# **DEC Leadership SIG Meeting**

**Thursday, June 8, 2017**

12:00 – 1:00 pm EST

**Call In Information**  
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/299920829>  
You can also dial in using your phone.   
United States: +1 (571) 317-3112   
Access Code: 299-920-829

**Agenda**

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Participants:

Kim Sopko

Shannon Hankins

Annie George-Puskar

Sarah Nichols

1. **Updates**
   1. Social Media Connections (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
      1. 287 followers on Twitter; 664 on Facebook
      2. Nancy Surbrook is putting things on Twitter, and Kim is also sometimes putting things on Twitter. We are getting more followers on Twitter ad well as facebook. The Facebook page needs someone to pay more attention to it.
      3. Annie will talk to her office media specialist to see how Facebook can be linked to Twitter
   2. Web-Conversations (Anne Marie Davidson)
      1. No updates
   3. DEC and the Power to the Profession: A Call for the DEC Member Engagement (Kim Sopko)
      1. <http://www.dec-sped.org/single-post/2017/05/22/DEC-and-the-Power-to-the-Profession-A-Call-for-DEC-Member-Engagement>
      2. Huge movement coming out of NAEYC, trying to define what early childhood means. As this movement continues, it is trying to make early childhood recognized as a profession with standards, and moving to equitable compensation
         1. Conversations include questions of “who makes up the early childhood profession?” Such as a nanny? Early childhood special educators?
      3. As leaders, we need to take the time to respond to the surveys, and encourage others to make their voice known
      4. This movement can change both ECE and ECSE field in the long run, so pay attention to the movement and speak up.
2. **Members Sharing**

Shannon and her husband are expecting in October! (Congratulations!)

With Shannon expecting and Annie defending her dissertation in the Fall, we thought it would be a good idea to get another third co-chair to help through those few months. If anyone has any ideas or know of anyone who might be interested please let Shannon and Annie know.

1. **Leadership Focus**
   * 1. New Structure of the Policy & Advocacy Council (Kim Sopko)
        1. New structure designed for the policy and advocacy council. There is an executive policy & advocacy committee (Peggy Kemp, Ben Rogers, Sharon Walsh, & Barbara Smith) for quick turnaround decisions, a Policy & Advocacy Council that includes a Policy Writing Team led by Michael Barla, and an Advocacy Team led by Kim Sopko
        2. The Policy Council began meeting in March and continues to work through identifying the best processes and strategies to perform their work, connect with DEC members, and motivate members to stay informed about policy issues and take action
           1. Main issues DEC will focus on: Medicaid, Part D of IDEA; FY 2018 budget, & IDEA Reauthorization
        3. Policy: The goal is to have white papers and briefs coming out of DEC so members have more information, with easier access, about DEC and what is happening
     2. Advocacy (Kim Sopko)
        1. Advocacy: Once we have briefs from policy team, it is a lot about marketing and dissemination to members – writing e-brief and using social media to share information
           1. Look at the CEC Legislative Advocacy Center- <http://www.policyinsider.org/cec-legislative-action-center/> Policy Insider: <http://cecblog.typepad.com/policy/> they have pre-written letters on important issues (such as Medicaid or IDEA reauthorization) that you can send your representatives letters.
           2. <http://cqrcengage.com/cek/?0>
           3. As leaders in the Leadership SIG we can advocate and share this information with people
     3. A struggle: There are a lot of areas that need attention and motivation comes in waves, but it is easy to get bogged down and tired when results aren’t happening in advocacy work. And wanting to identify priorities for time and energy can be challenging
        1. Kim: The purpose of the new structure in DEC is supposed to be helpful in this area.
        2. The message is important, but sometimes it is about the numbers (i.e. we got 10,000 emails about this issue today)
        3. RESOURCES
           1. <https://www.decpolicy.org/> - this is the Policy & Advocacy Council page, there are resources and the advocacy letters DEC has written or signed on to are not posted
           2. <http://www.dec-sped.org/news> - This is the news page for DEC which is being used more regularly and will include postings from the Policy and Advocacy Council. You can now subscribe for live alerts to receive email notification when something is posted to NEWS
           3. Also get connected with your state level coordinators – Ashley Lyons now works specifically with CAN coordinators to help them focus on state-level issues
        4. It is a work in progress but we are moving in the right direction to help DEC members become more engaged in policy and advocacy
        5. FYI- Wed. is the day CEC puts out it’s Policy news updates
        6. Try to identify 2-3 topics/issues that are important to you that you will commit to sharing information about and/or take action
2. **Closing**
   1. Topic for next meeting
      1. Identify areas from social media feedback (types of things being shared by Nancy and responses)
      2. Updates from Kim (Advocacy Team Leader) as a regular agenda item
   2. Next meeting date: September 14, 2017