**November 30 Agenda**

* **SPED Funding Update**  **–**Big and Rich (“Big Kenny”  Gary Sherman and “John Rich” Pete Biaggio)
  + GMS IDEA Consolidated App
    - The application should open tomorrow
    - Made changes to the staff as requested
    - Tentative date of closing will be February 1, 2012
    - The power point from the law conference is on the web
      1. Use it to begin planning ahead for the application
    - Exploring other training opportunities either regionally or using webinars or videos maybe in January
    - In the meantime, NASES has indicated willingness to work cooperatively to provide training opportunities
      1. Special Education budgeting
      2. The two part training to assist in using the budget accounting and management system
      3. Focusing on how IDEA funds are coded in the present budget
      4. It will make the application easier
      5. The second part will be a precursor to training in January
      6. Limited capability to use distance learning – 2 locations (Wakefield & Kearney) – Wed Dec. 21st – 9-12 and 1-3 – no fee
      7. Will be notified list-serve – registration on-line
      8. Recommending attend in person
      9. Sequential model
      10. Will be a recording and on web
    - Want to try to make this as easy as possible
  + Future IDEA funding
    - November deadline for NDE to submit letter to feds
    - Not successful in coming up with a conclusion
    - Probably a very likely scenario – 7-9% reduction in IDEA funding (for IDEA flow through funds)
    - Will impact school district funding
    - Nothing set in stone at this time
    - 1.5% reduction already has occurred for this year
      1. Do not know if this is permanent or not
    - Trend is fewer special education dollars to go into special education
    - Not a rosy picture
  + 2010-11 SPED claims
    - Submit as soon as possible – next 3 days
    - Three not turned in yet
    - Last chance to submit
  + Flex funding documentation to support expenditures
    - Possibility that you will need to send additional documentation on flex funding
  + Funding final comment
    - There were some recommendations made that NDE require additional documentation for claims – have been doing this in samples
      1. Overall pretty successful
      2. With onsite reviews and additional documentation – have had less issues with feds with visit in Sept.
      3. Now moving into this year’s state audit in special education
      4. Will anticipate further review
      5. Hopefully we have done what we need to and will not have addition things to do
* **Federal News and Views  --**Jennifer Nettles (Beth Wierda) and Faith Hill (Carol McClain)
* Part B and Part C SPP/APRs due Feb 1, 2012
  + - Working on analyzing the data that has been submitted
    - Part C looks like things are continuing to go well in the field
* Part B and Part C federal applications
* Part C due April 16; Part B due May 1
  + - This is to receive federal funds
    - Part C has an earlier due date that in the past, because of changes needed due to release of regulations
    - Statement of assurances is similar to what the districts do
* Public review/comment
  + - On line and sent to several places throughout the state
    - Part B - Will open at the end of February and close on March 28th – have 30 days to review
* Rule 51 revision process
  + - Majority of changes due to Part C regs released in November
    - Trying to find best format for this
    - Will decide if incorporated into Rule 51 or in another way – must be done by July 1st
    - Want to make sure all things required will be included – draft & stakeholders meeting in Feb or March, then public hearing, state board of education, atty general & governor all must approve
* Status of Results components from OSEP visit
  + - Part C
      1. Approving screening and verification process for B-2 – CAPTA referrals
      2. CAPTA referrals now electronically
      3. How can we be sure we are screening and verifying those who should qualify
      4. Will have procedures for screening – working on changing rule and providing information so service coordination can make changes
    - Part B
      1. Those who leave early without diploma
      2. Stakeholders meeting
      3. 3 year plan to get activities under way for reenrollment
      4. Representative from UNL virtual school
      5. Lindy primarily responsible
      6. More information in January
      7. Look on web for Part B & C federal aps starting in February & March
* **Status of Proposed SPED and EC/ECSE Endorsements**

--  Faith Hill (Carol McClain) and Amy Grant (Jan Thelen)

