

2016

Special Education Directors Meeting

AGENDA

Jackson Convention Complex, Jackson, Mississippi

January 20, 2016





As we begin a new year and reflect on our past year, I would like for us to reflect on all of the students who we have shaped. As we embark on the new beginnings with a new year, we must begin with enthusiasm as we look to improve outcomes for students with disabilities. The Office of Special Education is looking to this new year with an increase in regional professional development modules, continued support to districts with in-district trainings, and continued support for improving outcomes for students with disabilities. The OSE has implemented a reorganization this past year to focus on supports to schools and districts and is improving our cross-department collaboration with other MDE offices.

The past year, 2015, has been exciting as we have implemented a new Standards-based IEP, worked with various stakeholder groups to develop our State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP), developed the procedures manuals and work collaboratively to improve the RtI process to support all students. Today, our focus for the Special Education Directors meeting is to improve the ultimate result; post-secondary outcomes. We have worked diligently to provide presentations today to improve your ability to assist students with transition. Many of the presentations today will be provided by organizations that can assist the work you do each day to promote transition activities.

Thank you for taking the time today to attend the Special Education Directors meeting. We know that your time is valuable and we hope the information you receive from this conference will benefit you and your staff.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Cagle, State Director
Office of Special Education

JACKSON CONVENTION COMPLEX PARKING MAP



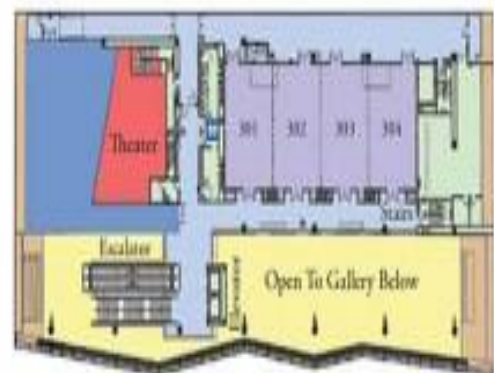
- A** – CONVENTION CENTER PUBLIC PARKING
PASCAGOULA
- B** – CONVENTION CENTER PUBLIC PARKING
PASCAGOULA
- C** – CONVENTION CENTER PUBLIC PARKING
CORNER OF COURT & ROACH

- D** – CONVENTION CENTER PUBLIC PARKING
CORNER OF FARISH & COURT
- E** – CITY CENTRE GARAGE
CORNER OF WEST & PASCAGOULA

JACKSON CONVENTION COMPLEX
LEVEL 2



JACKSON CONVENTION COMPLEX
LEVEL 3



Special Education Directors Meeting Bio Information and Training Descriptions

Gretchen Cagle is currently the State Director of Special Education. Prior to this position she served as the Educator in Residence in the Office of Student Assessment at the Mississippi Department of Education. She previously served as the Assistant Director of Special Education for the Rankin County School District from 2003 to 2012. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Southern Mississippi and a master's degree from Peabody College at Vanderbilt University.

Lavonda Hart is currently the Director of the Vocational Rehabilitation for the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services (MDRS). MDRS is the largest State agency committed solely to helping people with disabilities achieve independence through employment. Services may include vocational evaluation, counseling and guidance, educational assistance, job training, job placement, and assistive technology.

Ashley Lacoste is currently the Director of the Division of Home and Community-Based Services for the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, Bureau of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. She has served as a Preschool Special Education Director for the Mississippi Department of Education and Health Program Specialist for the First Steps Early Intervention Program. She holds an Ed.S. from the University of Alabama in Special Education. She is a licensed clinical IDD therapist and MH therapist.

Betty Pinion is a licensed social worker with 10 years of experience as a medical social worker and 14 years of experience in working with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities with the Department of Mental Health. She has worked with the DMH Bureau of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities since 2012. Ms. Pinion is the Coordinator for the IDD Community Support Program (1915i State Plan Amendment). She works closely with the Division of Medicaid in implementation of the IDD Community Support Program. She oversees all aspects of the IDD CSP, including the development of standards, the enrollment process, technical assistance and training for certified service providers, and monitoring of programs.



