ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 31, 2003
DEL-TECH TERRY CAMPUS
12:30-4:00 P.M.

MINUTES

ATTENDEES: Barbara Ashmead, Carol Barlow, Susan Berry, Sarah Blake, Carolyn H. Brock, Margaret Colvin, Shauna Crossen, John Dewey, Sue Dunbar, Lori Sansbury Durr, LaRaine Durr-Beckhorn, Dianna Farrell, Michael Ferrari, Jim Hartman, Miki Hartman, Melanie Hoffman, Mary Johnson, Carol Lay, N. Lynne Meyer-Berlin, Diana Moore, Kyle O’Shea, Judi MacBride, Don Peters, Wendy Roberts, Glenda Scott, Linda Smith, Martha Toomey, Brian Touchette, Sarah Unger, Doreen Walls

UPDATES:
Best Practices Workgroup – The workgroup met for the third time on January 31st. The group has been reviewing the rubrics of fifteen other states that use a portfolio assessment to analyze the dimensions and brainstorm possible changes. The workgroup asked the committee to consider whether the rubric should be revamped to match the 5 proficiency levels.

Expansion Workgroup – The workgroup has undertaken the task of answering the federal conditions that have been placed on Delaware regarding the alternate assessment. The workgroup held a phone conference on January 30th with Ken Olsen and Jackie Kearns from the Mid South Regional Resource Center to discuss the workgroup’s proposed solutions to OSEP’s special conditions. Three conditions were discussed: regular reporting on children’s performance in the alternate portfolio assessment; ensuring that students in the alternate assessment are assessed at the same grades as non-disabled peers; and reporting results of this assessment in the same frequency and detail as reports for non-disabled peers. The workgroup will be bringing a formal proposal to the Advisory Committee at the next meeting.

2002-2003 Scoring – Invitations to participate in the 2002-2003 scoring process have been mailed to all 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 portfolio developers in the state. A goal of thirty volunteers has been set. Four portfolio developers have volunteered thus far. Changes to the 2002-2003 scoring process will include more stringent qualification criteria for scorers and having a committee on site during the scoring process to answer scorers’ questions as they arise.

Validity – The validity study will be conducted in March and early April. Representatives from the Center for Disabilities Studies will be conducting teacher interviews, classroom observations, and IEP reviews and analyzing the data collecting to determine if it matches evidence in the portfolios. A goal of fifty portfolio developers will be observed. All developers being observed must volunteer, and permission will be obtained from the school principal as well. Center for Disabilities Studies representatives will contact the developers to schedule the observation and interview. A notice will be
sent to parents. The University of Delaware Human Subjects Review Board has deemed informed consent from parents unnecessary since the study focuses on programs and not on individual students. While validity study data must be linked to an individual portfolio, all identifying information will be removed from the data. Large group discussion centered on issues of student confidentiality and implications of the findings.

**Technical Report 2**
The groups received copies of the technical report of 2000-2001 DAPA data. Scores have improved across all dimensions from the Field Study and Year 1 of implementation. The percentage of initial perfect agreement for the dimensions ranged from 75.8 – 90.5.

**Appeals Results**
59 portfolios from the 2001-2002 school year were appealed, representing 158 out of 6,570 dimensions (i.e., 2.40%). The groups discussed the most common issues behind the appeals. Information regarding the appeals score and feedback on why the score did or did not change was sent to the portfolio developer, school and district.

**2002-2003 Survey**
Survey data from 2001-2002 is currently being analyzed and compiled into a report, and survey materials are being prepared for the 2002-2003 school year. Committee members reviewed 2001-2002 parent and portfolio developer survey instruments and recommended some changes to the surveys.

**DSEA Meeting**
The Delaware State Educator’s Association task force made several recommendations regarding the DAPA process. These recommendations will be addressed within the Best Practices workgroup meeting and discussed further at upcoming Advisory Committee meetings. Any major changes would not be implemented until the 2004-05 school year.

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**Next Advisory Committee Meeting:** Thursday, March 6
12:30 – 4:00 p.m.
Del-Tech Terry Campus