

**TO:** Roger D. Breed, Ed.D.  
Commissioner of Education

**FROM:** Gary M. Sherman/Ann Bird  
Office of Special Education

**SUBJECT:** Appointment to Special Education Advisory Council

**DATE:** October 25, 2011

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### PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Appoint the following individual to fill vacancy on the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representation</u>
Steve Larsen	Representative from County Juvenile Justice System Scottsbluff, NE State Board District 7

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The State Board approves all SEAC members. Tony Kleidosty was appointed to SEAC at the September 2011 Board Meeting to fill the position representing the Juvenile Justice System. He has subsequently found that he cannot fulfill this obligation and Steve Larsen has been nominated to fill this position for a term of one year, with the option to reapply for a four year term at the conclusion of the current term.

The State Board approved 2010-2011 SEAC membership at the September 2011 meeting. The completed application for the recommended member is on file in the Office of Special Education, available upon request; not included due to IDEA confidentiality requirements.

#### Estimated Cost

NA

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**Supporting Documentation Included:** Nebraska Special Education Advisory Council Membership Requirements, Nebraska Special Education Advisory Council 10-11 Roster

**For additional information on this item:** Call Gary Sherman (402) 471-2471 or e-mail [gary.sherman@nebraska.gov](mailto:gary.sherman@nebraska.gov) or Ann Bird (402) 399-0289 or e-mail [abird10@cox.net](mailto:abird10@cox.net).

## NEBRASKA SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- I. **Regulatory Authority for Committee** (Excerpts from the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act – IDEA)  
*Sec. 1412(21)(A) State Advisory Panel*  
(A) *The State has established and maintains an advisory panel for the purpose of providing policy guidance with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities in the State.*
- II. **Committee Duties** (Excerpts from the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act – IDEA)  
*Sec. 1412(21)(D)*  
(D) *The state advisory panel shall –*
- (i) *Advise the state education agency of unmet needs within the state in the education of children with disabilities;*
  - (ii) *comment publicly on the state plan and rules or regulations proposed by the state regarding the education of children with disabilities;*
  - (iii) *advise the State educational agency in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the Secretary under section 618;*
  - (iv) *advise the State educational agency in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in Federal monitoring reports under this part; and*
  - (v) *advise the State educational agency in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities.*
- III. **Categories of Required Representation** (Excerpts from the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act – IDEA)  
*Sec. 1412(21)(B)*  
(B) *Membership – Such advisory panel shall consist of members appointed by the Governor, or any other official authorized under State law to make such appointments, be representative of the State population, and be composed of individuals involved in, or concerned with, the education of children with disabilities, including--*
- (i) *parents of children with disabilities (ages birth through 26); or individuals with disabilities;*
  - (ii) *teachers;*
  - (iii) *representatives of institutions of higher education that prepare special education and related services personnel;*
  - (iv) *State and local educational officials, including officials who carry out activities under Homeless Assistance Act;;*
  - (v) *administrators of programs for children with disabilities;*
  - (vi) *representatives of other State agencies involved in the financing or delivery of related services to children with disabilities;*
  - (vii) *representatives of private schools and public charter schools;*
  - (viii) *not less than one representative of a vocational, community, or business organization concerned with the provision of transition services to children with disabilities;*
  - (ix) *a representative from the State child welfare agency responsible for foster care; and*
  - (x) *representatives from the State juvenile and adult corrections agencies.*

*Special Rule – a majority of the members of the panel shall be individuals with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities (ages birth through 26).*

