

Claiborne Building  
Room 1-136 Thomas Jefferson  
1201 N. Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
Wednesday, July 12, 2017  
9:30 a.m.

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**Panel Members**

**Co-Chair:** Ms. Sandy Holloway  
Ms. Andrea Bond  
Ms. Toni Buxton  
Ms. Lynette Fontenot  
Ms. Rae Nell Houston  
Ms. Lyndsey Jackson  
Ms. Cheramie Kerth  
Ms. Sabrina Langley  
Mr. Mark Martin  
Ms. Carolyn McGee

**Co-Chair:** Ms. Patsy White  
Ms. Libby Murphy  
Ms. Carla Parrie  
Mr. Melvin Porter  
Ms. Laura Nata  
Ms. Donna Reno  
Ms. Pittre Walker  
Ms. Keita Wilson

**AGENDA**

- I. Call to order
- II. Roll call
- III. Public comment procedures
- IV. Approval of the minutes of the March 29, 2017
- V. Consideration of a discussion of the role of the Special Education Advisory Panel
- VI. Consideration of a progress update on focus areas for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) funds
- VII. Consideration of a discussion of federal regulations for significant disproportionality
- VIII. Consideration of a discussion of the 2017 Regular Legislative Session as it relates to students with disabilities
- IX. Consideration of a discussion of students with disabilities in Louisiana's Every Student Succeeds Act Plan
- X. Consideration of a discussion of back to school resources for parents of students with disabilities
- XI. Follow up and Next Steps
- XII. Adjournment

**NOTICE:** *In accordance with the American with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance at this meeting, please contact [specialeducation@la.gov](mailto:specialeducation@la.gov) describing the assistance that is necessary. Any person wishing to address the Panel must first be recognized by the Chair, stand, and give name and position before speaking.*

| Role   | Individual(s)                                     |
|--|---|
| Parents  | Lara Nata, Melvin Porter, Donna Reno, Patsy White |
| Individuals with Disabilities  | Lynette Fontenot                                  |
| Teachers   | Lyndsey Jackson, Joshua Underwood                 |
| Representatives of Institutions of Higher Education that Prepare Special Education and Related Service Personnel   | Keita Wilson                                      |
| State and Local Education Officials, including a LEA Special Education Supervisor and an official who carries out the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act | Carla Parrie, Pittre Walker                       |
| Administrators of programs for children with disabilities  | Cheramie Kerth                                    |
| Representatives of other State Agencies involved with the financing or delivery of related services to children with disabilities                            | Mark Martin                                       |
| Representatives of Private Schools and Public Charter School   | Rae Nell Houston, Andrea Bond                     |
| Representative of a vocational, community, or business concerned with the provision of transition services   | Libby Murphy                                      |
| Representative from the State Child Welfare Agency Responsible for Foster care   | Toni Buxton                                       |
| Representative from the State Juvenile and Adult Corrections Agencies  | Carolyn McGee                                     |
| BESE Member  | Sandy Holloway                                    |



# Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council

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January 31, 2013

Melody Musgrove, Director  
Office of Special Education Programs  
Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Ave., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20202-7100

Re: Complaint of Louisiana Department of Education with Non-compliance with Maintaining the Special Education Advisory Panel

Dear Ms. Musgrove:

This letter serves as an official complaint and request for assistance related to the Louisiana Department of Education's (LDE) failure in complying with the establishment and maintenance of an advisory panel for the purposes of providing policy guidance with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities pursuant to 34 CFR 34 CFR 300.167-169. Through the LDE's control over the agenda for the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP), failure to provide information requested by SEAP members, providing inaccurate and/or misinformation regarding public meetings and failing to orient SEAP members, LDE is not fulfilling the spirit or intent of its responsibilities for ensuring stakeholder input as indicated in IDEA. To quote one SEAP member at the January 9, 2013 meeting, "I feel like we're not doing anything in this meeting... I've read the federal guidance on what a SEAP is supposed to do. But I feel like we have discussions but that is it. It is discussed and dropped and nothing else." Details of each issue expressed above are shared below.

#### Control over SEAP Agenda

SEAP was moved from under the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) in 2011 for the sole purpose of enabling SEAP to have autonomy in choosing items for the agenda. Unfortunately the SEAP agenda is determined by the Superintendent and attempts by SEAP members to change this have been stymied by LDE staff claiming SEAP members did not follow procedures.

Failure to Provide Information

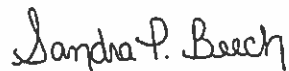
SEAP members have been denied access to specific documents and information that they have repeatedly requested. The most telling example includes requests for a report on the expenditures on the IDEA state application. The initial request was made by SEAP in May 2012, repeated in September 2012 and again in December 2012. To date SEAP members have yet to receive this information.

Failure to Orient Members

SEAP members' requests to LDE for an orientation to better understand how SEAP operates and increase their understanding of how LDE operates have failed to result in any action by LDE. There are also many responses from LDE and/or BESE staff that fail to provide accurate information related to federal and/or state regulations and rules pertaining to how members can operate SEAP and how LDE operates (i.e., schedule of critical activities that SEAP could provide recommendations and/or guidance). SEAP members are often uncertain how to proceed and lack knowledge of basic rules and procedures to enable them to operate effectively.

Unfortunately, collectively these and other incidents have precluded SEAP members from making improvements in how they function and fulfilling their role of providing recommendations on all issues impacting special education services.

Respectfully,



Sandra "Sam" Beech  
Chairperson