

**School Paraprofessional Advisory Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday, September 9, 2014**  
**AFT Connecticut, Rocky Hill, CT**

**Attendance:** Anthony Brisson, SERC; Heather Dawes, SERC; Marcia Cattanach, AFT CT; Regina Birdsell, CAS; Patti Fusco, AFT Connecticut; Bill Walkauskas, CSEA; Cindy Knudsen, CEUI/MEUI; Stacey Cronk, CES; Rhonda Kempton, CSDE and Iris White, CSDE.

**CREC Update:** Donna Morelli was unable to attend

**CSDE Update:** Iris White and Rhonda Kempton.

- **Internet Based ParaPro Assessment:** Educational Testing service (ETS) is no longer offering the paper and pencil version of the ParaPro Assessment. Districts and candidates now have to find a location that offers the exam. Districts may also choose to contract with ETS to offer the exam. To our knowledge, LEARN is the only organization that is currently offering the Internet Based Assessment. CSDE continues to receive phone calls and emails from candidates looking for a schedule of when tests are available. The suggestion was made to contact the RESC Alliance to see if there is interest. Rhonda and Iris will follow up back at CSDE.
- **Recommendations for the Para of the Year:** Rhonda Kempton read a summary of the two finalist's background and their essay responses. After discussion and a vote, Geraldine Lavallee from Simsbury was named the 2015 Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year! Sara Sessions from Madison was a very strong runner up. Iris will notify Geri and the semi-finalists this week. Unlike past years, this decision required a vote. We will need to look at our selection procedures for next year.
- **Recognition Ceremony:** The attached draft was presented for review. Council members are able to attend for free. The word "Special" is the waiver code. We are waiting to hear back from our choice for a keynote speaker. Heather reports that 15 people have already registered.
- **Paraeducator Webpage:** Council members still like the idea of having CSDE collaborate with other service providers (SERC, CREC, and UCEDD) to create a "one stop shop" of information for paraeducators.
- **PRI Study Update:** SERC and CSDE were interviewed for the study. Public Hearing is scheduled for September 24<sup>th</sup>. CSDE has been asked to testify. Prior to the public hearing, at 11:00 a.m. the two Program and Review Investigations Staff Analysts, Cathy Conlin and Sue Phillips will present a PowerPoint on their preliminary findings.

**SERC Update: Anthony Brisson and Heather Dawes:**

- **IEP Webinar:** Missy Wrigley and Anthony Brisson drafted an outline for a webinar on *What Every Para Needs to Know about the IEP and the Law*, which will be vetted by SERC and CSDE.
- **Paraeducator Learning Seminar:** Saturday January 31<sup>st</sup>. Two separate presentations on SRBI and Math (flyer attached). Last time, SERC cancelled due to low enrollment only to have a number of paras call to register at the very last minute.
- **SRBI Symposium** is scheduled for November 13<sup>th</sup> at the Crowne Plaza, Cromwell. One session will focus on Effective Utilization of Staff. This will be an opportunity to address the role of paraeducators. Heather will send out information regarding the Symposium to the Council.

- **Paraeducator Brief:** Anthony is collaborating with Regina Birdsell from CAS on a brief for Administrators on the Effective Utilization of Paraeducators. It should be completed by winter time, possibly even in time for the SRBI Symposium.
- **Effective Utilization of Paraeducators** as part of SERC's Leadership Series -February 2015. 90 minutes. February 6<sup>th</sup>. ITBD. Rhonda and Iris will co-present with Anthony.

**Local Arrangements Committee Update: Please see attached meeting notes.**

**Next Agenda:** Debrief Recognition Ceremony and PRI Public Hearing. Update on National Conference.

Next Meeting Dates, all from 4:00 p.m. -6:00 p.m. at AFT Connecticut, 35 Marshall Road, Rocky Hill:  
11/18, 1/13, 3/10, 5/12