

WASHINGTON COUNTY SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

February 4, 2002

The Washington County Special Education Advisory Committee met on February 4, 2002 in the Annex conference room. Members present included Carol Robinson, Chair, Carl Buchanan, Tammy Meade, Laura Moore, Faye Morris, Ruth Robinson-Gouge, and Rhonda Smith. Present from the school system were Phyllis Briscoe, Lisa McCoy and Connie Phillips.

Mrs. Briscoe explained changes were needed in the 2001-2002 Annual Plan in every LEA. The Department of Education, responding to a parent complaint that LEAs deliberately kept procedures vague, required all Plans to do some revisions. Washington County's revisions included (1) indicating who (superintendent/designee) would notify surrogate parents when their services were no longer needed, (2) identifying the Director of Special Education as the supervising staff monitoring personnel to ensure nondiscrimination in the selection, administration, reporting, and use of test results, (3) stating the Washington County Public Schools does no additional mass screening for special education beyond the required 60 day initial entry screening, (4) stating that Washington County Public Schools does not have a policy requiring parents who choose not to use the mediation process to meet to resolve disputes related to the Washington County Public Schools' proposal to initiate or change the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of the child or the provision of a free appropriate public education to the child, at a minimum, whenever a due process hearing is requested, (5) add additional detail on the procedures to ensure that the decision regarding eligibility for special education and related services is made within (a) 65 business days after the referral, (b) no later than the third anniversary of the date the child was last found eligible, or (c) within 65 business days after the parent or parents are notified of the decision not to reevaluate, and (6) statement of contacts in the public awareness campaign and provision for personal contact with community groups, public and private agencies, and organizations.

The advisory committee reviewed the changes.

Sliver Grant funding and target objectives was discussed. The funding is \$25,000.00 for our county. The grant has provided several opportunities in the past three years, including computers for all speech therapists to do computer assisted instruction, computers for three center based early childhood special needs programs, paid time for science teachers to develop a modified Earth Science curriculum, etc. The grant will be written this year to support inclusion and collaboration by providing a teacher stipend for after school hours team planning.

No decision was made on by-laws.

Lisa McCoy, itinerant teacher for children with emotional disabilities, provided a review of her program. Ms. McCoy serves identified students by collaborating and supporting regular class teachers with specific strategies. She also meets frequently with the students. This meeting might include academic tutoring, planning better behavior choices, linking students to other public agencies, etc. Ms. McCoy noted that parents were a vital part of the team.

The next meeting is April 1, 2002. Meetings are held in the annex conference room and are open to the public.

Minutes submitted by: _____
Phyllis Briscoe
Director of Special Education