

Professional Standards Committee Minutes

October 16th 3 – 4 PM

Participants: Jessica Greenberg, Danielle Williams, Mancy Smith, Ruth Crowell, Samantha Blair

Reviewed goals from last year and discussed progress on those as well as interest in new goals for the upcoming year.

1. Last Year Lisa Backman was the liaison with NASP along with Mary MacLennon in monitoring progress on NASP's Interstate compact for reciprocal licensure/certification. The team agreed it will be important to continue this liaison. Ruth and Danielle will bring this up with Lisa and Mary at tonight's EB meeting.
2. Last year there were workgroups that developed proposed Emotional Disability and Manifestation Determination forms in conjunction with the DOE. The DOE has met to discuss these forms but as of now has not determined to adopt a new form. Ruth and Lisa met with Erin Frazier over the summer, made a few updates on the ED Form and submitted it to Erin again. Jim Babcock is doing a presentation on Manifestation Determinations and Ruth & Melissa DeSilva are presenting on ED vs. Social Maladjustment at the MADSEC conference later this week. The DOE is presenting a training on Manifestation Determinations on Oct. 25th from 3-4 PM. MADSEC has asked Drummon and Woodsum to develop an ED form. Lisa Backman is on the committee that will review this form. This committee will continue to monitor the progress of the ED and MD form development.
3. Ongoing interest in addressing the needs for supervision of interns and new practitioners was discussed. Sam and Jamie will be presenting at the MADSEC conference on Friday addressing the grant for partnering to bring in more school psychologists to remote districts. There was discussion about how to support students in advocacy for reducing the referral rates and the high number of evaluations and identification of special education students which is correlated with a lack of active engagement by school psychologists in pre-referral and intervention activities. There was also discussion about training new and current school psychologists in report writing that is more efficient, less time consuming, legally defensible, and comprehensible by parents and teachers. The committee will continue to address these issues.
4. Discussion focused on the MASP practice model and how to help school psychologists in Maine engage in a broader range of activities beyond testing. Suggestions were made to expand our advocacy and collaboration beyond the realms of MADSEC and the special education portion of the DOE to include regular education administrators and staff as well as the regular ed arm of the DOE. Jess shared an article from the MEA Newsletter about the need for more school psychologists in Maine. Discussion as to how most effectively to support school psychologists in pursuing systems-wide change ensued. This discussion terminated when the meeting ended precipitously at 4:00 as the Zoom link for the early assessment course shut down the zoom link for this meeting.

End Note – Ruth provided a review of the Professional Standards Committee meeting to the MASP Executive Board at their meeting the evening of the 16th. This led to discussion about possibly providing PD training in areas discussed such as:

- Advocacy for systems change that leads towards expanded roles for school psychologists,
- Report writing focused on briefer, targeted, defensible & comprehensible reports,
- Manifestation Determinations,
- The new ED form and guidance documents

This may be a single topic 3 hour session or break-out groups that meet on each topic over a 3 hour time period. Date tentatively set for March 22nd, 2024 at the Harraseeket. This committee can discuss this topic further at our next meeting and feed the information to Mary MacLennan and the Executive Board.

The article Jess shared about school psychology shortages from the MEA newsletter was passed on to Kathy Gillis, GPR Chair, so they can monitor the bill for requiring more mental health practitioners in the schools.