

**NEBRASKA
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**SEAC
Annual Report
2011-12**



Nebraska Department of Education
301 Centennial Mall South
Lincoln, NE 68509-4987



Nebraska Department of Education

Roger Breed, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

Gary M. Sherman
Special Education Administrator

Ann C. Bird
SEAC Facilitator

Pam Kasl
SEAC Support

Message from the Chair



One thing is certain – change is the only constant. Life’s choice is to passively respond as change occurs or to actively affect positive change. I believe that the Nebraska Special Education Advisory Council has accomplished the latter this past year. Many dedicated parents and professionals came together to offer guidance and support to the Nebraska Department of Education. We learned and taught one another in a truly collaborative environment with the result of enhancing Nebraska’s State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report.

Nebraska children and youth with disabilities are served with dedication and care by Gary Sherman and his amazing staff, as well as SEAC supports Ann Bird and Pam Kasl. The U.S. Office of Special Education Programs recognized this in their September site visit to Nebraska with a positive report and many glowing comments. Stakeholders, including Nebraska special education staff and SEAC members, collaborated with OSEP to initiate life-altering change for youth with disabilities who have chosen to leave the school system prior to completion of their programs. This pilot program has the true potential to develop into a national model.

It has been a privilege to serve on the SEAC Executive Committee, and to serve as the Council Chair for 2011-12. I became part of a team that made a difference – a true change for good. That good will endure because of the continuing work of the current and future Nebraska Special Education Advisory Council

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Thode

SEAC Chair 2011-2012

What Is SEAC?

Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC)

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) is an advisory panel established to provide policy guidance with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities. The responsibilities of SEAC include becoming knowledgeable about research-based educational practices and reviewing Nebraska Department of Education, Office of Special Education activities designed to improve outcomes for children with disabilities.

Members are selected for a term of four years, and seek information from the perspectives of their constituency groups. Members represent parents and a broad array of professional expertise. SEAC serves in an advisory capacity to the NDE Office of Special Education and to the Nebraska State Board of Education.

The responsibility of each Council member is to advise, (i.e. inform, counsel, recommend, suggest or guide) the Department of Education, not to advocate for individual issues. Recommendations are made by SEAC for the consideration and possible action by the NDE Office of Special Education and the State Board.



Regulatory Authority

Excerpts from the Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 IDEA

I. Regulatory Authority for Committee

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

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 for issuance 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.



SEAC MEMBERSHIP 2011-12

| Name | City | Category | Term Expires | State Board Dist. |
|---------------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Priscilla Beckmann | Fremont, NE | (ii) | 2013 | 3 |
| Margaret Bitz | Lincoln, NE | (ix) | 2012 | 1 |
| John Bright | Omaha, NE | (iv) | 2012 | 4 |
| Diane Bruha | Crete, NE | (v) | 2013 | 5 |
| Bethany Brunzman | Lincoln, NE | (i) (ii) | 2013 | 1 |
| Janet Busse | St. Paul, NE | (i) | 2012 | 6 |
| Jane Byers | Waterloo, NE | (iv), (v) | 2014 | 2 |
| Bridget Cannon-Hale | Omaha, NE | (i) (vi) | 2013 | 8 |
| Millie Demuth | Lincoln, NE | (i) | 2014 | 1 |
| Dr. Cindy Ellis | Omaha, NE | (i) (iii) (vi) | 2012 | 4 |
| Bill Goodwin | Omaha, NE | (vii) | 2014 | 2 |
| ◆ Mary Gordon | Lincoln, NE | (vi) | 2011 | 1 |
| Judy Hall | Hastings, NE | (iii) | 2012 | 5 |
| Sue Kemp | Lincoln, NE | (i) (iii) | 2014 | 1 |
| Jamie Krien | Waverly, NE | (i) | 2012 | 1 |
| Steve Larsen | Mitchell, NE | (x) | 2012 | 7 |
| Kris McMullen | Grand Island, NE | (ii) | 2014 | 6 |
| Brenda McNiff | Beatrice, NE | (i) (v) | 2015 | 5 |
| Norma Mercer | Beatrice, NE | (i) | 2014 | 5 |
| Maggie Mintken | Grand Island, NE | (viii) | 2013 | 6 |
| Ryan O'Grady | Grand Island, | v) | 2015 | 6 |
| Denise Powell | Lincoln, NE | (i) | 2015 | 1 |
| ◆ Kelly Randels | Omaha, NE | (i) (ii) | 2014 | 8 |
| JoAnne Roberts | Norfolk, NE | (i) (v) | 2015 | 3 |
| Julie Stahla | Grand Island, NE | (i) | 2012 | 6 |
| ◆ Mike Steinwart | Cozad, NE | (i) | 2013 | 7 |
| ▣ Karen Thode | Omaha, Ne | (i) | 2012 | 8 |

◆ SEAC Executive Committee

▣ SEAC Chair

(See Membership requirements on next page)

Membership Requirements



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 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; and
- (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.