## NEBRASKA SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL 2011-2012

Name	Phone Number	Address	Representation (see key on back)	Term Expires	St. Bd. Dist.
<b>Priscilla Beckmann</b> <a href="mailto:Beckmann1@cox.net">Beckmann1@cox.net</a>	402-727-3050 (W) 402-291-4220 (H) 402-727-3075 (F)	11611 S. 39 <sup>th</sup> St. Bellevue, NE 68123	(ii)	2013	3
<b>Margaret Bitz</b> <a href="mailto:margaret.bitz@nebraska.gov">margaret.bitz@nebraska.gov</a>	402-471-9457 (W)	NSOB – DHHS 301 Centennial Mall South Lincoln, NE 68509-4987	(ix)	2012	1
<b>John Bright</b> <a href="mailto:john.bright@ops.org">john.bright@ops.org</a>	402-557-2476 (W) 402-680-3486 (H) 402-557-2479 (F)	Omaha Public Schools 3215 Cuming St. Omaha, NE 68131-2024	(iv)	2012	4
<b>Diane Bruha</b> <a href="mailto:dianeb@creteschools.org">dianeb@creteschools.org</a>	402-826-5822 (W) 402-826-4417 (H) 402-826-2135 (F)	920 Linden Ave. Crete, NE 68333	(v)	2013	5
<b>Bethany Brunsmann</b> <a href="mailto:bbrunsm@lps.org">bbrunsm@lps.org</a>	402-436-1820 (W) 402-327-0805 (H) 402-458-3284 (F)	Lincoln Public Schools 5901 O Street Lincoln, NE 68510	(i), (ii)	2013	1
<b>Janet Busse</b> <a href="mailto:janet.busse@cnh.com">janet.busse@cnh.com</a>	308-389-5795 (W) 308-754-9168 (H)	1218 Grant Street St. Paul, NE 68873	(i)	2012	6
<b>Jane Byers</b> <a href="mailto:jbyers@paplv.org">jbyers@paplv.org</a>	402-537-6233 (W) 402-289-1135 (H) 402-537-6216 (F)	22630 Southshore Dr. Waterloo, NE 68069	(iv), (v)	2014	2
◆ <b>Glenda Davis</b> <a href="mailto:gdavis@pti-Nebraska.org">gdavis@pti-Nebraska.org</a>	402-346-0525 (W) 800-284-8520 (W) 402-934-1479 (F)	3135 North 93 <sup>rd</sup> St. Omaha, NE 68134	(i), (vi)	2013	8
<b>Millie Demuth</b> <a href="mailto:millie@nsecu.org">millie@nsecu.org</a>	402-471-2561 (W) 402-489-4497 (H) 402-471-2869 (F)	8310 Vine St. Lincoln, NE 68505	(i)	2014	1
<b>Cindy Ellis</b> <a href="mailto:cellis@unmc.edu">cellis@unmc.edu</a>	402-559-4985 (W) 402-334-3221 (H) 402-559-2791 (F)	UNMC 985380 N.M.C. Omaha, NE 68198-5380	(i), (iii), (vi)	2012	4
<b>William Goodwin</b> <a href="mailto:wgoodwin@madonnaschool.org">wgoodwin@madonnaschool.org</a>	402-556-1883 (W) 320-293-7071 (H) 402-556-7332 (F)	6402 North 71 <sup>st</sup> Plaza Omaha, NE 68104	(vii)	2014	2
◆ <b>Mary Gordon</b> <a href="mailto:mary.gordon@nebraska.gov">mary.gordon@nebraska.gov</a>	402-471-0143 (W) 402-471-0183 (F)	DHHS PO Box 95026 Lincoln, NE 68509-5026	(vi)	2015	1
<b>Judy Hall</b> <a href="mailto:jhall@hastings.edu">jhall@hastings.edu</a>	402-461-7472 (W) 402-462-9388 (H) 402-461-7792 (F)	727 North California Ave. Hastings, NE 68901	(iii)	2012	5
<b>Sue Kemp</b> <a href="mailto:skemp2@unl.edu">skemp2@unl.edu</a>	402-472-0084 (W) 402-420-5868 (H) 402-472-7697 (F)	1721 Saint Andrews Place Lincoln, NE 68512	(i), (iii)	2014	1
* <b>Steve Larsen</b> <a href="mailto:slarsen@scottsbuffcounty.org">slarsen@scottsbuffcounty.org</a>	308-631-7789 (W) 308-633-1847 (H) 308-633-1850 (F)	140042 Pieper Lane Mitchell, NE 69357	(x)	2012	7
<b>Kris McMullen</b> <a href="mailto:krcmulle@gips.org">krcmulle@gips.org</a>	308-385-5900 (W) 308-390-2606 (H)	2119 North Park Avenue Grand Island, NE 68803	(ii)	2014	6
<b>Brenda McNiff</b> <a href="mailto:bmcniffcent@yahoo.com">bmcniffcent@yahoo.com</a>	402-223-5277 (W) 402-223-3511 (H) (402-223-5279) (F)	900 West Court St. Beatrice, NE 68310	(i) (v)	2015	5
<b>Norma Mercer</b> <a href="mailto:normam1956@yahoo.com">normam1956@yahoo.com</a>	402-520-1787 (H)	611 North 5 <sup>th</sup> Street Beatrice, NE 68310	(i)	2014	5
<b>Maggie Mintken</b> <a href="mailto:mmintken@gips.org">mmintken@gips.org</a>	308-385-5950 x 2152 (W) 308-390-7569 (H)	2124 North Lafayette Grand Island, NE 68803	(viii)	2013	6
<b>Ryan O'Grady</b> <a href="mailto:rogrady@gips.org">rogrady@gips.org</a>	308-385-5900 (W) 308-384-1435 (H) 308-385-5797 (F)	2500 East 9 <sup>th</sup> Street Fremont, NE 68025	(v)	2015	6
<b>Denise Powell</b> <a href="mailto:mpowell7@windstream.net">mpowell7@windstream.net</a>	402-326-3484 (C) 402-791-0207 (H)	8556 E. Ash Road Firth, NE 68358	(i)	2015	1
◆ <b>Kelly Randels</b> <a href="mailto:krandels@mpsomaha.org">krandels@mpsomaha.org</a>	402-715-6200 (W) 402-778-5802 (H) 402-715-6220 (F)	3006 Laramie Drive Grand Island, NE 68803	(i), (ii)	2014	8
<b>JoAnne Roberts</b> <a href="mailto:jroberts@npsne.org">jroberts@npsne.org</a>	402-644-2544 (W) 402-640-9238 (H) 402-644-2545 (F)	1702 East Berry Hill Norfolk, NE 68701	(i), (v)	2015	3
<b>Julie Stahla</b> <a href="mailto:jstahla@charter.net">jstahla@charter.net</a>	308-384-8514 (W) 308-384-8411 (H)	3208 Homestead Drive Grand Island, NE 68803	(i)	2012	6
<b>Mike Steinwart</b> <a href="mailto:spike690@yahoo.com">spike690@yahoo.com</a>	308-325-3199 (C) 308-325-0504 (C) 308-784-4519 (H)	801 East 6 <sup>th</sup> Street Cozad, NE 69130	(i)	2013	7
■ <b>Karen Thode</b> <a href="mailto:aspiesrule@cox.net">aspiesrule@cox.net</a>	402-492-9100 x110 (W) 402-342-1864 (H)	3727 North 108 <sup>th</sup> Omaha, NE 68164-2940	(i)	2012	8

\* New Appointment    ◆ SEAC Executive Committee    ■ SEAC Speak