

Ohio Supervisors of School Psychologists (OSSP)

Meeting Notes

November 4, 2015

Hilton Polaris, Columbus

In Attendance: Lynette Bendele, Delaware City; John Biltz, Akron Public; Diane Bachman Fowler, Columbus City; Donna Dixon, Dayton Public; Tiffany Eggleston, Columbus City; Robyn Floyd, Columbus City; Rachel Freeman-Hicks, Loveland City, OSSP Co-Chair; Patrick Hurley, Licking County ESC; Rob Kubick, Akron Public; Kaitlyn Lang, Montgomery Co. ESC; Kathie MacNeil, Warren Co. ESC, OSSP Co-Chair; Sara Maurer, Cincinnati Public; Erich Merkle, Akron Public; Karen Stine, Hamilton Co. ESC; Pete Tolan, ECOESC; Danita Thornton, Columbus City; Ann Brennan, OSPA Executive Director; Michael Petrasek, Consultant, ODE/OEC.

1. **Survey Results:** K. MacNeil shared feedback from the 13 respondents to the online survey distributed to the OSSP listserve in Spring, 2015, for determining best meeting dates, times, locations, agenda items. Participants provided feedback that was consistent with the survey data: meeting twice per year, in Columbus and in the afternoon, in conjunction with the OSPA Spring and Fall Conferences, including regular agenda items of Legislative and ODE updates, in addition to member-generated issues.
2. **OSSP Leadership:** R. Freeman-Hicks noted that Dr. Rob Kubick has volunteered to assume the OSSP Chair leadership. Kaitlyn Lang agreed to serve as Secretary.
3. **Professional Liability Insurance:** Discussion about when additional coverage might be needed and from which providers colleagues around the table have purchased (most frequently mentioned, through that offered by NASP: Forrest T. Jones & Co., American Professional Agency).
4. **School Psychologist Shortages:** Many districts are looking at hiring assistants, in response to the shortage of school psychologists. Discussion points included:
 - Licensed Special-Education Teachers who are supervised can complete achievement testing, distribute checklists, and be paid a

- teacher's salary; educational aide trained to administer achievement tests; job title needs to be Aide or Paraprofessional.
- Job description at Fairfield County ESC will be shared with the OSSP distribution list.
 - There is one sentence in the Ohio Operating Standards related to School Psychologist Aide, who must be supervised by a School Psychologist; however, there are no standards, parameters nor ODE License for this position.
 - M. Petrasek noted that the term Psychologist is controlled by the Ohio State Board of Psychology and so the use of the position title School Psychologist Assistant is prohibited.
 - Since hiring educators to assist school psychologists would not solve the ratio issue, a district over ratio should file a state waiver, with evidence of efforts to having done all the district could do to locate and hire. This is an activity that is bridging the gap until the ratio issue can be resolved.
 - A. Brennan described the representation on the newly-formed Task Force, meeting for the first time on Thursday, November 5, 2015 and reported on the related-services shortage e-survey, in collaboration with other related-services organizations: OT/PT, SLP. Shortage Task Force members include OAPSA Exec. Director, Ohio ESC Exec. Director, IUC and ESC representatives.
 - A. Brennan also shared that response to the shortage is being addressed through legislative channels as well. Task Force recommendations could help frame the legislative effort to address the issue.
 - R. Kubick reminded the group about the OSPA Omnibus survey data and how it could be aggregated to address questions related to the shortage. R. Kubick also asked participants to filter questions and components to be considered for inclusion in the next upcoming survey distribution (Spring, 2016).
 - Layers of response to shortage:
 - Intangibles: travel time between buildings, office space with phone, tech., desk/chair, clerical support;
 - Culture/climate issues – due process, systemic issues;
 - Salary and number of work days;
 - Amount of support available – especially new school psych transitioning in, mentorship programs, outreach programs that OSPA might offer.

- Southeastern Ohio lacks school psych. training programs which leads to other considerations for responding to the shortage, such as creating a new program.
- IUC goal is to have 100 interns per year; currently there are 95-97 annually. 2013 OSPA Omnibus Survey indicated that 2015-16 year is the peak in retirements.
- A. Brennan encouraged us to forward any concerns, barriers, limitations, considerations, suggestions, etc. to the Task Force. The goal is to collect data and have a solution proposal

5. ODE Updates: M. Petrasek shared updates:

- Urban OEC Monitoring Team: a year of self-evaluation for urban districts before the state monitoring team becomes involved, with the goal to have increasing emphasis on results-driven accountability [i.e., closing gaps with subgroups]; this team will specialize in assisting urban teams, beyond looking at forms filled out properly and funds allocated properly. The plan is to have 10 team members, with a school psychologist being one member.
- OSEP Dear Colleague letter on Dyslexia guidance: use of the terms dyslexia, dysgraphia and dyscalculia in ETR's permitted.
- ODE Data 'clog': District report cards have not yet come out, and all indications are that it will be January-February 2016 before released. The move from PARCC to AIR is the reason for the delay in the data reports.
- 3rd Grade Reading Guarantee: revised guidance manual has been released in the last 6 weeks and may be of interest to school psychologists.

6. Legislative Updates: A. Brennan shared several additional highlights:

- Charter School Reform bill passed and it has been signed by the Governor. Her perception is that it is significant, with transparency in reporting and financial accountability. She will post this on the OSPA listserve. ODE is studying recommendations for next steps in moving forward to similarly reform online drop-out recovery schools.
- Senate Bill 208 also passed last week, impacting larger districts (e.g., CPS, Akron, Dayton...), includes additional money for districts affected by the Tangible...Tax.

- Effort, despite much opposition from key legislation, to get an amendment or bill that would impact the high-performing ESC language and associated funding formula with the goal being to eliminate entirely the high-performing language.
- Gifted Education Rules draft currently in ODE Achievement Committee; a draft with a related survey, to be completed by 11/5/2015 is available at ODE. Ohio Association of Gifted Children website is consistently updated.
- Much easier to access materials and information from the State Board of Education meetings with a link now to materials, presentations, PowerPoints that the ODE staff has presented (e.g., GED options, online curriculum issues, etc.): at ODE website, type in 'State Board of Education' and click on the month, and then at the bottom of the month are the available resources.

7. Other Topics:

- Discussion about districts that are offering online programs that compete with other electronic/virtual schools and associated issues: providing services for children with disabilities, Section 504 accommodation plans, curriculum and technology issues.
- Currently available vocational programming options for students.
- It was affirmed that counseling or other therapeutic services (e.g., counseling) if listed on IEP as service are Medicaid billable.
- Discussion about when school psychologists can serve as District Rep./designee in ETR meetings.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Stine
 OSSP Secretary

Next Meeting Date:

Wednesday, April 20, 2015