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

Excerpt from Nebraska Special Education Advisory Council Operating Procedures Article II, Sec. B

The members shall be selected so as to represent all eight of the State Board of Education election districts. The Council voting membership shall not be fewer than 15 members.

SEAC PRIORITIES 2010-11 through 2011-12

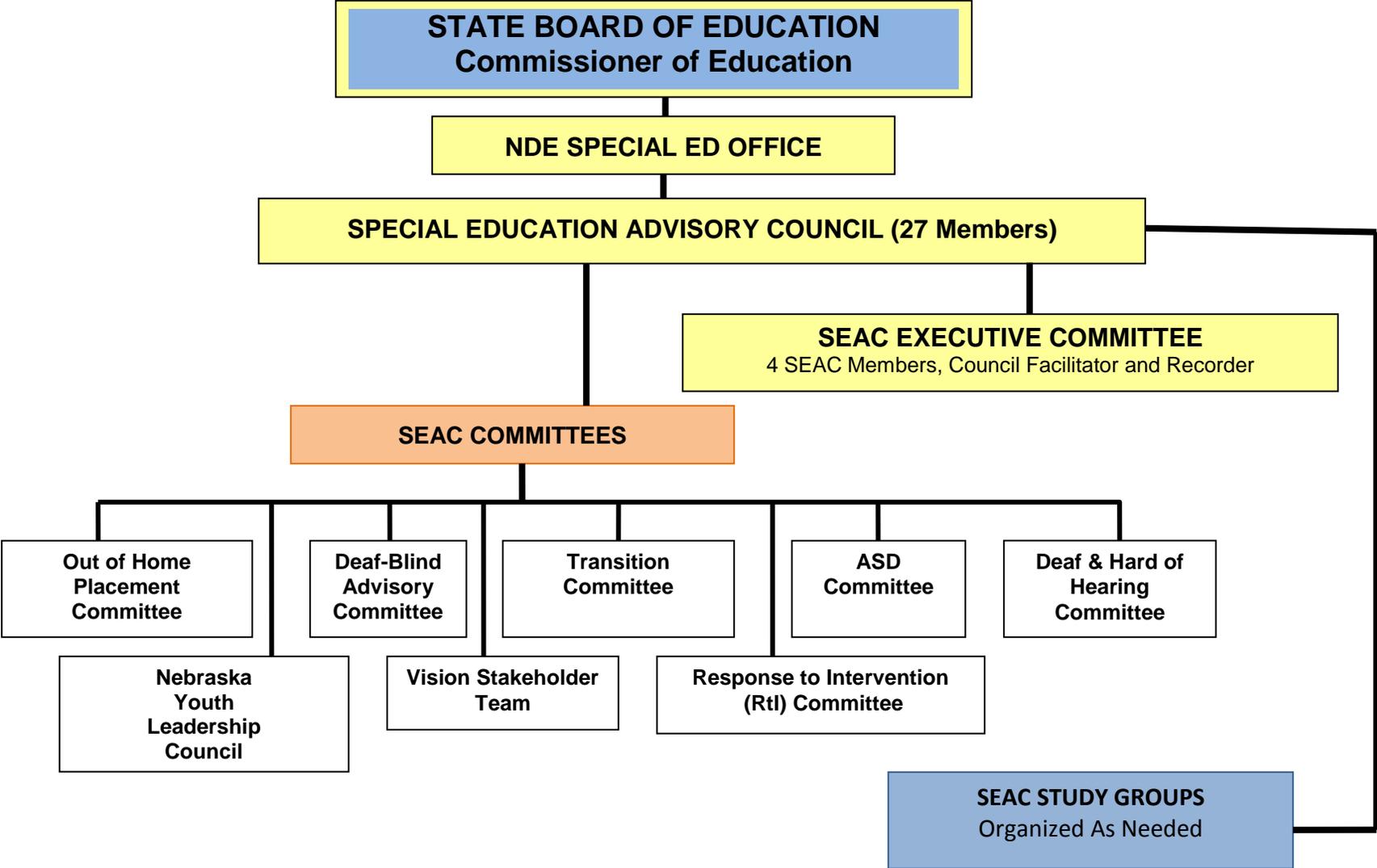
For the purpose of providing policy guidance to the Nebraska Department of Education with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities, the following priorities are established for 2010-11 through 2011-12:

