

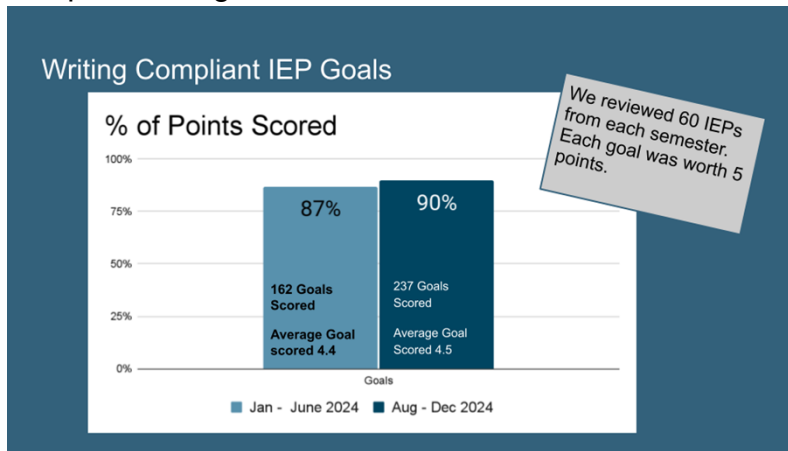
# Special Education Report

February, 2025

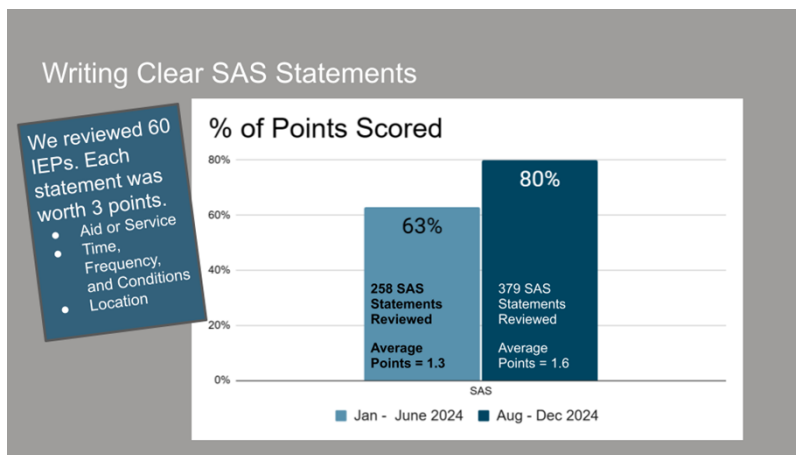
Natalie Fuller – Cyndi Geiger – Trisha Hassett– Mark Sly  
Cheryl Granzo – Angela Miller – Ben Woolston – Kathy Foote

## Administrators for Accountability & Program Improvement (C. Geiger, T. Hassett, M. Sly):

- The GSM team and one of the LEA directors completed file reviews to measure compliant IEP goal writing, clear statements of Supplementary Aids and Services, and thorough documentation of IEP Notice in December.
  - The data showed an improvement on our service providers' writing of technically compliant IEP goals from 87% in the winter of 2024 to 90% in the fall of 2024.



- The data showed an improvement on our service providers' writing of clear statements of Supplementary Aids and Services from 63% in the winter of 2024 to 80% in the fall of 2024.



- Additional resources for writing clear SAS statements and thoroughly completing Prior Written Notice forms have been created and distributed for staff use.

- We will be learning to better support local member districts in the area of discipline as we complete a B4 Monitoring with Ionia Public Schools during the month of February. In addition, we will be partnering with IPS key district stakeholders to develop an action plan for an analysis of disciplinary policies, procedures and practices, along with assessing training needs and revision of policies as agreed upon and deemed necessary.
- Nonviolent crisis intervention training to staff needing full certification and refresher training has been completed using the Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) materials.
- We have filled a school psychology internship position for the 25-26 school year and have an interview with another internship candidate scheduled for later this month.

### **Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Program (B. Woolston):**

- We had a vacancy for an ASD consultant position caused by a resignation. We have interviewed three very qualified candidates for the position, which is above average for ASD consultant vacancies.
- We have been in search of a qualified teacher for our transition age ASD program at AEC. One of our seasoned HCAs, Megan Ruid, has stepped up to begin teaching in the classroom as a certified substitute. Megan has a Bachelor's degree in Applied Behavior Analysis, and will begin her pursuit of her teaching certificate through the Talent Together program.

