

President's Commission on Excellence in Special Education Professional Development Task Force

Hearing Schedule

March 6, 2002

Hyatt Regency

1750 Welton Street

Denver, Colorado

303-295-1234

- 8:15 a.m. *Welcome, Introductions, and Overview – Chairman Paula Butterfield*
- 8:20 a.m. *1. Qualification vs. Certification—Where is the Value-Added in the Latter?*
2. Why Do Many New Teachers Know So Little About Teaching Students with Disabilities?
- The panel will address two topics in succession. Presenters will make presentations on these two related topics: 1. Reviewing whether state and professional certification requirements actually mean teachers possess the skills needed to teach children, and what alternatives might be; and 2. Considering the nature of bachelors and masters level teacher education and why it does not equip many new teachers with the skills they need to serve children with disabilities and those at-risk of needing services. Panelists will include: Rebecca Walk, Wyoming State Director of Special Education; Dr. William L. Sanders, University of North Carolina; and Dr. Frederick Hess, University of Virginia.
- 9:00 a.m. *Task Force Q&A for the Qualifications vs. Certification? Panel*
- 9:50 a.m. *Pre-Service and In-Service Development: Where's the Beef?*
- The panel will review current pre-service and in-service training practices and why so many are lacking in real value. Panelists will include: Dr. Thomas M. Skrtic, Chair of the Special Education Department University of Kansas; and Dr. Mary T. Brownell of the University of Florida.
- 10:15 a.m. *Task Force Q&A on Pre-Service and In-Service Development*
- 10:55 a.m. *Break*
- 11:10 a.m. *Public Comment*
- 12:10 p.m. *Lunch Break*
- 1:30 p.m. *The Medical Profession and Educating Children with Disabilities*
- Parents, administrators and educators need to more effectively interact with health care providers. The panelist will discuss the knowledge that general and special educators and administrators must possess to more effectively work with children

with more severe disabilities, and children who are medically fragile. The panelist will also discuss recommendations for improving the relationship between educational services and health related services for children with disabilities. Dr. Batshaw will also discuss issues of concern about the growing numbers of children identified as having ADD and ADHD under the OHI category of the IDEA. Mark L. Batshaw, M.D., Children's National Medical Center and The George Washington University.

2:00 p.m. *Task Force Q&A with Dr. Batshaw*

2:30 p.m. *Alternatives to Traditional Practices of Teacher Training*

The panel will review alternative practices of training teachers to educate students, including:

- Purchased comprehensive training—Dr. Joyce Bales, Superintendent, Pueblo, Colorado, District 60
- Dr. G. Thomas Bellamy will discuss preliminary recommendations of the AACTE and the innovative UC Denver public schools initiatives. Bellamy is currently the interim vice chancellor of academic affairs at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, a former Dean of the School of Education at Colorado Springs, and a former director of OSEP.
- Beth Schaffner, Director of Curriculum and Technical Assistance of Peak Parent Center.

3:30 p.m. Break

3:40 p.m. *Task Force Q&A on Means of Delivering Skills and Tools to Teachers.*

4:10 p.m. *What Skills Does Research Indicate are Important for Teaching Special Education Students and Those At-risk of Needing Services?*

The panel will discuss the need for specific reading instruction training of regular and special education teachers. The panel will also discuss the importance for on-site coaching of teachers and the importance of professional mentoring practice among educators. Dr. Rebecca Hamilton of the University of Pittsburgh.

4:40 p.m. *Q&A on with Hamilton*

5:10 p.m. *Adjourn*