- To participate in the development of the State Performance Plan (SPP) 2011-2017
 - Impact Area 1:** Improving Academic Achievement, Functional Outcomes and Child Outcomes in Natural and Inclusive Environments
 - Impact Area 2:** Improving Communication and Relationships Among Families, Schools, Communities and Agencies
 - Impact Area 3:** Improving Transitions from the Early Development Network to Preschool and School to Adult Living
 - Impact Area 4:** Improving Accountability and General Supervision

- To review the effectiveness of the current State Performance Plan through the analysis of data in the Annual Performance Report (APR)

- To monitor the Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to assure:
 - Linkage between ESEA and IDEA (including but not limited to: Response to Intervention, ChildFind, Assessment and Progress Monitoring) and the Individual Rights of Students with Disabilities

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL STRUCTURE



Summary of Council Activities 2011-12

The 2011-12 SEAC year began on September 14th, with an Orientation dinner and training session for the eight new members joining the Council. The SEAC Orientation Manual and the SEAC Primer were used as instructional tools to acquaint new members with the mission of SEAC and the procedures followed during each meeting. A glossary of important terms was reviewed to give new members an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the typical vocabulary used during SEAC meetings and activities.

The Special Education Advisory Council met for four scheduled meetings during the 2011-2012 school year: September 15, November 17, January 19 and April 18. Throughout the year, SEAC reviewed the progress of the following SEAC Committees and their initiatives and activities:

- Deaf/Blind Committee
- Autism Spectrum Disorders Committee
- Out of Home Placement Committee
- Regional Programs for Children Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing
- Response to Intervention Committee
- Nebraska Youth Leadership Council
- Transition Advisory Committee
- Vision Stakeholders Committee

At each of the four SEAC meetings, the following information was provided to Council members and discussed as the agenda permitted

- Due process case reports and Nebraska legislation
- Annual Performance Report update
- State Performance Plan update
- School district determinations and public reporting status
- ILCD (Monitoring) Procedures

SEAC continued to operate with the priorities established as SEAC Priorities for 2010 through 2012. These priorities are listed below:

For the purpose of providing policy guidance to the Nebraska Department of Education with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities, the following priorities are established for 2010-2011 through 2011-2012:

- 1. To participate in the development of the State Performance Plan (SPP) for 2011-2017**
 - Impact Area 1: Improving Academic Achievement, Functional Outcomes and Child Outcomes in Natural and Inclusive Environments
 - Impact Area 2: Improving Communication and Relationships Among Families, Schools, Communities and Agencies
 - Impact Area 3: Improving Transitions from the Early Development Network to Preschool and School to Adult Living
 - Impact Area 4: Improving Accountability and General Supervision
- 2. To review the effectiveness of the current State Performance Plan through the analysis of data in the Annual Performance Report (APR)**
- 3. To monitor the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to assure:**

Linkage between ESEA and IDEA (including, but not limited to: Response to Intervention, ChildFind, Assessment and Progress Monitoring) and the Individual Rights of Students with Disabilities

Following are the highlights of each SEAC meeting:

SEPTEMBER 15, 2011

- Michelle Borg, Facilitator of the Out of Home Placements Committee, informed SEAC of the most recent work of this committee. Four workgroups have been established: 1) academic assessment and curriculum; 2) transitions; 3) school residency and responsibility/graduation; and 4) systems communication, coordination and collaboration.

- Jessica Williams from the *UNL Center on Children, Families and the Law* demonstrated the **Partnering 4 Students** website that can be found at <http://partnering4students.org>.
- Gary Sherman explained the application process used by Nebraska school districts for receipt of their federal special education funding.
- Annette Wragge, Director of the Nebraska Autism Spectrum Disorders Network, explained the structure of the Network, and the efforts within the five ASD Regions.
- Beth Wierda and Rose Dymacek, NDE Special Education Office, conducted an interactive activity with SEAC members to give them a better understanding of Nebraska's State Performance Plan (SPP), Annual Performance Report (APR), Nebraska's Impact Areas, Improving Learning for Children with Disabilities (ILCD) and Inquiries.