* SPED endorsement proposals – Carol
  + - Entry level endorsement for those wanting to go into special education
    - Beyond the generalist, we will move onto specialization
    - NCTE meeting last fall –
      1. the higher education representatives provided an alternative proposal
      2. Changed the number of hours
      3. Didn’t want course work as specific as was
      4. Sent alternative proposal and current proposal
      5. Would like input from NASES – regional reps should talk with region about this
      6. Comments by December 5th to Carol or Pat Madson
* EC/ECSE endorsement proposals  --  Jan
  + - Adhoc committee came together this last summer (15 members)
    - Currently have 5 EC endorsements
    - Want to reduce the numbers and reinvent them (from 5 to 3)
      1. Early childhood unified – B-K
      2. EC Special Education End – B-K – through UNL – grad. level
      3. Early childhood end – enhanced to have additional sped hours – Age 3 through Grade 3
      4. Will keep us posted
* **Referral to SPED at Age 3**--  Amy Grant (Jan Thelen)
  + Review NDE-NDHSS clarification memos (attached)
    - Children at age 3 at time of referral must be referred to Part B
    - If child on IFSP (under Part C) then can remain in Part C until August 31st
    - What if 2 at referral but turns 3 within 45 days of the referral
      1. Clarified in new Regs
      2. Automatically referred to part B not part C
    - Would like to put together a FAQ – please send questions to Jan
* **NDE Monitoring and ILCD Updates** --  Martina McBride (Jeanne Heaston)
  + Updated ILCD Inquiries
    - Looking at the inquiries again
    - Reviewing them
    - Many changes over the years with the ILCD process
    - While we moved towards separating monitoring from ILCD process
    - Many of the inquiries are compliance oriented, so making decision to pull out the compliance – not that the data will go away, but will focus on the larger improvement areas
    - Adria & Jeanne working on it
    - Shared with ILCD facilitators yesterday
    - Have done some consolidation of inquiries
    - Hope to have final draft by February 1st (conference call with facilitators)
    - Then up on website and available for districts to use this year
    - If doing ratings this year, please use old system – will use this next year
  + ILCD website updates for monitoring
    - Looking at corrective action plan verification process
    - To respond to districts and have clear information for the process
    - Letters generated that don’t have children when doing monitoring visits (primarily Part C) – will still do a review of district to make sure all is in place, but will also have a notification that they will do that part of the process and not the file review
    - Will send letters of notification around April stating that next year NDE will be doing monitoring visit – consistent way to notify across the state
  + Important monitoring dates
    - Monitoring training – August 30, 2012 – open to all school districts
      1. Will be particularly informative due to Part C changes
      2. Encouraged to attend the training
    - Now just a single day of training
    - Will have additional information to share on Part C items
    - Have some plans to share information as we go through the monthly conference calls
* **Bobbing for Answers** –   Cast of NDE SPED Country Stars
  + **Question**:  Can a parent revoke consent for individual services?  What does 009.08D2 mean?  -- Martina (Jeanne)
    - Part B Only
    - Parent cannot revoke a single service, must revoke all services
    - Parents are not there to pick and choose
    - District responsible to provide FAPE and the services are to do that
    - Parents may have a dispute about a particular service
      1. Can work through IEP team
      2. Can go through mediation or due process
    - 009.08D2 – if parent does that, it doesn’t extend over to other services district provides (504, Title I, etc)
    - will send a follow up e-mail to clarify
  + **Question**:  If a student has reached the age of majority, is living with a significant other, has a child and is not dependent financially on her parents, does she sign the IEP as both the parent and the student? –Lauren Alaina (Rose Dymacek)
    - No, the student signs as the student
    - Special education rights do not transfer from child to parents
    - If emancipated or estranged, need a surrogate
  + **Question**:  If a child is evaluated and found not to qualify, is a subsequent evaluation an initial evaluation or a reevaluation?  What difference does it make? –  Taylor Swift (Rita Hammitt)
    - It is an initial
    - OSEP has stated that an initial evaluation
    - If currently eligible for services, all subsequent evaluations are reevaluations
  + **Question**:  If a due process complaint has been filed, is the 15-day resolution session required if the parents agree to waive the resolution process?  Must the waiver agreement be made with the 15-day timeframe? –  Kellie Pickler (Lindy)
    - **(will wait until January call for this one)**
* **LRP Article:  Seven topics to avoid when staff talks with parents about IDEA** – Kellie (Lindy)
  + District finances; changes in placement; eligibility; extended school year services; behavioral concerns; pre-meeting conversations; negative feelings about colleagues
    - **(will wait until January call for this one)**

Follow up questions

* NASES coordinating the Dec 21st workshop, so look forward for more information from them
* 45 days – calendar days (in the example above)
* SCIP Grant – name changed – status of approval – devoting majority of time to GMS, so now reviewing applications – hope to have some GANS next week and hopefully most by mid-December – some grant proposals have been returned
* Will check on a question regarding a referral/evaluation question
* At time of initial consent, can parents request only part of services – parent consents to special education, not special education services – need to discuss why it is important to receive all services
* Can a parent refuse special education but request 504 services – yes
* Federal regulations do not recognize state boundaries, so they consider it as a continuation – generally it is viewed as a reevaluation - What is critical is the timeline – you do not have a timeline option for those from out of state

**Heads Up and Announcements**

* + Nebraska application for Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge grant
    - Will hear by December 19th
    - Whether or not this grant is received, we will talk about it in the next call
  + Evaluation results: 2011 SPED Regional Workshops
  + Results Matter Institute in February (registration attached)

**Calendar Ahead**

* Dec 1-2, 2011               Teaching Strategies to Increase Student Engagement in Reading, ESU 3, Omaha

NOTE:  ONLY for teachers in Special Purpose and Interim Program Schools

* Dec 2, 2011                  Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council (ECICC)  Lincoln Cornhusker
* Jan 19, 2012                 SEAC meeting, Lincoln Cornhusker
* Jan 19-20, 2012           GOLD training (Jan 19 and Jan 20)  ESU 9, Hastings
* Feb 16-17, 2012          NDE meeting at NASES,  Lincoln Cornhusker
* Feb 17, 2012                ECICC, Lincoln Cornhusker
* Feb 22-23, 2012          Results Matter Institute, Kearney Younes Conf Center
* Mar 22-23, 2012          GOLD admin training (Mar 22) and teacher training (Mar 23)  ESU 5, Beatrice
* ~~Mar 29-30, 2012          GOLD training (Mar 29 and Mar 30) ESU 16, Ogallala~~   CANCELLED
* Apr 2-3, 2012               NDE State Data Conference, Kearney Younes Conf Center
* Apr 12-13, 2012          State ASD Conference,  Lincoln Cornhusker
* Apr 18, 2012                SEAC meeting, Lincoln Cornhusker
* Apr 19-20, 2012          GOLD training (Apr 19 and Apr 20)  ESU 10, Kearney
* May 11, 2012               ECICC,  Location TBA
* Aug 30, 2012                One-day NDE Monitoring training, Lincoln(tentative)

REMINDER!  NO DECEMBER CALL

**NEXT CALL – Tuesday, January 31, 2012**

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU AND YOURS!!!**

cc         ILCD Facilitators, SPED Contractors, NDE SPED Team