

## **Consortium Minutes February 2, 2001**

**Jerry Christensen** welcomed everyone to the consortium meeting. He also did the folder "browse-by". Included in the folder: the agenda, CSPD calendar, a UMTA brochure, paraconference announcement, and CEC convention presentation handouts. Other handout: CEC award nominations forms.

**Cheryl Hostetter** highlighted the February *The Utah Special Educator*, especially the cover page, taken from the December consortium presentation. It featured Merrill Todachiney performing a traditional native dance.

USOE Leadership Report by **Mae Taylor**. A draft of the SARS week schedule (MAR 26 week in St. George) was distributed. Consortium will be Thursday morning of that week.

**Deb Spark** announced that she, Michael Taylor, and Wendy Bills will present a strand at the transition conference that will provide training to IEP teams.

**Susan Loving** (new specialist at USOE for transition programs) announced there are three regional transition conferences scheduled this year. State transition roundtable will be on February 21 at the Division of Workforce Services in Salt Lake.

Jocelyn Taylor handed out the Booklet of Resources for Autism. This is a resource for the **community**.

**Bruce Schroeder** expressed that it was the time of year to gather CSPD information, via email and internet. USOE wants to know if projects are accessible to districts, aligned with Utah Agenda objectives and accountable.

**Nan Gray** said they are having evaluative meetings so they need this information from across the state. They have identified 12 data sources, zoomerang is only one of these. They are looking at a broad range of data sources in order to make better decisions. They are asking for opinions as well as data and need this information by February 12. They want to identify high needs and then align their resources along those needs.

**Craig Boogaard** gave the "technology demonstration": Craig is from the Computer Center for Citizens with Disabilities. Resources available: There are twenty regional teams across the state available to look at assistive technology. Computer Center for Citizens with Disabilities benefits anyone with a disability. They do informal hands-on models to see what looks the best for each individual. They do not do evaluations. There are some items available to lend out and the UAAACT teams have more items to lend students to try. All available items for lending are listed on the following website: [www.usor.state.ut.us/uaaact.htm](http://www.usor.state.ut.us/uaaact.htm).

Craig showed a couple of programs related to language: (1) Words Around Me from EdMark.. (2) Speaking Dynamically Pro (programmable so that it could be used for non verbal students, etc.) These programs range from \$250 to \$350.

### **Presentations:**

**Monica Ferguson** (State Improvement Grant)- "Language, Learning & Literacy in the Classroom"

Normal stages of language acquisition: experiencing, listening-thinking, speaking, writing and reading. These build a foundation for learning and literacy. This is how all children acquire language, no matter their abilities or disabilities.

What is competence: developing skills with form, content and use; acquire tools for learning and literacy and they are essential for all curriculum content areas. Language is

essential for reading, writing, speaking and thinking. Problems occur when these skills are not developed—poor academic performance, inappropriate social communication, frequent misunderstandings by student, arguments, etc.

Format for teaching language & literacy: 1. Choose curriculum topic and target skills. 2. Experiencing activities (thinking, reading). 3. Communicate about topic (speaking, writing). 4. Improve language and communications. 5. Share the topic with others. (See article in February's *Utah Special Educator*)

**Sharon Neyme (State Improvement Grant)– “Administrator Support Strategies for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students”**

LEP students are fastest growing group of students in US. Great need for help. These students are not keeping pace with the regular students. These students drop out of school at a greater rate. Language skills impact academic achievement. Cultural issues also have an effect. The principal is the academic leader for ALL students.

1. Develop an understanding of the second language acquisition and cultural diversity issues.
2. The principal must be the instructional leader.
3. Promote a school climate that encourages faculty and students to overcome language barriers.

Carol Goulais, West Lake Jr High School counselor, and two students from her school—Mele Angilau and Juan Carlos Perdono—gave a demonstration of how to do an SEOP session for those who may not speak English. They had the consortium learn three words in another language to see just how difficult this task is.

**Monica Ferguson and Track Knickerbocker** presented information about the Utah Showcase and Recruitment Social on March 30, 2001, 6-8 p.m. in St. George (end of SARS week and in connection with CEC Spring Conference). There are critical shortages of teachers to fill positions of special education teachers. The recruitment social will provide an opportunity to spotlight districts and to talk to interested candidates for the jobs available.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Those in attendance:

DiAnne Adams  
Natalie Allen  
Morgan Anderson  
Joyce Barnes  
Brenda Broadbent  
Dawnne Casey  
Jerry Christensen  
Jim Curtice  
Tony Done  
Sally Dyches  
Monica Ferguson  
Peggy Fratto  
Jennie Gibson  
Barbara Graves  
Nan Gray  
Annette Greenberg  
Jackie Harris  
Patty Heisterman  
Michael Herbert

Steve Hirase  
Randy Honaker  
Cheryl Hostetter  
Cheryl Hunt  
Kathy Iroz  
Danelle Keith  
Tracy Knickerbocker  
Karen Kowalski  
Anna LeFevre  
Susan Loving  
Marilyn Madsen  
Pat Matthews  
Jack Mayhew  
Karen Medlin  
Ronda Menlove  
Davalee Miller  
Ann Miller  
Peggy Milligan  
Sharon Neyme

Steve Noyce  
Susan Ord  
Linda Otte  
James Payant  
Antoine Powell  
Lorie Rasmussen  
Colleen Riley  
Jack Rudio  
Valerie Scherbinske  
Bruce Schroeder  
Dale Sheld  
Deb Spark  
Cheryl Smith  
Nicole Suchey  
Mae Taylor  
Jocelyn Taylor  
Vickie Todd  
Tom Walker  
Richard Young

Minutes/summary by Cheryl Smith