NOVEMBER 17, 2011

- Annie Bird, SEAC Facilitator, informed the Council of a national webinar sponsored by the Mountain Plains Regional Resource Center, to be presented on November 22. Former SEAC Chair Sandi Proskovec and Annie will be keynote presenters along with a team from the state of Arizona discussing the role of state advisory panels.
- Carla Osberg, NDE, described the outcomes of a one million dollar IDEA grant (GSEG) that Nebraska received four years ago to assist the state in developing modified standards and assessment for children with disabilities. Revised standards for reading, math and science were written, and modified assessment procedures were developed for children with disabilities. Training was provided and follow-up staff development activities are ongoing.
- Two groups of stakeholders were brought together in late September to address major issues as part of the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education (OSEP) site visit. OSEP has committed considerable effort to work with Nebraska regarding results of statewide efforts. The groups completed their preliminary work in two days regarding the Part B topic "Re-engagement of Students with Disabilities Who Have Left School Prior to Graduation" and the Part C topic "Increasing the Rate of Multidisciplinary Evaluations of Infants and Toddlers". Updates will be provided throughout the year to SEAC on the progress of both of these areas.
- Lindy Foley, Facilitator of the Transition Committee, informed SEAC of the recent efforts of the Committee regarding the formation of

regional transition teams who will assist schools with transition planning and the development of transition policies. She distributed the Post-School Outcomes Project Annual Fact Book.

- Patti Neill, with the Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP), explained to SEAC that thousands of pieces of assistive technology equipment are available for loan to school districts and families at no charge. She demonstrated numerous pieces of assistive technology, and informed the Council that ATP services are available in the areas of training, consultation, loans/demonstrations, funding resources and statewide buying efforts.
- Teresa Coonts, NDE, and Sally Giittinger, Nebraska Center for the Education of Children Who Are Blind and Visually Impaired (NCECBVI), presented information regarding the SEAC Vision Committee and the services available through NCECBVI. Approximately 800 students across Nebraska receive some level of vision services through the Center.
- Beth Wierda and Carol McClain, NDE, provided a preliminary report of the findings of OSEP during their site visit to Nebraska. The reviews of both programs went very well, yielding two areas of concern for Part B, and a need for further review of areas within Part C.

JANUARY 19, 2012

- SEAC was asked to provide input and recommendations regarding the Nebraska State Performance Plans and Annual Performance Reports for IDEA Parts B and C. A considerable amount of time during the meeting was dedicated to a greater familiarity with the plans and reports, and soliciting input from Council members for support or recommended change.
- Information was presented to SEAC regarding anticipated revisions to Nebraska Rule 51 (92 NAC 51) in accordance with changes to the federal regulations. The Council will be informed of the status of any rule revisions, and will be asked for a letter supporting any future changes to the rule.
- Rose Dymacek, Facilitator of the Response to Intervention Committee, explained to SEAC that much of the statewide training effort in the area of Response to Intervention is being provided by a team of University of Nebraska – Lincoln specialists in RtI.

- Kristi Berst, Facilitator of the Nebraska Youth Leadership Council, shared recent activities of the Council. A statewide council, as well as regional Youth Leadership Councils, address the issues of youth with disabilities in the 18-21 year range. Each Council is comprised of students who are 18-21 who are being served by their school districts.
- A Legislation Subcommittee was established consisting of SEAC members Denise Powell, Bridget Cannon-Hale, Cindy Ellis, Norma Mercer and chaired by Mary Gordon. This subcommittee will review all state legislation that may impact services to children and youth with disabilities in Nebraska.

APRIL 18, 2012

- Gary Sherman, NDE Special Education Office Administrator, presented a comprehensive review of Nebraska's funding that supports the education of children and youth with disabilities. Gary developed and presented a clear and extensive handout of information that details all of the aspects of state and federal funds that flow to Nebraska school districts, as well as statewide efforts supporting special education. Gary responded to numerous questions from Council members in an effort to describe a very complex array of funding sources.
- Lindy Foley, NDE, provided an update on the progress of activities regarding the Part B results topic "Re-Engaging Out-of-School Youth with Disabilities". Updates regarding this effort are posted at www.education.ne.gov/sped/reentry.html.
- Rhonda Fleischer, Facilitator of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Committee, and Teresa Coonts, Facilitator of the Deaf-Blind Committee spoke to the Council regarding recent activities within these groups.
- Beth Wierda informed the Council of proposed revisions to 92 NAC 55, the NDE rule regarding Due Process Hearings. Specific revised language was given to the Council and Beth asked SEAC to provide a letter of support for the public hearing on the Rule 55 revisions.
- The certification standards for Speech-Language Pathology and Speech-Language Technician are currently under revision. Annie Bird has chaired the NCTE Ad Hoc Committee revising these endorsement standards, and she shared these proposed revisions

with SEAC. NCTE will review these recommendations and will act on the changes in the Fall of 2012.

