**NDE Conference Call**

**January 31 Minutes**

* **SPED Funding Update**  **–**Gary Sherman and Pete Biaggio
  + GMS IDEA Consolidated App/ GMS Training Update
    - Once receive grant award, can request payments
    - No application has made it completely through the process yet
    - The closing date is today at midnight
    - As of yesterday, only 1 district has not started an application
    - Questions related to GMS
      1. When will GMS budget window open for 2012-2013
         1. This year we were a little late
         2. Anticipate that it will be available in October with a due date around November 30th
      2. If there are any unused funds, when will they be reallocated?
         1. This year reported as reallocation
         2. Next year will be reported as a carryover
      3. TEEOSA – when will the changes in state aid funding be announced
         1. Russ or Pete will follow up
  + IDEA Funding
    - The current year, we received a 1.5% reduction in the IDEA Poverty Enrollment/Poverty funds
    - As of yesterday we received notice that the majority of that reduction will be restored – instead of 800,000 it was 100,000 – it will be only 0.189%
    - Do not know what the future will be. Could be 7-9% reduction, but we don’t know for sure.
  + LB1068 – MIPS Task Force
    - 3 bills that have potential to impact special education funding
      1. LB1068 – establishes 15 member MIPS taskforce – purpose is to look at what we are doing currently and whether or not it could be expanded for additional services with a report due at the end of December
      2. LB1129 – Insurance picking up costs for autism services for children and adults – lots of question marks in regards to this – could have significant impacts
      3. LB901 – paying for services for clients in the DD system on the waiting list – could be very costly – would be very good for those leaving our special education programs rather than on a waiting list
  + Auditors
    - Special education and early special education being reviewed – limited fiscal reviews and increased mandatory documentation has been helpful – auditors would like more, but do not plan to make any major changes now
  + IDEA ARRA Funds in terms of expenditures
    - Part B – ended up spending all but $145,000 of the $74 million
    - 619 Preschool – all but $36,000 of $2 million
    - Part C – all but $49,000 but have claims in hand for that with a late liquidation requests
* **Federal News and Views**-- Beth Wierda
* Rule 51 Revision Process and Timeline
  + - Reviewing due to Part C regs
    - Thought might pull apart Part C out of Part B – either two separate rules or two sections
    - No timeline yet
* Reminder:  Public Comment for Part B and Part C Federal Applications
  + - Part C  Feb 1 – March 2
      1. Application must be out on comment for 30 days and review for 60 days
    - Part B  Feb 27 – March 28
      1. Application must be out on comment for 30 days and review for 60 days
      2. Can either comment on website or \_\_\_
  + Part B and Part C SPP/APRs submitted to OSEP
    - Celebrate all well!
  + Federal onsite verification visit in September – was supposed to get letter in 60 days, will let us know as soon as possible
* **NeSA Writing Test for Students Participating in the Alternate Assessment**
  + Carol McClain and John Moon, NDE Assessment Office
    - 1%
    - The STARS assessment still being used
    - If in the 1%, their writing is based on teacher observation student performance
    - No reporting to state in alternate assessment
    - Destroy tickets
    - If student makes mark, counted as participant – will not be marked as proficient
    - Should not have had a ticket – if so, mark in the eDirect as alternate
    - If 4th grade – then mark on the assessment that alternate
  + Regular NeSA – accommodations
    - Must order in September – for paper/pencil
    - Contact our district assessment contact
    - Should have this conversation early in the year
    - If specifically on the IEP
    - Can order some booklets at the last minute
    - If responding in other than English will need paper pencil
    - If need prompt in other language than English will need paper pencil
  + Alternate assessment in one area but not in another
    - If the student is able to take the general assessment in one area – will need to mark that – look in the on-line assessment manual (maybe page 23 or 24) will show what the tab looks like
* **Update on Proposed SPED and SPED Related Endorsements**
* SPED, School Psych and SLP – Carol McClain
  + - Generalist – moving ahead in the process – probably begin affecting students graduating in 2013 – public hearing soon
      1. Will work in multicategorical situations
    - Specialization – supplemental endorsement to the generalist
      1. 12-15 hour program or masters program
      2. Afternoon of Feb 16th – at NASES meeting – will brainstorm ideas as to what is needed – what areas need additional training, etc.
      3. Asking for one person from each NASES region - smaller adhoc group
         * Will meet in March and/or April
         * Stuart is recruiting regional people
    - School psych is moving along nicely
    - SLP endorsement is in the process – starting to form adhoc committee
* EC/ECSE – Jan Thelen
  + - Undergrad (all candidates will have unified)
      1. Wanted to move from 5 down to 3 endorsements
      2. Meeting again this Friday
      3. Ended up with concept of only 2 endorsements
    - Graduate level
      1. Remain the same – B-Kindergarten
* **Status of Part B “Results” Initiative from OSEP Visit** -- Lindy Foley
  + Re-engaging Out-of-School Youth with Disabilities
* <http://www.education.ne.gov/sped/reentry.html>
* Working collaboratively with national TA center
* Number of activities completed
  + - 1. Strategic plan
         * Incentive
         * Awareness
         * Data analysis
      2. Potential partners – current initiatives and goals
         * NDE learning tech team
         * UNL independent
      3. Updates
      4. Website development
    1. Review website above
       1. Database of 100+ programs
       2. Nice resource
* **LRP Article:  Seven topics to avoid when talking with parents about IDEA** – Lindy Foley
  + District finances; changes in placement; eligibility; extended school year services; behavioral concerns; pre-meeting conversations; negative feelings about colleagues
    - September 2011 issue
    - Slippery slope, IEP missteps that everyone should know
      1. District finances
      2. Changes of placement – most commonly home based services
      3. Eligibility – most common with school psychs
      4. ESY – shouldn’t be the same
      5. Behavior – should be talked about in meetings
      6. Pre-meeting – no predetermination – can meet but no final decisions
      7. Negative feelings about staff – don’t talk negatively about other staff members
* **Bobbing for Answers – if question comes up – will now send in writing answers to this section**
  + 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? – Lindy
    - Working on the timeline issues
    - Within 15 days must meet with parent – parent can discuss complaint so school can address – do not need to if agree in writing to waive the meeting – must be made within 15 day timeline
  + Question:  When are districts required to give/mail NDE Rule 55 to parents?  Beth Wierda
    - NE statute – says you have to give parent copy when you initially consider that child for eligibility in special education (Rule 55 and section \_\_\_ from Rule 51)
    - Give an explanation of rights – parent rights pamphlet does the other requirements that is on the website
  + Question:  How is percent of sped time calculated for preschoolers?  Jan Thelen
    - Does not apply to preschoolers – only applies to children K-12
    - Only thing that applies to preschool is setting
  + Age 3 TA Document – hopefully will get to us soon

