

New Mexico IDEA Advisory Panel Meeting

MINUTES

September 6, 2024

Day 2

Meeting called by	Chair Jennifer Donelli called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m.
Type of Meeting	Advisory Panel Meeting
Facilitator	Chair Jennifer Donelli
Secretary	Hart Lewis
Attendees	Carli Mortensen, Christa Kulidge, Damon Terry, Dana Malone, Jennifer Donelli, Jessica Powell, Laurel Nesbitt, Mary Vaughn, Melissa Wassana, Hart Lewis, Robert Madrid, Henry Sandles.
Committee Report out Committee Leads	<p>Chair Donelli gave the floor to Ms. Kaity Ellis, who shared the essential logistics and guidelines for committee members, setting the stage for productive and engaging committee sessions. The committees then gave their reports.</p> <p>Family & Community Engagement The Student Family Engagement Committee prioritizes relationships as the foundation for everything. They want to focus on student advocacy to ensure students have a voice in the special education process. They identified action items that included professional development for student-led Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). Would also like to aim to address challenges related to technology access in communities in New Mexico. They believe that community involvement is crucial. They have significant equity issues in the state of New Mexico. Many families feel excluded or intimidated by the special education process, so building stronger relationships with families is a priority.</p> <p>Transition The committee's focus is on providing transition plans to support students with disabilities, especially those who are in the legal, justice, or foster system. They feel that these groups tend to be forgotten the most. The goal in the next five years is to see if the OSE can provide training specific to districts addressing the needs of students in the justice system. The action plan will start by investigating effective transition systems for students in the justice system already occurring in other states. Reports will be given at the next panel meeting. The committee would also like to see OSE hold an annual Transition conference. They would like for the last panel meeting to be held at one of the justice locations, providing the panel members with a better sense of the significant, unique struggles that our students with disabilities face once in the justice system.</p> <p>Policy The policy committee worked hard to set goals aligned with their responsibilities and provided meaningful input on OSE policy.</p> <p>The first critical issue involved responding to OSE's efforts. The committee felt that they should be able to provide feedback through public comments, either orally or in writing, on formal policy initiatives that affect students with disabilities. After some discussion, the</p>

	<p>committee decided to focus its committee work on the following action item based on a responsibility of the panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Comment publicly on rules, regulations, or legislation proposed by the state regarding the education of children with disabilities, with particular emphasis on the unmet needs of children with disabilities. <p>The second critical issue pertained to the last bullet point of the IDEA B Panel Responsibilities. The committee believes this issue requires a proactive approach to making policy recommendations. It focuses on providing proactive recommendations that can impact policy by suggesting solutions for unmet needs. These suggestions could lead to policy changes through legislation, rulemaking, or new guidance for policy manuals. The committee extensively discussed potential legislative efforts and ongoing rule-making. Some of the areas under discussion include suspensions and expulsions, which disproportionately affect students with disabilities, as well as restraint and seclusion, which separate work groups are addressing. Furthermore, the committee discussed the reformulation of HB 285 to address the unmet needs of students with disabilities, manual revisions, and team behavioral strategies to provide input.</p> <p>After some discussion, the committee decided to focus its committee work on the following action item based on a responsibility of the panel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Advise the SEA in developing and implementing legislation rules and guidance documents with particular emphasis on the unmet needs of children with disabilities. <p>The committee was eager to tackle the final bullet point of the IDEA Panel responsibilities but recognized the need for more time for thorough discussion and decision-making.</p>
Date and Location of Next Meeting	Next Meeting Thursday, November 7, and Friday, November 8, 2024 (Virtual)
Adjournment	Chair Donelli thanked everyone for attending today's meeting before adjourning it.