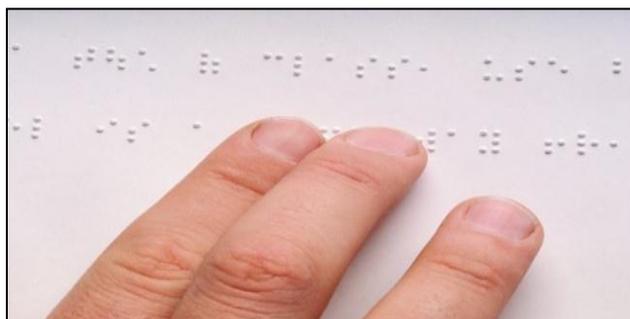
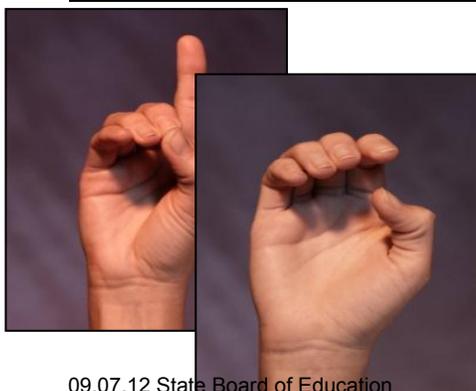
- Mary Gordon, Chair of the SEAC Legislation Subcommittee, provided a review to the Council of several legislative bills that could have possible impact on the education of children with disabilities.
- Annie Bird presented the recommendations of the SEAC Priorities Subcommittee that met March 23, 2012 to develop SEAC Priorities for 2012-13 to 2014-15. Council members provided excellent input for additional changes, and these will be incorporated into the final priorities that will be implemented beginning with the 2012-13 SEAC year. The Council voted to approve these priorities with the recommended changes.
- Retiring SEAC members Karen Thode, Janet Busse and Julie Stahla were recognized for their years of service to SEAC. Gary Sherman presented them with plaques and a small gift, thanking them for their commitment to the Council.

SEAC Committees 2011-2012

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR DEAF-BLINDNESS

The Advisory Committee for Deaf-Blindness has been a requirement of the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) federal grant for many years. The purpose of this committee is to provide input and guidance on grant activities and evaluation. The Advisory Committee for Deaf-Blindness, as well as the Technical Assistance Team, meets a minimum of two to three times per year and offers input and support to all grant activities. The Advisory Committee for Deaf-Blindness was written into the federal grant proposal and was approved for the 5 year grant period of 2008-2013.

| Name | Representation | City |
|-------------------|--|---------------|
| Donna Aksamit | Evaluator/Consultant | Lincoln |
| Marge Beatty | Administrator, ESU#16 | Ogallala |
| David Conway | Assoc. Dean, College of Education, UNO | Omaha |
| Julie Delkamiller | Professor, UNO | Omaha |
| Nancy Flearl | Supervisor, NE Comm.Blind/VI | Omaha |
| Penny Gildea | Parent, Building Bright Futures | Omaha |
| Sally Giittinger | Administrator, NCECBVI | Nebraska City |
| Tanya Hilligoss | Supervisor, Lincoln Public Schools | Lincoln |
| Vacancy | PTI-Nebraska | Omaha |
| Janet L. Killam | Comm.Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing, Consumer | Omaha |
| Diane Meyer | Coordinator, Metro Regional Programs Deaf/HH | Omaha |
| Norma Mercer | Parent, NE Sp. Ed. Advisory Council (SEAC) | Beatrice |
| Ellin Siegel | Associate Professor, UNL | Lincoln |
| Jack Shepard | Vocational Rehabilitation | Omaha |
| Jennifer Stuhmer | Parent, DB Parent Leadership Team | Lincoln |
| Tessa Wright | VI Program, UNL | Lincoln |
| Teresa Coonts | NDE Project Director | Omaha |
| Barbara Remmen | TA Consultant | Omaha |



DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING COMMITTEE

The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Committee is composed of stakeholders representing D/HH Regional Programs, parents, LEA administrators, Nebraska School for the Deaf alumni, higher education, and agencies providing services to children who are deaf and hard of hearing. Committee members present information about the activities of their organizations. The Committee meets two times each year. The purpose is to coordinate and prevent redundancy of services and activities, as well as to gather input.