**Heads Up and Announcements**

* Introducing Sharon Heater, New SPED Staff Member --  Gary Sherman
  + Over 30 years of experience
  + Regional contact for ESU 4 & 9
* NIRC and the Federal Quota funds for B/VI(attachment) -- Teresa Coonts
  + Statewide depository center for materials
  + Teachers of children with vision impairments can access
  + Can get a variety of materials to check out for a short period or even up to a year
  + Must complete application process for Quota Funds
  + Packets are due back February 15th
    - Record as AN if not on grade level but working towards grade level
    - Record as OR if not on grade level
    - Questions? – call Karen Duffy – [kduffy@esu4.net](mailto:kduffy@esu4.net)
* NDE Meeting – afternoon on the 16th of NASES meeting
  + Agenda coming soon
* NDE Monitoring – Jeanne Heaston
  + Updated ILCD Inquiries
  + March 27 mtg at ESU 10 – may be in Grand Island??
* New Information from the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) regarding ADA
  + <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-201109.html> (letter)
  + <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/dcl-504faq-201109.html> (FAQ)

**Questions**

* February 1st versus January 31st closing date of GMS IDEA Application
  + Key is you must have been in and created a new application
  + As long as you have done that, then you should be okay
  + System will allow submission of the application beyond that time
  + Please complete and submit to NDE as soon as possible
* Paper/pencil booklets – procedures
  + Varies between 4th, 8th & 11th
    - 4th – put ID label on booklet – mark on box C – alternate assessment
    - 8th & 11th – online – make sure online indicator is check marked in system
    - Each identified as alternate assessment will receive 1 packet all 3 together – teacher complete answer sheet – should check the names to make sure all is okay
    - If can take general assessment in one area – need to go into system to change flag before print tickets (for online assessments)
    - Little different than last year

**Calendar Ahead**

Click on the NDE Special Education homepage link for all NDE SPED conference/training registration:

<http://www.education.ne.gov/sped/index.html>

* Feb 16            NDE at NASES mtg, Cornhusker Marriott, Lincoln
* Feb 17            ECICC, Cornhusker Marriott, Lincoln
* Feb 22-23      Results Matter Institute, Younes Conf Center, Kearney
* Mar 15-17     PEP Conference: Parents Encouraging Parents,  Midtown Holiday Inn, Grand Island
* Mar 15-16     GOLD admin (Mar 15) and teacher training (Mar 16) ESU 16, Ogallala
* Mar 22-23     GOLD admin (Mar 22) and teacher training (Mar 23)  ESU 5, Beatrice
* Mar 29-30     Nebraska Brain Injury Conference,  Younes Conf Center, Kearney
* Apr 2-3          NDE State Data Conference, Younes Conf Center, Kearney
* Apr 12-13      State ASD Conference, Cornhusker Marriott, Lincoln
* Apr 12-13      GOLD teacher trainings at ESU 3, Omaha
* Apr 18            SEAC meeting, Cornhusker Marriott, Lincoln
* Apr 11-14      2012 CEC Convention,  Denver CO  [www.cec.sped.org/convention](http://www.cec.sped.org/convention)
* Apr 19-20      GOLD admin (Apr 19) and GOLD teacher training (Apr 20)  ESU 10, Kearney
* May 11           ECICC,  Location TBA
* May 14-16     2012 National Early Childhood Inclusion Institute, Chapel Hill NC

<http://inclusioninstitute.fpg.unc.edu/>

* June 12-13    Annual EDN Workshop,  Kearney
* July 25-27      NDE/NCSA Administrator Days, Younes Conf Center, Kearney
* Aug 9-10        GOLD training – location TBA
* Aug 30           One-day NDE Monitoring training, Lincoln  (tentative)
* Oct 28-30      DEC National Conf on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families, Minneapolis MN

**NEXT CALL = Wed Feb 29, 2012**