



**Sec. 8 Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 125A.24 (PACs)**  
**In order to increase the involvement of parents of children with disabilities in district policymaking and decision-making, school districts must have a special education advisory council that is incorporated into the district's special education system plan.**

Rhonda Morrison, Melissa Haley, Michele Silvester, Jackie Kelly, Kathleen Morrison, Hai-Yen Vo, Julianna Drajko, Ashley Smith, Alicia Munson, Amy Eelkema, Calton Sims, Jennifer Krueger, Leslie Hitchens, Larry Wren, Tara Ellis, Marcy Doud, Melissa Weeks, Lynn Shellenberger

9 of 17 members, 6 guests

## **Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) – Minutes Approved**

**Date: 05-04-20**

**Time: 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm**

**Location:** Virtual meeting via Google Meet (Instructions to join the meeting will be shared via email)

### **6:00 pm Welcome & Introductions-**

New Member Ashley Ward

### **6: 05 pm Introductions**

### **6:05 pm Approve April meeting minutes**

6:12 pm Motion to approve by Rhonda Morrison, seconded by Amy Eelkema. April minutes approved as is. with no corrections.

### **6:10 pm Alicia Munson, Public Policy Director, Arc Minnesota**

#### **- Arc MN Future Leaders Self of Advocacy Training**

6:13 pm Arc MN Future Leaders of Advocacy Training is a Grant through the C. Charles Advocacy Foundation. The training targets youth and young adults ages 14-24. We have 6 self advocate leaders that helped develop the training. We hope to provide 3 FREE trainings with the grant in St. Paul, Rochester and Winona. A one day, six hour training possibly on the weekend or during the summer. Topics include:

- Leadership development in your own life
- Leadership alongside others are the two topics
- Personal rights as a self advocate
- Communication around what you need and want
- Building confidence
- Anti bullying component
- How to establish self advocacy groups and how to become active in these groups

How do we best advertise something like this? What's the best timing of the training? Does SEAC have feedback or questions?

Tara recommended reaching out to Ramsey County Children with Mental Health Organization for potential students. Julia recommended PACER and possibly a puppet show for younger students.

Is there an application process? Can anyone who wants to register to attend? Yes, they are targeting 50 people total, 15-18 people per location so there's room for sharing and small group work. If we have to go to an online format, we will have to consider that. No application would be necessary, we would take interested parties.

**Follow up needed:** Marcy - We can do an all call to our families, Focus Beyond and other partners to help get the word out. Alicia can reach out to Marcy directly and we can do what we can to assist.

### - **Legislative Update**

We are two weeks out from the end of the legislative session. Things have shifted due to the pandemic. It has disproportionately impacted our families. We are trying to make some significant progress. Stalled a bit in the senate with the education policies, but the house has released their policy on the bill; a bunch of education proposals lumped into one bill. Omnibus bills are considered kitchen sink bill as they include many related items. Stand alone functional behavioral analysis is separated. IEP students can participate in ADSIST (?) Education finance bill is moving that invests in hourly school workers impacted by Covid 19, granting commissioner more authority to bypass some requirements due to this issue. Amending the people fair dismissal act, establishing standards for .... (lost her, she was talking quickly). We were closely monitoring if there would be any waivers to IDEA at the federal level but we were pushing to protect FAPE. No waivers are recommended at this point which is great.

PCA Reform Issues, 15% temporary rate increase for PCAs and releasing some funds for purchasing protective equipment for those care givers. Hoping federal funds can help with some of these issues because we know the state budget will be significantly tight and we need to prevent cuts to our budget.

**Follow up needed:** Maybe we could meet with SEAC again in the fall to address any issues coming up in the 2021 legislative session? [aliciamunson@arcminnesota.org](mailto:aliciamunson@arcminnesota.org)

### - **Coalition for Children with Disabilities**

A broad-based coalition of more than 100 organizations representing persons with disabilities, providers and advocates, dedicated to improving the lives of people with disabilities. MN-CCD addresses public policy issues that affect people with disabilities by collaborating with others, advocating, educating, influencing change and creating awareness for understanding. Some of the advocacy partners are: MN Epilepsy, Proof Alliance, PACER, Ausm.