| Name | Representation | City |
|-------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Laura Barrett | Central Western Nebraska Partnership | Scottsbluff |
| Frances Beurivage | Boys Town National Research Hospital | Omaha |
| Jill Bird | Southeast NE Regional Program | Lincoln |
| Pat Bracken | Voc Rehab | Lincoln |
| Teresa Coonts | NDE Low Incidence Team Leader | Omaha |
| Sue Czaplewski | Central Western Nebraska Partnership | Hastings |
| Lindsay Darnall, Jr. | NeAD | Polk |
| Julie Delkamiller | UNO | Omaha |
| Millie Demuth | SEAC Representative | Lincoln |
| Marg Dredla | ESU #13 | Scottsbluff |
| Janet Drudik | Voc Rehab | Juniata |
| Malinda Eccarius | UNL | Lincoln |
| Frank Hebenstreit | Norfolk Public Schools | Norfolk |
| Wendy Herrold | Southeast NE Regional Program | Lincoln |
| Jill Hoffart | Northeast Regional Program | Norfolk |
| Paula Hopkins | Omaha Public Schools | Omaha |
| Donna Hultman | Omaha Public Schools | Omaha |
| Brenda Kimes | SEAC Representative | Norfolk |
| Natasha Kraft | Metro Regional Program | Omaha |
| Stacy Luther | Nebraska Hands and Voices | Omaha |
| Diane Meyer | Metro Regional Program | Omaha |
| Donna Moss | Hastings Public Schools | Hastings |
| Kathy Northrop | NE-EHDI | Lincoln |
| Peter Seiler | NE Commission for the Deaf or Hard of Hearing | Lincoln |
| Vicki S-Campbell | Vocational Rehabilitation | Omaha |
| Mike Steinwart | SEAC Representative | Cozad |
| Deb Vapenik | ESU #16 | North Platte |
| Rosie Westerhold | SNRP | Lincoln |
| Alison Winkler | Westside Community Schools | Omaha |
| Rhonda Fleischer | Facilitator, Nebr. Dept. of Education, | Hastings |

TRANSITION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Transition Advisory Committee meets three times a year to discuss statewide topics related to the transition of students from high school to adult living. Recommendations are collected from this committee specific to state planning for trainings, technical assistance resources, and state procedures for collecting and analyzing specific transition data.

| Name | Representation | City |
|--------------------|---|----------------|
| Donna Aksamit | Great Plains Education | Lincoln |
| Kristi Arlt | Transition Specialist ESU #2 | Fremont |
| Krisit Berst | NE Youth Leadership Council Facilitator | Omaha |
| Anne Marie Boose | Transition Supervisor OPS | Omaha |
| Veva Cheney | University of Nebraska-Lincoln | Lincoln |
| Lou Cox-Fornander | Transition Specializt ESU #16 | Ogallala |
| Sharon Dalrymple | Families Inspiring Families | Lincoln |
| Barb Fischer | Educational Service Unit #9 | Hastings |
| Janice Flegle | UNMC-Munroe Meyer Institute | Omaha |
| Lloya Fritz | Consultant | Lincoln |
| Patty Galbraith | Consultant | Grand Island |
| Cindy Hahn | Disability Services Counselor – Central Comm. College | Hastings |
| Rita Hammitt | NDE | LaVista |
| Jody Hitesman | Educational Service Unit #9 | Hastings |
| Linda Jespersen | Parent | Alliance |
| Mark Mason | Voc Rehab (Committee Co-Chair) | Lincoln |
| Kris McMullen | Community Based Instruction, GI Public Schools | Grand Island |
| Maggie Mintken | CNSSP, SEAC Representative | Grand Island |
| Dr. Teri Ourada | Lincoln Public Schools | Lincoln |
| Daria Pierorazio | Program Supervisor, CNSSP | Grand Island |
| Victoria Rasmussen | Director, Client Assistance Program | Lincoln |
| Dr. Pearl VanZandt | NCBVI | Lincoln |
| Sue VanHousen | ESU #7 | Columbus |
| Joyce Werner | Advocate for People with Disabilities | Lincoln |
| Lindy Foley | Facilitator, Nebr. Dept. of Education, Sp. Education | Lincoln |





NEBRASKA YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL (NYLC)

The Nebraska Youth Leadership Council (NYLC) has been in place as a SEAC Committee since 2008. During the 2009-10 school year, the NYLC expanded to include two new councils in Central and Eastern Nebraska. The NYLC is comprised of students ages 15-21 years with various disabilities who live across Nebraska. The YLC provides input from the student perspective regarding school services and employment, including academic, social, and transition activities.

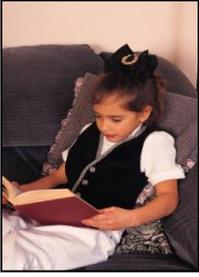
| Name | City |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Denise Bengston, VR | Grand Island |
| China Dixon | Ogallala |
| Samantha Dye | Norfolk |
| Adriane Geier-Hunter | Omaha |
| Alecia Knust | Verdigre |
| Emily Osborn | David City |
| Kasey Pestel | Wisner |
| Justin Valentine | Bellevue |
| Kristi Berst, Facilitator | Nebraska Department of Education |



