

## Parent Mentor Council Minutes

October 20, 2010

OCALI – Columbus, OH

The meeting was called to order by Cathy Douglas at 10:30 am. Cathy introduced Council's new Co-Chair, Teresa Karsnak. Roll call was taken by Lauri Kaplan.

### **In Attendance:**

**Chair** - Cathy Douglas

**Co-Chair** - Teresa Karsnak

**NE** -Michelle Pallo, Raychelle Fair, Jayma Provance

**NW** - Wendy Smenner, Lauri Betscher, Niki Herold

**EC** -Kathy Pavlik, Patty Joseph

**SE** -Pam Thornburg, Alison Hively

**C** - Lauri Kaplan, Elaine Hamilton

**ME** - Jeanne Schmidlin

**SW** - Julie Dunford, Terri Doerr

**NC** -Rebecca Shaw, Sarah Baldwin, Canda Papa

**OEC** -Carolynn Head

**OCECD** - Lee Ann Derugen, Barbara Rice

**Review of Minutes:** Minutes from June 8, 2010 were reviewed. One change to the minutes, Kathy Pavlik was not in attendance. A motion to approve the corrected minutes was made by Kathy Pavlik, and Teresa Karsnak seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**OEC** -Carolynn Head said she and Lee Ann will be doing a site visit to Columbus tomorrow and have recently been in Clark County. These one on one visits are extremely helpful, not something to scare mentors!

Next weeks conference will mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Parent Mentors. Kathe Shelby will do the opening. A reminder that district representatives are required to attend or to send someone in their absence, and certainly all parent mentors must attend as well.

During this fall's Leadership conference, Kathe Shelby spoke about the OSEP visit we must work together to make sure that certain indicators are being met (5,11,12 & 13): LRE, child find, C to B transition, and transition planning. Kathe's presentations are available on the Department's website. OSEP looked at data that is two years old (2006-07). Ohio has made changes since that time and is moving in the right direction with transition and Kathe is very positive, looking at the strides made in the state since this initial data. Tom Lather presented similar data to the Coalition Board, and OCECD will send the PowerPoint to Parent Mentors.

Lee Ann shared Parent Mentor data. . . numbers of unduplicated parents is down, as well as our numbers for attendance at IEP and ETR meetings. This could mean that due to meetings with mentors ahead of time, parents feel equipped to handle the meetings on their own - this means we are empowering our parents.

OEC will be working with districts on monitoring reviews. These are very detailed reviews (gifted, early childhood, school-age, etc). Large numbers of ODE staff will influx into districts as well as OEC staff and staff from federal programs. These reviews may last anywhere from a day to a full week.

There are some inconsistencies with child count that parent mentors report, and that districts report. It looks like the parent mentors are hitting ALL students with disabilities in the state, and that's not possible because there are not Parent Mentor projects in all districts. December child count numbers are confusing, and the OEC and OCECD may look at the questions with that they are asking on Parent Mentor year end reporting and potentially revise. Parent Mentor Council looked at statistics historically, and the self-evaluations submitted with the PDP's.

**OCECD** - Lee Ann reported that only 5 PDP's were missing this year. Deadline was October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Parent Mentor information is now on the Ohio Coalition website. Lee Ann introduced Council to the Parent Mentor tab on the OCECD website. There is currently not a separate Parent Mentor Calendar, but trainings are listed on the OCECD website. Please contact Lee Ann with any trainings to be added, regional minutes, or if things aren't correct or are missing from the Parent Mentor information. As a reminder, Marbella Caceres does trainings and webinars in Spanish.

Lee Ann talked about the L4U library and there is information on the website about how to check out materials, assessment testing kits, etc in English and in Spanish.

### **Regional Reports:**

**Northeast** - Had their last meeting October 5<sup>th</sup> in Solon. Gail Ott is returning as a Parent Mentor, and new to the NE region are Lisa Lutz, and Ann Kusmer.

**Northwest** - Had their last meeting October 13<sup>th</sup>, and SST #1's Amy Szymanski spoke about Transition. They are helping plan a big Transition Expo for October 30<sup>th</sup>. Next meeting will be resource sharing on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

**North Central** - Met September 24<sup>th</sup>, Colleen did the new Autism training. Canda Papa is the new representative on council. Jim Ball will be speaking on November 10<sup>th</sup>. Canda and Sarah will be speaking at a Cross Section training (juvenile detention training). They will also speak at a county Mental Health facility. They held a recent Autism support group meeting and have more support meetings planned.

**Southeast** - Met September 28<sup>th</sup> for training on Positive Culture/Positive Behavior Support. Allison Hively reported next meeting is January 12<sup>th</sup>. Pam Thornburg is new council member coming on to replace Shelly Leach.

