**Autism Commission Birth to Fourteen Years Old**

**Subcommittee Meeting**

June 17, 2022, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Via Zoom

Present on Zoom: Co-Chairs Russell Johnston and Michele Brait, Molly Gilbridge, Julia Landau, Zachary Huston, Shari Krauss, Erin Sherman, Bonnie , Carolyn Kain and Dianne Lescinskas.

Dr. Russell Johnston called the meeting to order and welcomed all members of the Birth to Fourteen-Year-Old Subcommittee. The members voted to approve the April meeting minutes unanimously.

**Update to IEP Improvement Plan**

Dr. Johnston updated the subcommittee on the status of the IEP project and asked for feedback on the Autism related fields.

* This summer stakeholder meetings will be held. A survey has been distributed. Early adopters are scheduled to use the new form in September or October.
* There is currently a paper form, 22-page word document due to all of the drop down options.
* There are 13 disability categories, including Autism, defined by State and Federal law.
* Currently the form does not include an option to further define the Autism level of functioning, but it could possibly be added to the IEP to help identify the supports needed for the student.

Definition of eligibility is different in DSM and in regulations, there could be concerns around schools finding higher functioning students ineligible for an IEP or for ABA service. It may be best to put level related information under the Evaluation section.

* PLEP A and B should be designed to draw out more information.
* The Autism Related Needs should drive the rest of the IEP for students with ASD and there should be actions attached to the needs via goals.
* Could a box be added to indicate “no goal needed to address this” or “this will be addressed in goal #1”? Adding Mastery and Maintenance language would be helpful in clarifying programs and goals.
* Could a drop-down narrative box be added to include key needs and goals associated to articulate considerations and actions?
* The process guide could contain some directions to assist the TEAM with completing the IEP. The TEAM chair should know the guide in depth to help incorporate accountability for the goals and service delivery.
* Could training programs be created for the TEAM member who has more ownership of the document or the Autism Endorsement, to make sure it isn’t just a check list.
* Ongoing training for staff on completing the new IEP will be important.

**Staffing Solutions**

Dr. Johnston shared with the subcommittee some updates on staffing solutions and asked for input from the subcommittee members.

* There is currently a Chapter 74 program idea for students in high school to have some college readiness around ABA. A meeting with external and internal stake holders was held.
* This program could exist in both Vocational/Technical high schools and public high schools.
* TEC programs are organized by cluster. Education is one cluster, with Early Childhood as the only current topic with in it. Over the upcoming year, the cluster framework may be revised to include a track for RBT training which could lead to assistant ABA person and to BCBA. There would be some overlapping classes for early childhood and RTB to increase the scope and feasibility.
* A pathway to college ABA programs and well-paying jobs would need be incorporated.
* Currently RBT is a 40-hour class time program, with additional sections for competencies and tests.
* BPS has reached out to Madison Park HS about a program. Curry College is currently offering a Bachelor in RBT credential instead of a teaching license.
* Availability of BCBS staffing to supervise the RBTs is a concern.
* DESE licensure of BCBAs would increase the numbers.
* MACEI could be a program that could assist. Students duly enrolled would be going to the community and state colleges as mentors to students with disabilities. Maybe there would be some interest by these students. Mary Price heads the MACEI program.
* DDS college internship program, students may be interested in pursuing further study and employment in the field.
* There is an issue of BCBA burnout. There are some ethical issues with working for companies or schools that violate the BCBA code of ethics.
* A statewide job fair was held in June. There were 300 participants, and 750 attendees. Several hundred attended the Boston booth, while only single digit numbers attended Falmouth. Considerations for better regional marketing for an August job fair is underway. The job fair will include many different careers in education, aside from teaching.

**Subcommittee Recruitment**

Dr. Johnston asked if there were any suggestions for recruitment of new subcommittee members. At our last meeting, we discussed trying to find a self-advocate to join and to diversify the subcommittee. He will send out information to the group about recruiting potential candidates.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:02 am.