Training Description: Understanding the SSIP (Lisa White and Edryce Thompson)

You know the problems. Do you want to be a part of the solution? Join us for a breakout session to provide input into the proposed activities in the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP). Don't know much about the SSIP? Don't worry! You will learn about the purpose of the SSIP and how the proposed activities are intended to improve outcomes for students with disabilities. Then you will be asked to provide feedback regarding the proposed SSIP activities and input into plans to evaluate the impact of the SSIP activities on student learning and teacher capacity. Let your voice be heard! We hope you join us!

Lisa White, Ed.S., serves as an Educator in Residence for the Mississippi Department of Education in the role of State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) Coordinator. With almost 21 years working in public education in Mississippi, Ms. White spent 11 years in the classroom as a special education teacher and a high school math teacher and 10 years in public school administration at the district and State levels. She received her B.S. in Special Education with an emphasis on working with students with mild/moderate

disabilities and her M.S. in Special Education with an emphasis on working with students with emotional and behavioral disorders from Mississippi State University. She received her Ed.S. in Educational Leadership from Arkansas State University, and she is currently working on her dissertation at Delta State University.

Edryce Thompson is currently employed with the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Special Education as a State Systemic Improvement Plan Support. Prior to employment with MDE, Ms. Thompson was a special education teacher in Hinds County for seven years and Jackson Public Schools for five years, as well as a specialist in the Office of Exceptional Education in JPS for six years. Ms. Thompson holds a bachelor's degree in Special Education and master's degree in Educational Administration from Jackson State University. She also holds a specialist's degree in Educational Leadership from Delta State University and is currently a candidate in the doctoral program.



Training Description: Improving Parent, Student, and Community Involvement in Your Transition Program (Kelli Landrum)

Is your district looking to organize a Transition Fair and a Career Prep Fair? A Transition Fair and a Career Prep Fair is a great opportunity to increase parent, student, and community involvement in your coordinated set of transition activities. This session will provide tools from getting started with organizing a fair, identify agencies, obtaining donations, to arranging transportation. The presenter will share the do's and don'ts of organizing a fair with practical ideas!

Kelli Landrum is the Transition Coordinator for the Jones County School District. She is a National Board Certified Teacher and has presented professional development at both local and State conferences in the area of transition for many years. She is a member of the Transition Coalition Team and is also a board member for the Horses for Handicapped Program. She is a certified Special Education teacher in the areas of mild/moderate disabilities and Emotional disabilities. She attended graduate school at the University of Southern Mississippi.



**Training Description: Preparing Future Leaders:
Project SEARCH Southern Miss (Dr. Jerry R. Alliston and Jin Joo Crosby)**

Mississippians with disabilities are the largest minority in the State and tend to be an untapped population for employment. The Institute for Disability Studies (IDS) is partnering with the National Project SEARCH Transition Program to develop Project SEARCH. The project goal is to increase the number of young adults with intellectual/cognitive and other developmental disabilities to obtain competitive community-based employment. Project SEARCH is an eight-month training program that consists of daily employment preparatory skills training, community development, mentoring services, and work internships.

Jerry R. Alliston, Ph.D., MSW currently serves as the Community Education Director at the Institute for Disability Studies, a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at the University of Southern Mississippi. Dr. Alliston has over 20 years of experience in the social sciences and disability

fields focusing on medical social work, military disability case management, disaster case management, early intervention services, and transition services. In addition, Dr. Alliston serves as adjunct faculty for the University of Southern Mississippi's Department of Child and Family Studies, the Department of Curriculum, Instruction and Special Education and the School of Social Work. Dr. Alliston received his doctoral degree in Higher Education Administration from the University of Southern Mississippi as well as a master's in Social Work. Dr. Alliston has recently concentrated on the development of inclusive national service programs, work initiatives, self-advocates and leadership programs and considers himself "blessed" to work with the future leaders of tomorrow.

