

President's Commission on Excellence in Special Education System Administration Task Force

Hearing Schedule

San Diego

April 23, 2002

As of April 12, 2002

7:00 a.m. *Registration for Public Comment Period*

8:45 a.m. *Welcome, Introductions, and Overview by Chairman Adela Acosta*

8:50 a.m. *Special Education Paperwork: Where does it come from? What is its value? What can be done about it?*

The panel will review how paperwork acts as a barrier to the effective education of students with disabilities and what can be done about the problem. Panelists will include:

- 1) Dr. Maggie McLaughlin, University of Maryland
- 2) Dr. Edward Lee Vargas, Superintendent of Hacienda La Puente Unified School District in City of Industry, California.

9:20 a.m. *Task Force Q&A for the Paperwork Panel*

9:50 a.m. *The Process Compliance Model: What are the alternatives?*

The panel will explore the real role of the process compliance model on local schools and what alternatives might exist to the current system. The prior focus on compliance does not necessarily translate to an effective educational outcome for children who need special education services. Shifting the focus from an exclusive emphasis on compliance to a data driven model focused on academic outcomes, such as school graduation rates of children with disabilities, will be discussed. Panelists will include:

- 1) Dr. Batya Elbaum, Associate Professor in the Department of Teaching and Learning; and the Department of Psychology at University of Miami; and Director of the University of Miami School of Education Center for Research
- 2) Ms. Donnalee Ammons, former local special education director, currently is CEO of Success Insites, a community-based mental health agency operating under psychiatric rehabilitation option under the Medicaid program in the state of Louisiana.

10:35 a.m. *Task Force Q&A on Compliance Model Alternatives*

11:20 a.m. *Break*

11:30 a.m. *Dispute Resolution: Beyond Litigation*

The panel will consider how elements of the current dispute system's complexity increases the chances of due process proceedings and promotes the utilization of attorneys and advocates. The panel will also review the role of mediation, the

relationship between due process and increased paperwork. Panelists will include:

- 1) Jim Rosenfeld, Esq., Visiting Clinical Professor of Law at the Seattle University School of Law
- 2) William Dussault, Esq., Vice-President of the Council of Parent Advocates and Attorneys.

12:00 p.m. ***Task Force Q&A on Dispute Resolution***

12:30 p.m. ***Lunch Break***

2:00 p.m. ***Interagency and Intersystem Interaction***

The panel will review problems that exist in the multiple agencies serving students with disabilities, with particular emphasis on relationships between LEAs and systems for health, early childhood services, mental health, and vocational rehabilitation. Panelists will include:

- 1) Ron Lally, WestEd.;
- 2) Donnalee Ammons, CEO of Success Insites, a community-based mental health agency operating under the psychiatric rehabilitation option under the Medicaid program in the state of Louisiana;
- 3) Dr. Laurie Powers, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Public Health, and Psychiatry; and Co-Director of the Center on Self Determination, Oregon Health and Science University; and
- 4) Dixie Jordan, Director of the Families and Advocates for Education located in Riverton, Wyoming.

3:00 p.m. ***Task Force Q&A on Interagency and Intersystem Interaction***

3:20 p.m. ***The Practioner Perspective: Case Studies in Administering Special Education Services***

These presenters are field practioners that will discuss the challenges facing school administrators in terms of the increasing numbers of children over identified as needing special education services; the growing administrative burden of paperwork; and the growing expense of litigation detracting from serving students with disabilities. Witnesses will include:

- 1) Ms. Carol Topinka, Director of Special Services for the Milwaukee Public Schools
- 2) Dr. Judy Elliott, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education of Long Beach Unified School District.

3:40 p.m. ***Task Force Q&A for Ms. Topinka and Dr. Elliott***

3:50 p.m. ***Break***

4:00 p.m. ***Public Comment Period***

5:00 p.m. ***Adjourn***