### **6:40 pm Distance Learning Check In "Share Your Story"-**

In a minute share a positive you have experienced from Distance Learning or a challenge with a possible solution.

6:41 pm People gave updates around their experiences, including some of the struggles and difficulties.

### **6:55 pm Announcements and Shout Outs:**

**Middle School Family Night-** successful from staff and family perspective in informing families of students in 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade about diploma pathways and course selection for students with IEPs.

23 people attended Question and Answer session.

A Clear High School Graduation Plan:

1. Identifies what courses are being substituted for General Education requirements.
2. Supports you and your student's goals for life after high school and beyond.

**The Arc Minnesota's The Movement Video** <https://youtu.be/ldFrCHXxqDc>

MDE's COVID-19 Family Resources

PACER Center COVID 19- Family Resources

SPPS Digital & Alternative Education's Online Resources and Enrichment Activities  
<https://www.spps.org/Page/39293>

**Resources shared at Middle School Family Night: Helpful for students ages 12-21:**

**PACER's Middle & High School Transition Planning** <https://www.pacer.org/transition/learning-center/planning/>

**PACER Center Self advocacy** <https://www.pacer.org/transition/learning-center/health/building-self-advocacy.asp>

**PACER Center Webinars** <https://www.pacer.org/livestream/archive.asp>

**PACER COVID-19 Resources** <https://pacер.org/special/covid-19.asp>

**Think College!** <https://thinkcollege.net/>

**Minnesota Independence College & Community** <https://www.miccommunity.org/>

- Three year college program for young adults with learning differences and autism spectrum disorders.
- Students live on campus learning independent living and employment skills.
- Students graduate with a certificate from Century College in one of 4 areas:
  - Hospitality
  - Culinary
  - Health Care
  - Retail

**Groves Academy ADHD and Learning Disabilities College and Postsecondary Opportunities Fair Connecting Students and Families with Meaningful Postsecondary Education Options.**

- This fair has been offered for many years and is the only fair of its kind in the Minnesota.
- There are typically representatives from over 40 schools and organizations.
- Families can find information about disability services and specialized programs offered that support students with disabilities for college success.
- The tentative date is set for September 29, 2020.

**Postsecondary Resource Guide- Successfully Preparing Students with Disabilities for the Postsecondary Environment**

<https://www.google.com/search?q=Postsecondary+Resource+Guide+Successfully+Preparing+Students+with+Disabilities+for+the+Postsecondary+Environment&oq=Postsecondary+Resource+Guide+Successfully+Preparing+Students+with+Disabilities+for+the+Postsecondary+Environment&aqs=chrome..69i57.847j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8>

Some highlights:

- Planning for College while still in High School starting Freshman Year (9th grade)
- Self Advocacy
- Family Roles in Postsecondary Planning
- Differences Between High School and College

**The Arc Minnesota's GetSet! For Transition Checklist** <https://arcminnesota.org/resource/arc-guide-to-getset-guide-for-transition/>

Transition is the time between ninth grade and graduation from high school or a transition program for students with disabilities. Students, families and schools look at what the student will need, in addition to academics, to live and work as independently as possible when they transition from school to adult life.

- An outline of what you and your student ages 14-21 should consider during transition.
- The checklist includes:
  - General considerations,

- Employment, Training and Learning,
- Recreation, Leisure and Community Participation,
- Home and Independent Living.

**Focus Beyond Transition Services Transition Planning Guide  
Postsecondary and College Readiness: Is My Student College Bound?**

When planning for the future, many IEP teams have questions about a student's readiness or ability to access college. Use these questions to guide the conversation and planning process for determining whether or not your student will be able to be successful in college.

Families can also use these questions to understand where their student may need more support.

The areas covered are:

- Academics
- Self-Advocacy
- Organization/Self-Management & Social Skills

Use the questions as a check list. What is the student able to do now? What can they work on with support at home? At school?

**7:00 pm      Adjourn**

**7:05 pm      SEAC Executive**

Last meeting of the School Year June 1<sup>st</sup>.