Jin Joo Crosby, MBA, currently serves as the Coordinator for Volunteer and Transition Employment Services at the Institute for Disability Studies. Specifically, Ms. Crosby assists with Project SEARCH and the Training, Resources and Information for the Advancement of Disability (TIRAD) Services AmeriCorps Program. She received her master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix and a bachelor of science degree from the University of Southern Mississippi. She has approximately 10 years of experience with various national service programs.



Training Description: Transition Planning: From Age-Appropriate Assessments to Transition Services (Stacey Todd)

In this session, participants will discuss age-appropriate transition assessment as an ongoing process of collecting data on the individual's needs, preferences, and interests as they relate to the demands of current and future working, educational, living, and personal and social environments. Age-appropriate transition assessment serves as the common thread in the transition process and form the basis for defining goals and services to be included in the Individualized Education Program (IEP). Participants will learn how to use age-appropriate assessment to develop coordinated set of activities.

Stacey Todd is as a Professional Development Coordinator with the MDE. She provides a variety of professional development opportunities for special educators throughout the State. Before joining MDE in 2014, Ms. Todd spent 15 years working in early childhood education and secondary special education. Her experiences range from classroom teacher to director of a childcare center. As a special educator, Ms. Todd has taught students with a range of disabilities in inclusive and self-contained classrooms. She is passionate about helping students with disabilities achieve independence and full engagement in their communities. Along with four other teachers, Ms. Todd created a Jr. Civitan Club at their high school so students in community-based classrooms could serve the community alongside their general education peers. With over 150 members, the organization quickly became one of the most active clubs on campus.

Previously, Ms. Todd served as a member of the MDE Special Education Advisory Panel and now serves as a member of the MDE Special Education Task Force. Both organizations are working to improve services and outcomes for students with disabilities in Mississippi. She served as the 2012 Mississippi Teacher of the Year and strongly believes in the power of teacher leadership and teacher voice. She is an active member of the National Network of State Teachers, the Council for Exceptional Children and the Association for the Rights of Citizens with Disabilities. Ms. Todd has provided training to alternate route teachers and students completing teacher preparation programs.



Training Description: Starting a Conversation Between CTE and Special Education to Connect High School, Post-Secondary and the World of Work (Dr. Rick Saucier)

It's a whole new world out there in the world of CTE. Participants in this session will learn about all things CTE, including CTE requirements. In this session, learn how to develop a conversation to promote the benefits of CTE for all students.

Dr. Rick Saucier is a third generation and a lifelong educator with 31 years of experience. He received a Ph.D. in Educational Administration and Leadership from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2004. Previously, he has worked for Picayune Public Schools and the Mississippi Department of Education. In 1990, he arrived at Hancock County Schools as a Diversified Technology teacher. He was selected as 1995 Teacher of the year for the Hancock County Vo-Tech Center. He was the first Technology Director for Hancock County Schools from 1995-2000. Since July 1, 2000, he has been the Director of the Hancock County Career Technical Center. In 2010, he was named Administrator of the Year for the Hancock County School District and in 2012 he was honored as the Administrator of the Year for the Mississippi Association of Secondary Vocational Administrators.



Training Description: Indicator 13: Specific Components of the IEP Checklist (Candice Kelly)

The session will focus on using the Indicator 13 Checklist to develop a compliant IEP. Indicator 13 focuses on the development of IEPs that meet transition requirements, including coordinated, measurable and annual IEP goals that will reasonably enable students to meet post-secondary outcomes. Participants will walk through the Indicator 13 Checklist and align to the Standards-Based IEP. In the session, participants will be provided with examples with each required component.

Candice Kelly is a native of Clinton. Mrs. Kelly has six years of experience as an Employability Skills Training Counselor at Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services and eight years of experience as a Special Education teacher with Clinton Public Schools. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology/Health Science, a Master of Arts degree in Elementary Education and a Specialist degree in Educational Administration and Supervision.