

Ohio Supervisors of School Psychologists
(O.S.S.P.)

Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2011

1. Dr. Perry Clark (OSSP Chair) welcomed the group. He delivered a special verbal commendation to Dr. Neiheiser for bringing Krispy Kreme doughnuts and suggested that participants bring refreshments/snacks for the group to future meetings. Especially Krispy Kremes.
2. In consultation with those members who were present, Dr. Clark set the schedule of meetings for next year on the following dates: September 27th, December 7th, and March 8th. All meetings will run from 9:30am-1:00pm, with some meetings running later as conditions warrant. Meetings will still be held at OCALI.
3. Barbara Murphy (Consultant with the Office of Exceptional Children of the Ohio Department of Education) gave a legislative update. We are now embedded in every strand of the Model Curriculum. The Law and Policy Committee of ODE is reexamining the entire issue of licenses and who is qualified to conduct evaluations. Included in this review is the entire issue of conducting reevaluations with existing data (e.g., consent, compiling information, etc.). For now, practitioners are still advised to obtain parental consent for all evaluations, whether they are initial evaluations or reevaluations that are based on exiting data. There are concerns about abuses of so-called “waiver reevaluations,” where schools and parents are concluding reevaluations may not be necessary in some circumstances. ODE will be examining best professional practices in this area so that the option is not being abused.
4. Ann Brennan (Director of Legislative Affairs and Professional Relations for the Ohio School Psychologists Association) gave a legislative update. The proposed budget

for the State of Ohio is due sometime in the second full week of March. There is the probability of significant cuts—perhaps as much as 15-20% across many areas. Some federal programs and related funding streams (e.g., IDEIA) must be maintained, but many state-based funding streams are likely to be substantially impacted. The status of budget cuts and its potential impact on funding intern school psychologists was also discussed. Senate Bill 5 was discussed in great detail, with some explanation of recent amendments to the bill. Ann will be leading an effort from OSPA to address concerns that the group has with certain provisions in SB5.

Ann discussed a bill that would provide identification and intervention services in schools specifically for students with dyslexia. She informed the group that another bill to increase the number of calamity days from three back to five was likely to pass and be signed shortly by Governor Kasich. Ann reviewed House Bill 69, the Retirement Pension Reform Bill. Though there are hearings on this bill into April, many observers believe that this bill (fashioned on recommendations from entities such as STRS) will largely remain the same as it is presently written. House Bill 30, which eliminates the mandate for school districts to provide free all-day kindergarten, was passed and it is also likely to be signed by the Governor soon. Finally, a bill is being crafted to provide scholarships (i.e., vouchers) on a limited basis to special education students in public school districts. Ann will have more information on this bill as details become available.

5. Theresa Nixon provided an overview of an accommodations manual that she and her colleagues are producing as part of an ODE task force. There is a similar manual that is published at the federal level. Theresa's group is using the federal document (and similar documents from other states) as a starting point for the project. Presently, the manual is slated to be approximately 70-74 pages, with about 40 pages being the text of the manual and the remaining pages being dedicated to worksheets and toolkits. This resource will be useful for IEPs and Section 504 plans, as well as assisting teachers accommodate students in the classroom and in testing situations. This manual is now available on the ODE website.

6. There was robust discussion as to staffing issues, including the distribution of results of a survey monkey commissioned by Dr. Clark to study staffing patterns for school psychological services across the state. Sample districts included Akron, Medina, Cleveland, and Springfield. Dr. Clark anticipates distributing the survey more widely and sharing those data at a later meeting. Dr. Clark also proposed that a survey be sent to practicing school psychologists to gauge the time needed to perform a number of traditional services that school psychologists provide to the schools. Discussion ensued about various ways to distribute such a survey and the importance of obtaining the endorsement of OSPA for this project. Dr. Clark also led a discussion about Independent Educational Evaluations and potential conflicts of interest that may arise in securing these options for parents when the evaluators work for other educational service providers.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert J. Kubick, Jr., Ph.D.

Secretary – Ohio Supervisors of School Psychologists (OSSP); March 10, 2011