

# Calvert Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee

## Meeting Minutes: November 13, 2018

### Attendees

Alicia Chubb, Joseph Cormier, Sue Rafalowksi, Caitlin Hosmer, Kara Muffley, Sheri Tardio, Joy Eason, Christy Harris, Kim Jackson, LaShonda Scott, Janet Stephanson, Jennifer Bobbitt, Nicole Maldondo, Angela Uliano, Angela McRae

### Approve October 2018 meeting minutes

The October 2018 minutes were approved.

### Community Resource presentations

#### Independently Facilitated IEP meetings- Community Mediation Center of Calvert (CMCC)

Sheri Tardio shared information about the Community Mediation Center of Calvert, a Non-profit organization that provides a variety of mediation and conflict resolution services in Calvert County. Her focus at this meeting was on independent IEP meeting facilitation. Upon request, the CMCC provides a trained IEP facilitator who acts as a neutral participant at an IEP team meeting. The facilitator is not a parent advocate or school system staff member but either the parent or school can request that an independent facilitator attend the meeting. They request at least 7-10 days' notice before an IEP meeting in order to adequately prepare. Before proceeding, the CMCC gets a release of information from the parent to gain permission to contact the school. The assigned facilitator speaks to the parent and other members of the IEP team to determine the most important issues to be covered at the meeting. Their goal is to keep the meeting focused on the student. They prepare an agenda to be followed during the meeting and ensure all IEP team participants have an opportunity to speak. They do not make any decisions and are not considered a member of the IEP team.

Sheri shared that the Community Mediation Center of Calvert provided their brochures to all the schools last year. SECAC will look into putting a link to CMCC on the website.

#### Southern Maryland BRIDGE Early Childhood Project

Angie McRae, Family Peer Support Specialist, from the Maryland Coalition of Families Southern Maryland BRIDGE Project (Building Resilience from Infancy through Development and Early Childhood) presented to SECAC about the program. Angie is a parent of a 15 year old with Behavioral health concerns and provides a "warm line" for parents or providers to call to find out what services are available based on the concerns they have. So MD Bridge is a tri-county network of programs that support families who have worries or questions about their young child's development and behavior. The program is available for children 0-5. A parent who has worked with a team of experts talks about the child and family need and will then connect the family with child-focused services to empower the family to support their child's behavioral health by reducing family stress and helping the parent(s) be the best caregiver they can be. Some programs BRIDGE connects families to include: Targeted Case Management, Infants/Toddlers, Child/Parent Psychotherapy, Parent Café. The phone number for the Southern MD BRIDGE project is 443-546-0617.

## **Family/School/IEP Team Partnership Solution Finding in Response to MSDE's Annual Parent Survey**

Attendees rotated the room to provide feedback on the following areas:

- Communication (What forms of communication work best? How often/timeliness? Purpose/info/topics? Who from?)
- Family/School Partnerships (Understanding IEP & Progress. Valuing Input. School Climate. IEP team participation)
- Training & Support (For families. Administrators. Teachers. Other Service providers/staff)

Responses will be shared at a future SECAC meeting and with the Special Education Department and/or school staff as appropriate in effort to further improve collaborative relationships surrounding special education and the IEP process.

### **Budget Updates:**

#### **Special Education Budget**

Christy Harris shared that she is in process of developing the proposed budget to be submitted for the superintendent's office to review in December.

#### **Treasury Report**

No SECAC funds have been spent since the October meeting. A budget spreadsheet was provide to attendees.

### **Upcoming Meetings and Events Announced**

November 30<sup>th</sup> -Rethinking ADHD: What Works, What Doesn't and Why; Calvert Marine Museum 9am-12pm

December 6<sup>th</sup> -Transition workshop: When the Bus Stops Coming; CCPS BOE, 6:30-8:30PM

January 17<sup>th</sup> - Sensory Strategies for Children with Sensory Processing Disorder; CCPS BOE, 6:30-8:30PM

### **Feedback & Comments**

Joy Eason, parent and SECAC member-at-large, informed the SECAC that she, Jennifer Bobbitt, Speech Language Pathologist, and Camille Miller, parent and SECAC member, visited Exton County, in Pennsylvania to observe 2 classrooms that are part of the Verbal Behavior Project. The program they observed is similar to the ISLE (Integrated Structured Learning Environment) program in Calvert County that primarily serves student on the autism spectrum. The first verbal behavior classroom was started 15 years ago and the verbal behavior program is currently being implemented in about 600 classrooms in the state. Since implementation of the program schools have seen a decrease in BIPs (Behavior Intervention Plans) and discipline referrals and an increase in staff retention and morale and student learning.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.