Preparing Parents to Participate in Mediations and Facilitated IEPs

Eugene, OR 10/27/2011

Content

- About Parent Centers
- To recognize issues before, during and after mediation and/or facilitated IEPs
- To assist parents in clarifying their thoughts, effectively explain their viewpoints
- To help parents and others in identifying other options to resolve special education disputes

Parent Centers

- Parent Training and Information Centers (PTICs) and Community Parent Resource Centers (CPRCs)
- Work collaboratively with all parties to meet the needs of the student.
- Funded by the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)

www.parentcenternetwork.org



Oklahoma



Sharon House Oklahoma Parents Center



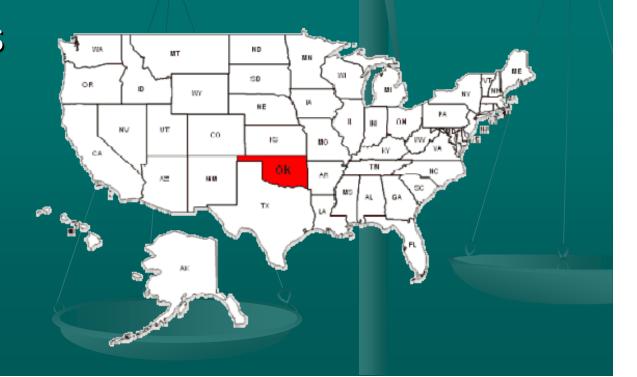
Oklahoma Parents Center

- Serving parents since 2000
- 8 staff working with parents
 - Sharon House, Director



Oklahoma

- 97,264 special education students (2010-2011)
- 528 school districts
- 30-40 due process requests
- 20 mediations
- No IEPfacilitations



Oklahoma State Education Agency

- Conflict Prevention Skills TrainingGood Meeting Management
- Annual Training on Communication Skills
- Available to all
- Houses the Mediation Center?

- Written materials
- Phone Support
- 1:1 Assistance
- CommunicationTraining
- Internet

Issues to consider

before

mediation or facilitated IEP

- ATTITUDE
- BE PROACTIVE, NOT REACTIVE
- LISTENING AND LEARNING
- BUILD THE RELATIONSHIP
- BECOME THE CHILD'S BEST ADVOCATE

Issues to consider during mediation or facilitated IEP

- FOCUS ON THE POSITIVE
- STEP BY STEP...ORGANIZE, LISTS,QUESTIONS
- OUTSIDE the BOX
- NOT LAWYERS

Issues to consider <u>after</u> mediation or facilitated IEP

- FOCUS ON THE POSITIVE
- HELP PARENTSFOLLOW THEAGREEMENT
- ONGOINGCOMMUNICATION



Our attitudes just might be the biggest barriers!

Oklahoma's Guide

DISPUTE RESOLUTION IN SPECIAL EDUCATION
THROUGH MEDIATION (CFR 300.506)

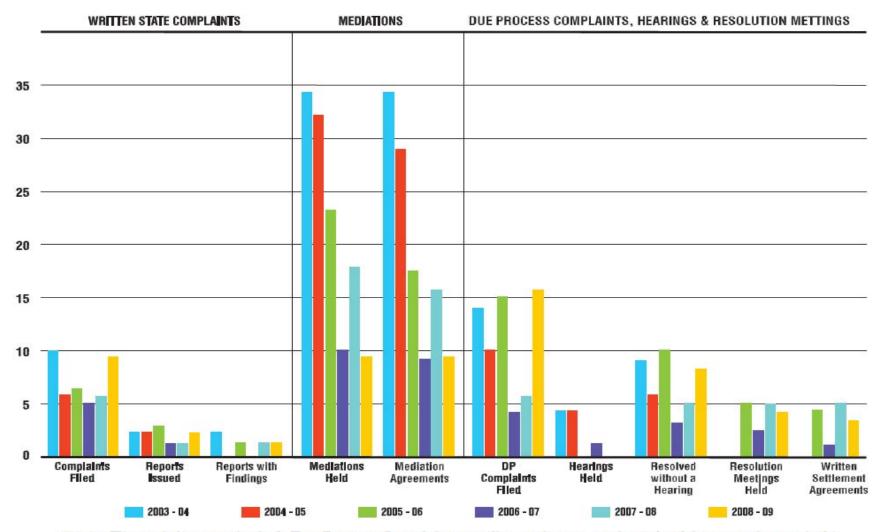
http://www.ok.gov/abletech/documents/me diationmanual2nd.pdf

