

**School Paraprofessional Advisory Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 16, 2008**

In Attendance: Darlene Brodbeck, ACES; Ann Dombroski, ACES; Marcia Cattanach, AFT Connecticut; Jennifer Douglas, Education Connection; Ellen Tyler, Region 18; Jonas Zdanys, Department of Higher Education; Craig Struble, SERC; Stefanie Carbone, SERC; Loyola Welsh, MEUI; Leigh Gold, West Hartford School District; Kate Moran, LEARN; Tricia Silva, CREC; Cheryl Kaiser, Watertown School District; Sharon Hagans, SEIU; Tony Maida, CES; Elaine Rothenberg, EASTCONN; Annie MacDonald, UE/CILU; Regina Birdsell, CAS; Iris White, CSDE.

Introductions

I. CSDE Update:

- State Department/Iris put together budget
Need for paraprofessional professional development
Advisory Council approved the proposed budget

- COMPASS Statewide Training Modules 1st week September

Twenty eight participants from the RESCs, SERC, and several school districts were trained in some of the CREC Compass Modules. Most felt the training was excellent and clear. Trainees went back to districts with information, moving forward with professional development. Trainers need to collect data to present back to Legislature to show who has been trained and to account for the money spent.

On October 23, participants will be trained in two of the advanced modules: Creating Independent Learners and Advanced Instructional Strategies. Iris will present the CALI Paraprofessional Overview and Paraprofessional Teacher Collaboration.

The council suggested that the next CREC Advanced Modules focus on ELL, Assistive Technology, Advanced Behaviors, SRBI, and Data Collection. There is also a concern that the modules only address special education, many paraprofessionals work in regular education.

Districts should be mandating PMT Training for all staff not just teachers (Paras need training)

Lawsuits/litigations are forcing this type of training

Tony-there is a law that anyone who does physical restraint and seclusion needs to be trained. Special Education Law went into effect last year. All districts should be aware of law/districts are required to submit reports on physical restraint and inclusion.

Law should be sent to all committee members. Regs are necessary for anyone employing restraint. This law says anyone in that situation should receive training. Iris will forward this info to all members.

- Paraprofessional Professional Development Surveys:

Teachers, administrators, and paras participated.

Not all paras have access to survey.

In order of popularity: Behavior Management, Reading/Readiness Skills, Math, Writing.

Survey will be up for another month. Iris will email hard copy for folks to distribute. Responses need to be sent back to her.

- Teacher Training

Better train teachers on effectiveness of working as a team with paraprofessionals.

Important that paraprofessionals be treated with dignity.

Council then divided into groups to engage in the SWOT Activity (results attached).

Members signed up to serve on two subcommittees. One to address a possible district paraprofessional professional development grant program and the other to create legislative recommendations.

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Kaiser