**Mideast** - Jeannie Schmidlin new member on council. They met on September 27<sup>th</sup>, and visited a horse farm; a former parent mentor has built the farm and her daughter who is hearing impaired runs the facility. Also had folks talk about equine assisted therapy. They will meet again in January.

**Central** - Met on September 27<sup>th</sup> - guest speaker was Donna Owens from OCALI. There are several new publications available thru OCALI to help parents who suspect their child may have Autism. Next training is November 18<sup>th</sup> in Bexley with a presentation by Colleen Miller on Autism Awareness.

**Southwest** – late arrival, no report given.

**East Central** – Met at the training October 16<sup>th</sup> in Cambridge. They ran the vendor tables at this well attended conference. Evaluations from the training were all positive and Margaret Burley presented as keynote speaker.

### **Committees:**

**Archive** – Met 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of October. Remind mentors to send new photos from regions. They prepared for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. They took photos at spring conference to identify parent mentors (they are lovely!) They will catch the new mentors at the fall conference.

**Mentor Support** – Rebecca Shaw reported that they met as a group in September. Rock Paper Scissors will be the theme for networking at the conference. Carol will be stepping down as chair, there is no firm chairperson yet, however, several mentors are interested in the position.

**PR** – Michelle Pallo reported that they met on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Next time brochures are printed, they would like to have pictures removed and have the Parent Mentor logo on the brochure. The photos are not representative of all parent mentors. Carolynn will look into this the next time they are printed, potentially after the election.

**Skills & Knowledge** – Firmed up the conference for next week. Got the April schedule finalized – Ann Anzalone will be the speaker for the day. The committee talked briefly about Survey Monkey. Looked to the future of next year; Margaret mentioned that after the April conference dismisses, there will be a gathering immediately afterward of interested parties to talk about the status of grants. Next meeting will be in conjunction with Partnering for Progress on November 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **Old Business –**

**Fall Conference October 26-27, 2010 Crown Plaza North – no questions from council.** Kathe will be recognizing the 20 year mentors. District Reps are doing a better job of attending the conferences as it is a requirement of the Parent Mentor project. If requirements are not met, grants could possibly not be refunded but rather reassigned to other districts.

**Legislation committee** – This item was tabled in June, 2010. Per an e-mail from Carolynn to Cathy on October 18, 2010, OEC is not in support of a legislation committee. This type of interaction must be done on an individual's private time with private funds. The idea of a Legislation committee has been removed from the Parent Mentor Council table and discussion is complete.

**Spring Conference** - April 12, 2011, Embassy Suites, Dublin.

**District Reps attendance at Conferences** – One district representative per grant must attend the conferences. Guidelines talk about having one designated District Rep for each grant. If there are additional representatives who wish to attend, they will need to check with the OCECD about possible cost associated with attending the conference.

### **New Business -**

**Self Evaluation** – There was discussion regarding this tool that was designed to help mentors understand what topics they might want to focus on for PDP's. This idea came directly from a previous Parent Mentor Council discussion regarding trainings for newer Parent Mentors versus trainings necessary for those who have been Parent Mentors for some length of time. A draft was put together and given to a consultant with procedural safeguards. Sandy Kaufman took the test and made suggestions. The evaluation was tweaked by OCECD, and then it came out to all the mentors. The data collected will be given to Parent Mentor council reps, and we can share with our regions and discuss. Allison said it seems like a useful tool to help mentors realize what they know and what they might need training on. How should this tool be used? Remind regions that this tool was not because OEC and OCECD are “out to get us”, they are here to assist us. If we have questions about any procedure such as this, we need to pick up a phone and ask questions.

**Surrogate Parent Training** - OCALI is putting together a Surrogate Training module online. Participants will have to take tests on each section, and the information will automatically be routed to the SST's so they are aware of those certified to be a Surrogate Parent. *There is new documentation stating that district employees and/or parent mentors may not be a Surrogate Parent.*Carolynn Head will check with Rochelle Rensch from ODE to get clarification for council.

**Confidentiality** – Discussion about confidentiality between mentors and district representatives. Some mentors are sharing that they are being pressured by districts for confidential information. In trying to solve situations, Cathy Douglas will ask if she might share information with school personnel. Should we be asking for written permission from parents to share their information? Sarah Baldwin tells parents that she needs their release to gather information from a school district.

The next Council meeting date will be January 10, 2011 at 10:30am. A motion to adjourn was made by Alison Hively, and Patty Joseph seconded the motion.

**The meeting was adjourned at 12:18pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lauri Kaplan