lowa



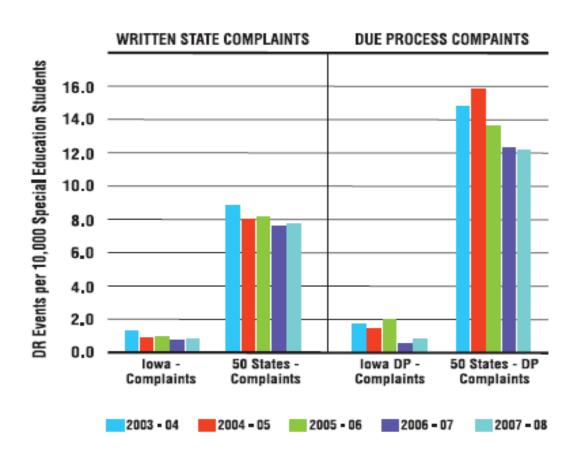
Karen Thompson ASK Resource Center

Figure 1. Iowa — Dispute Resolution Events per Year Source: APR Table 7 and Section 618 Data



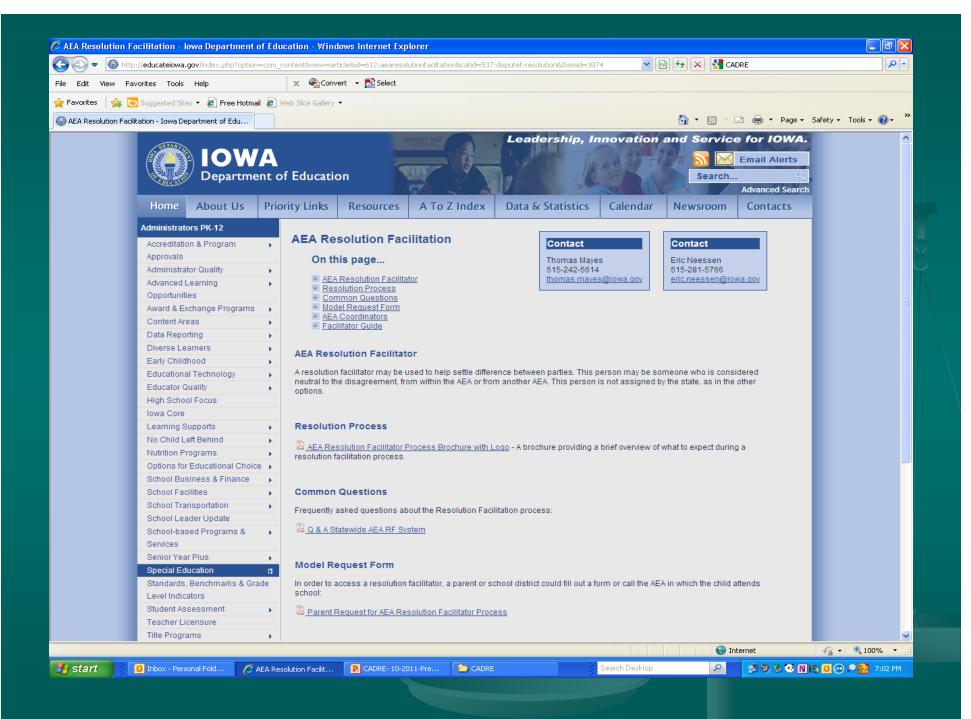
(Note: Figure 1 does not include Due Process Complaints pending each year at the end of the reporting period.)

Figure 2. Comparison of Dispute Resolution Methods Iowa and National Rates Source: APR Table 7 and Section 618 Data



Resources

- Resolution Facilitator Process Brochure
- Five Principles of Problem Solving Negotiation
- Dispute Resolution Process Comparison
- Becoming Part of the Solution
- From the Ground Up
- R.E.S.P.E.C.T.



From the Ground Up

District Court Action

Due Process

Hearing

Mediation Options

Facilitated Problem Solving

IEP Process

Strong Parent and Educator Relationship

CADRE Criteria

- Support and utilization of stakeholder involvement in the design, development, and management of their dispute resolution activities
- 2. Investment in and support for innovative dispute resolution processes at the "early stages," including Capacity building/prevention, early disagreement assistance, and alternative conflict resolution methods
- 3. Evaluation of dispute resolution activities to inform system improvements

"Win-Win' makes it sound like we are playing a competitive game of some kind. When working to rebuild relationships and resolve disputes, people shouldn't be thinking in terms of winning and losing.

We need to change the paradigm; to focus on problem-solving, resolving differences and finding solutions that allow everyone to move forward."

Dee Ann Wilson

R.E.S.P.E.C.T.