COMMITTEE ON THE EDUCATION OF STUDENTS IN OUT OF HOME PLACEMENTS

| Name | Representation | City |
|----------------------|---|----------------|
| Brad Alexander | Douglas Co. Youth Center | Omaha |
| David Baisinger | Nebraska Youth Academy | Hastings |
| Carolyn Brown | Envisions of Norfolk | Norfolk |
| Linda Cox | State Foster Care Review Board | Lincoln |
| Josh Cramer | Lincoln Public Schools | Lincoln |
| Dave Erb | Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Services, Inc. | Madison |
| Randy Farmer | Pathfinder Education Program YSC | Lincoln |
| Vicki Fehringer | Waverly Public Schools | Waverly |
| Mary Fraser Meints | Uta Halee and Cooper Village | Omaha |
| DeDe Frisch | South Sioux City Community Schools | So. Sioux City |
| Lori Griggs | State Juvenile Probation District #20 | Lincoln |
| Chris Hanus | NDHHS | Lincoln |
| Susan Harder | NE Correctional Youth Facility | Omaha |
| Kim Hawekotte | UNO - Building Bright Futures | Omaha |
| Rosey Higgs | NE Children & Families Foundation | Omaha |
| Donna Hoffman | School Counselors, NDE | Lincoln |
| Gwen Hurst-Anderson | NE CASA Association | Lincoln |
| William Janike | Child Guidance Center | Lincoln |
| Sherri Kelley | PTI-Nebraska | Omaha |
| Steven Larsen | Scotts Bluff Co. Juvenile Detention Center (SEAC Representative) | Mitchell |
| Mark Mason | Vocational Rehabilitation, NDE | Lincoln |
| Ryan O'Grady | Grand Island Public Schools | Grand Island |
| Kristi O'Meara | Lexington Public Schools | Lexington |
| Judge Linda Porter | Separate Juv. Court of Lancaster County | Lincoln |
| Deb VanDyke-Ries | Lancaster Co. Court Appointed Advocate | Lincoln |
| Richard Wehland | Geneva North School – YRTC | Geneva |
| Carol Wierda | Morton School – Whitehall Campus | Lincoln |
| Tanya Wright | Boys Town | York |
| Pat Zalesky | Papillion-LaVista Public Schools | Papillion |
| Michele Borg, | Committee Facilitator | Douglas |
| Pat Frost | NDE Title I Office | Lincoln |





RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION (RtI) COMMITTEE

Response to Intervention is a system of service delivery designed to provide effective instruction for all students using a comprehensive and preventive problem solving approach. It employs a tiered method of instructional delivery, in which the core curriculum addresses and meets the needs of most students (Tier 1). Additional instruction is provided for those needing supplementary support (Tier 2), and intensive and individualized services are provided for the students who continue to demonstrate more intensive needs (Tier 3). At its foundation, RtI includes measuring the performance of all students, and basing educational decisions regarding curriculum, instruction, and intervention intensity on student response to instruction. The Nebraska Department of Education and the University of Nebraska, working collaboratively, have established the RtI Consortium. The role of the RtI Consortium is to provide professional development and technical assistance to Nebraska schools in implementing Response to Intervention with fidelity. The RtI Consortium works with Nebraska school districts and educational service units in this endeavor.

| Name | Representation | City |
|------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Julie Blazer | Hastings Public Schools | Hastings |
| Jane Byers | Papillion-LaVista Public Schools | Papillion |
| Lynne Elwood | Nebraska State Education Assoc. | Omaha |
| Cathy Fiala | ESU #8 | Neligh |
| Kristi Gibbs | Ralston Public Schools | Ralston |
| Mary Kay Haun | Gering Public | Gering |
| Angie Luebbe | Columbus Public Schools | Columbus |
| Kyle McGowan | Crete Public Schools | Crete |
| Denise O'Brien | ESU #10 | Kearney |
| Ellen Stokebrand | ESU #4 | Auburn |
| Andrea Boden | RtI Consortium Proj. Mgr. | Lincoln |
| Lynette Block | RtI Consortium Proj. Mgr. | Lincoln |
| Todd Glover | UNL Asst. Professor | Lincoln |
| Tanya Ihlo | RtI Consortium Proj. Mgr. | Lincoln |
| Loretta Tabor | RtI Consortium Proj. Mgr. | Lincoln |

| NDE Staff | Office |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Rose Dymacek, Facilitator | Special Education |
| Mary Duffy | High Ability Learners |
| Don Loseke | School Improvement |
| Katie Steenblock | Title I |
| Melody Hobson | Early Childhood |
| Mary Ann Losh | Staff Development |
| Tricia Parker | Reading/Writing-Curriculum |
| Beth Wierda | Special Education |



VISION STAKEHOLDER TEAM

Members of the Vision Stakeholder Team represent individuals, agencies and groups interested in the provision of educational and mobility services to students with visual impairments. Annually, the members review activities conducted by the Nebraska Center for the Education of Children Who Are Blind and Visually Impaired, including residential, education and outreach services across Nebraska.

