large percentage of students, both those / IEP's as well as all regular ed populations are being retained in HS for a fifth year. Retention in school translates to a stronger likelihood of graduation in the fifth year.

**Public Comment: None**

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at: 8:20

**Recording Secretary:**

Kate Barnas, RN

RISEAC website: [www.riseac.org](http://www.riseac.org)