- Recognizing
- Everyone's
- Strengths by
- Peacebuilding,
- Empathizing,
- Communicating and
- Trustbuilding

Logistics

- 4 Days over 3 to 4 months
 - 1. Examine Relationship Building
 - 2. Going to the Balcony
 - 3. Taking the Third Side
 - 4. Practice Makes Perfect and Holonomy
- 2 Credits offered
- Marketed to Teams
- Homework

Data

- Over 600 trained
- Lack of standard evaluation and analysis
- Costly regarding both time and money
- Love/Hate Role Play Relationships
- Lack of Support from Administration
- Lack of general educator attendance

Next Steps: Stakeholder Engagement Always

- Increase Data Quality and Analysis
- Continue Offerings
- Consider Distance Learning and Technology
- Pilot Building-wide Training
- Supplement Administrative Training
- Involve Administration in Grading and Utilization Planning

Wisconsin

Charlotte Price Nelsinia Wroblewski



Wisconsin

Total students enrolled 2010-2011 871,550 students-3 to 21 years old 13.7%=119,402 students with DD

WI FACETS served over 103,490 parents & professionals through calls, in person contacts & workshops.

Before Mediation

- Present "Dispute Resolution" to varied participants
- Training
 http://www.wifacets.org/downloadi
 ng-trainings.php
- Receive a call

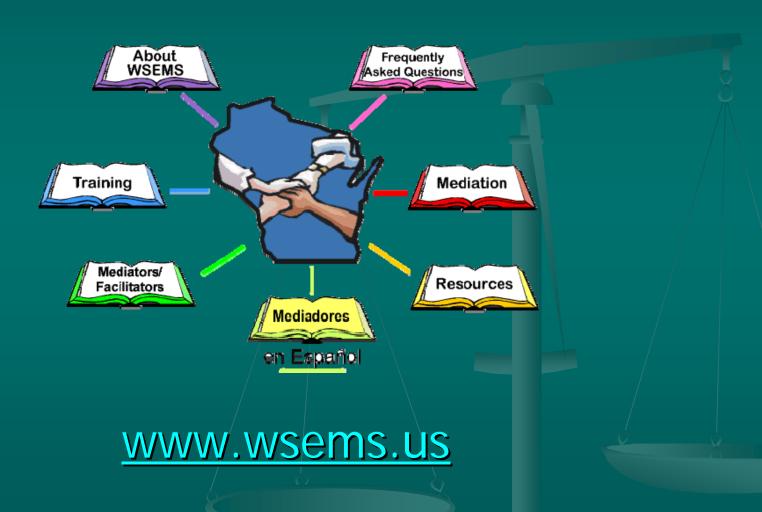
The Wisconsin Special Education Mediation System-Training Manual

Effective Participation in the Special Education Mediation Process

September 2010 Nissan Bar-Lev, Jan Serak

http://www.wsems.us/pdf/WSEMS_Mediation_Training_Manual.pdf

Wisconsin Special Education Mediation System (WSEMS)



WSEMS Training Manual

What happens <u>before</u> Mediation or Facilitated IEPs

- * Parents knowledge/experience with Dispute Resolution processes
- * Cultural impact, Literacy or Disability issues
- * Help with process

WSEMS Training Manual

- Talk about what may happen <u>during</u> Mediation/Facilitated IEP
 - * Give a visual picture
 - * Five principles of problem solving
 - * Invent options for mutual gain
 - * Help parents determine their BATNA
 - * The agreement

WSEMS Training Manual

- Discuss <u>after</u> the session.
 - * All participants fill out a survey
 - * Information is anonymous-used to check on process satisfaction
 - * Department of Public Instruction cannot enforce agreements

Interpreter Manual

- Prepared by WSEMS in 2009
- The manual includes:
 - A letter for the interpreters
 - An overview of what happens during the mediation session and intake process
 - Over 100 Dispute Resolution terms with Spanish translations

http://www.wsems.us/pdf/Interpreter_Manual.pdf



QUESTIONS?



Serving children and adults with disabilities, their families, and others who support them.



Oklahoma Parents Center

Statewide Parent Training and Information

Visit our Website @ www.OklahomaParentsCenter.org!!!

Advocating for Children with Disabilities to Build a Better Future



- Karen Thompson, ASK Iowa (515) 243-1713 or (800) 450-8667 www.askresource.org
- Sharon House, OPC Oklahoma (877)-553-4332
 www.oklahomaparentscenter.org
- Charlotte Price, Wisconsin FACETS
 (877) 374-4677
 <u>www.wifacets.org</u>
- Nelsinia Wroblewski, WSEMS & WI FACETS
 Multicultural Outreach Specialist
 (414) 374-4645

www.wsems.us