### **Early Childhood Programs (C. Granzo):**

#### Early On:

To date (1/28) we have received 26 referrals for the month. It appears that many doctors are consistently using the MCHAT which is an autism screener at the recommended ages of 18 and 24 months. This is resulting in an increased number of young children referred with potential characteristics around age 2 or younger. We are continuing to contract with a retired PSY to supplement our staffing for these evaluations as we only have a .5 Psychologist allocated to our program.

The parent-child playgroups are still going well. We hold them in Belding, Ionia and Portland. We have a blend of children eligible for Early On as well as children from the community. We are seeking more children/families from the community especially in the Belding area. We have advertised on Facebook as well as provided flyers to the principal at Ellis. Families are charged a nominal fee, but we do waive the fee if it is a financial hardship. This helps us meet our requirement to provide services to children in settings with their same age peers.

Staff will be preparing for the next count, which is in early February, and transitioning children to their LEA's as they turn 3.

Early On Michigan is promoting early intervention as a career choice. This [video](#) was sent to local superintendents to share with appropriate personnel in their district that guide high school students to potential careers. In addition, as administrators of early intervention within ISD's we are working to share information about Early On within our own systems. Cheryl developed a booklet that is being

used to inform interested parties about what we do and to advocate for what we need to improve our system.

#### DPIL:

January 1962 books distributed, 38 newly enrolled, \$4630.00

We are still working on securing an online payment method for the public to make donations to the program.

We are preparing for the quilt show and raffle which will be **Saturday, March 22, 2025.**



### Freedom Acres School Programs (A. Miller):

#### Staffing Update

- **SCI Program:** We have one open Health Care Aide (HCA) position within the Severely Cognitively Impaired (SCI) program.
- **Internal Movements:** Ashley Proctor, HCA, joins April Cavanaugh's SEI classroom and will support our youngest learners. Hali Eveleth, HCA, joins Stephanie Brown's SCI classroom and will support learners at the starting line of their education. Jackie Thurston, HCA, joins Lindsay Seal's classroom and will support learners with community-based goals and working to acquire independence as a focal point of their IEP goals.

#### Behavioral Data Update

- As of January 30th, the SEI program has not reported any restraints or suspensions through the MSDS collection.
- There has been one **5-minute seclusion** implemented to ensure *felt safety* during a behavioral episode.

#### Program (SEI & SCI) Updates:

- A big transition for your new SCI student and for the learners concluding their educational journeys. The shift from Early On to Stephanie Brown's classroom is a significant milestone, and I imagine the team is working hard to ensure a smooth transition.
- For the exiting learners, their personal and medical needs were key factors in determining their next steps. Supporting students and families through these transitions can be complex and must include great care.

## **Annual IEP Meeting Updates**

- Since September 5th, Freedom Acres has conducted a total of 31 IEP meetings. Parents or guardians were present for 29 of these meetings, reflecting strong family engagement. Local directors participated in 12 of the 31 IEP meetings.

## **Professional Development:**

- January 20th: The SEI program completed its Ukeru refresher, and the SCI program completed its biannual CPR and First Aid.

## **POHI/SXI Lunch and Learn**

- The next Lunch and Learn session is scheduled for **February 20th from 11:30 to 12:30**.
  - **Link to Join:** [meet.google.com/ubh-wqab-qhr](https://meet.google.com/ubh-wqab-qhr)

## **PI-OHI & Assistive Technology Department (K. Foote):**

- PI-OHI welcomes Saige Shellito to our team. She is working at Oakwood in Portland.
- Assistive Technology has started the second phase of the AT Partnership program with Alt + Shift. The second phase is to review the stakeholder analysis and create a regional team to start the implementation of Assistive Technology guidelines for the Ionia ISD and local districts.

## **Transition Training Sites/MoCI Programs (M. Sly):**

- Continuing to provide NCI (Nonviolent Crisis Intervention) Training to staff.
- Still have one HCA opening for community-based services.

## **Deaf & Hard of Hearing (C. Geiger)**

- We continue to have a part time opening for a DHH TC/Specialist. We continue to partner with two Educational Audiologists from U of M to fill the void to the best extent possible.
- Both IMS and Emerson DHH teachers will be participating in a state level training this spring in Kalamazoo. The teachers will walk away with greater knowledge in strategies that support unique skill development for success in the educational setting and career readiness, collecting student data to formulate effective individualized goals for skill development, and better understanding on how to incorporate content to their teaching practices.

- **Upcoming Events**

- PAC (Parent Advisory Committee) Feb 24, 2025
- DPIL Quilt Show (9am – 12pm) Saturday, March 22, 2025