

## Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee meeting 2/23/21

Executive board members in attendance: Troy Sampson, chairman; Sarah Wayland, vice chairwoman; Janie Payne, treasurer; Jamie Anfenson-Comeau, secretary; Ayo Bello, listserv manager; Pamela Talley, community outreach.

Others in attendance: See attached screen capture at end of minutes.

Chairman Troy Sampson opened the meeting virtually at 6:32 p.m. Mr. Sampson introduced the executive board members in attendance and Prince George's County Public Schools partners.

Trinell Bowman, associate superintendent of special education for PGCPs, said the operational guide for reopening is now available on the school system website. She wished to remind all families to complete the distance learning/hybrid survey by Feb. 28. She said that over 70,000 families have already completed the survey, but that approximately 50,000 have yet to do so. She said that families that do not complete the survey will be defaulted to the hybrid option.

Marsie Torchon, program coordinator, family engagement, said the Parent Involvement Survey has already been sent out by the Maryland State Department of Education, and said it is important for parents and guardians to fill the survey out. The survey can also be completed online, at [mdparentsurvey.com](http://mdparentsurvey.com). Results are anonymous and desegregated by question.

She said the survey is used in the Parent Support Center for planning activities and interactions with schools.

Ms. Bowman said they will look at the survey data at the district level and share the results with SECAC in September. The data is used to provide professional development support with school teams.

Karen Andrews, coordinating supervisor, Department of Special Education, said the department looks at the impact on all relationships with families and for the direction the department needs to go in order to best serve and support families.

Ms. Torchon also said that iReady math tutoring is available in 20-minute slots, at [www.iready.com/pgc=tutoring](http://www.iready.com/pgc=tutoring).

Ms. Torchon also said the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Parent Empowerment Conference will be held virtually beginning March 20 and continuing into April.

Mr. Sampson introduced Brilliant Semenova, self-advocate resource specialist for families and individuals with and without disabilities.

Ms. Semenova presented information on a number of organizations which provide grants to individuals and families, including:

- The Arc of Prince George's County
  - Lollipop Kids Foundation
  - The Coordinating Center Family Resource Fund
  - Bello Machre Foundation
  - Jewish Community Services
  - The Jill Fox Memorial Fund
  - Alyssa V. Phillips Foundation
  - The Eric Fund
  - Tyler Schrenk Foundation-Italian Catholic Federation
  - Shared Horizons Organization
  - Joni and Friends International
  - Blood Brothers Foundation
  - Loma Linda University Health
  - Friends of Man
  - Joshua Harr Shane Foundation
  - Dreamscape Foundation
  - CHIVE Charities
  - Morgan Project
  - Critical Medical Needs Program
  - Maryland State Scholarships
  - Social Security Tuition Waiver
- and additional databases.

Detailed information on the organizations presented, including criteria and contact information, can be found online at [https://www.dropbox.com/s/w454rs1vbdymqai/2021\\_02\\_23\\_BrillySemanova\\_FundingSources.pptm](https://www.dropbox.com/s/w454rs1vbdymqai/2021_02_23_BrillySemanova_FundingSources.pptm)

Ms. Semanova explained that, growing up with disabilities herself, she realized the difficulty many people with disabilities have in accessing resources, which led her to her current work. She is currently working toward obtaining a degree in family studies.

Mr. Sampson thanked her for sharing this very valuable information.

Vice chairwoman Sarah Wayland said that another program is Low Intensity Support Services, which can provide up to \$2,000 per year for approved services. She said she used it to pay for speech and language services.

Ms. Semanova said that another program, for those who receive Social Security Disability, is the Ticket to Work program, which will allow individuals to keep their benefits while working.

Mr. Sampson thanked Ms. Semanova for her presentation, and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He said the next SECAC meeting will be on March 23, and will focus on transitions with a parent panel.

Mr. Sampson closed the meeting at 7:40 p.m.


Ms. Semanova said questions and inquiries can be emailed to her at [Brilly28@gmail.com](mailto:Brilly28@gmail.com).

Participants (35)


Search


SW


Sarah Wayland (me)



Marsie Torchon (Host)











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Beth Diaite (Co-host)













Karen Andrews (Co-host)












Trinell Bowman (Co-host)











YY

Yvette Young (Co-host)












Troy Sampson






AG


AISHA GAINES






AT


Andria Thomas






AB


Ayo Bello






BA


Beth Ann Hancock







BS


Brilliant Semenova









Camille Johnson






CL


Celia Lewis






CC


Cindy Carter






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Delicia Adewusi






DH


Dionne Hawkins






DC

Donna Cain





Participants (35)

Search

DC	Donna Cain		
EB	Elizabeth Brown		
FN	Fidelia Nwachukwu		
JA	Jamie Anfenson-Comeau		
JP	Janie Payne		
JS	Jereme Simmons		
	latonya torrence		
MD	Meg Dillman		
PT	Pamela Talley		
PS	Patricia Scalise		
RN	Rachel Neff		
R	Reeshemah Speaks		
TH	Terry Hampton		
TF	Therese Forbes		
TH	Tiffany Hemans		
	Tosheka Leslie		
TB	Trudy Biddle		
WA	Wendy Armstrong		