| Name | Representation | City |
|-------------------------|--|----------------------|
| Jim Adams | NCECBVI* | Nebraska City |
| Cindy Barr-McNair | Millard Public Schools | Omaha |
| Jill Beckenhauer | NEAT Center | Cozad |
| Marg Dredla | Educational Service Unit #13 | Scottsbluff |
| Karen Duffy | NCECBVI* | Nebraska City |
| Jenny Connelly | Lincoln Public Schools | Lincoln |
| Jon Fisher | Educational Service Unit #4 | Auburn |
| Sherri Frisbie | Omaha Public Schools | Omaha |
| Audrey Graves | NCECBVI* | Nebraska Cit |
| Teresa Gregg | NE Foundation for Visually Impaired Children | Omaha |
| Shelly Gray | Consumer | Omaha |
| Elissa Heibel | ESU #7 | Albion |
| Tanya Hilligoss | Lincoln Public Schools | Lincoln |
| Penny Hoover | Alliance Public Schools | Alliance |
| Donna Hultman | Omaha Public Schools | Omaha |
| Ginny Karpinski | Parent | Stella |
| Wendy Kemling | Scottsbluff Public Schools | Scottsbluff |
| Constance (Coni) Kersch | Educational Service Unit #8 | O'Neill |
| Jean Loberg | Parent | Wayne |
| Barb Loos | Consumer | Lincoln |
| Norma Mercer | SEAC Representative | Beatrice |
| Jane Moody | Educational Service Unit #11 | Holdrege |
| Patti Neill | ATP | Cozad |
| Leon Schiermeyer, | Region V | Nebraska City |
| Ellin Siegel | University of Nebraska-Lincoln | Lincoln |
| Tyrrie Solheim | Parent | Blair |
| Troy and Nancy Solsaa | Parents | Waverly |
| Dave Stickrod | Nebraska City Public Schools | Nebraska City |
| Pearl Van Zandt | NE Comm.-Blind and Visually Impaired | Lincoln |
| Joel & Cheryl Wichman | Parents | Nebraska City |
| Sharon Wordekemper | McCook Public Schools | McCook |
| Tessa Wright | UNL | Lincoln |
| Teresa Coonts | Facilitator, NDE Special Education Office | Omaha |
| Sally Giittinger | Facilitator, NCECBVI* | Nebraska City |

*Nebraska Center for the Education of Children Who Are Blind and Visually Impaired



AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS (ASD) COMMITTEE

The ASD Committee provides advice to NDE, the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), and the University of Nebraska (UNL) concerning the following:

- The ASD Network’s role in teaching the delivery of appropriate services for children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD);
- The review of current pertinent research and information regarding methodologies and delivery systems for ASD;
- The review of all due process trends associated with children with ASD;
- Recommendations for ASD training of educators, parents and community; and
- Recommendations for ASD teaching competencies/standards.

| Name | Representation | City |
|-----------------------|--|----------------|
| Keri Bennett | Vocational Rehabilitation | Kearney |
| Connie Biaggio | Seward Public Schools | Seward |
| Connie Coltrane | Omaha Public Schools Early Childhood | Omaha |
| Jennifer Faz | Norris Public Schools | Firth |
| Kristen Larsen | Parent | Kearney |
| Laura Maddox | Grant Coordinator Boys Town | Lincoln |
| Larianne Polk | Special Education Director ESU #7 | Columbus |
| Torri Tejral | Licensed Mental Health Practitioner UNMC/MMI | Lexington |
| Tammy Voisin | Papillion-LaVista Public Schools | Papillion |
| Cristen Witte | School Psychologist ESU #17 | Valentine |
| Non-Voting Members | Agency | City |
| Teresa Coonts | Facilitator, NDE Special Education Office | Omaha |
| Sonja Chatfield | ASD Northeast Region Coordinator | Columbus |
| Terri McGill | ASD Metro Region Coordinator | Omaha |
| Megan Misegadis | ASD Network Assistant | Lincoln |
| Monica Pickinpaugh | ECSE Teacher | Norfolk |
| Vicki Rutter | ASD Western Region Coordinator | Scottsbluff |
| Dawna Sigurdson | ASD Central Region Coordinator | Kearney |
| Melissa Trautman | ASD Southeast Region Coordinator | Milford |
| Annette Wragge | Facilitator, ASD Network Coordinator | Lincoln |

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Copies of this report and additional information regarding the Nebraska Department of Education's Special Education Office can be obtained at:

<http://www.education.ne.gov/SPED/sped.html>