TAER Division 9 (O&M) meeting minutes

3/31/2017

5:06 meeting called to order

6:12 meeting adjourned

Marji Wood, TAER president, called the meeting to order.

Division 9 board members were introduced.

 - Heather Munro- chair (absent due to illness)

 - Stephanie Walker- newsletter editor

 - Trenton Adkins- vice chair

 - Carrie Istre- secretary

 - Rich Eubank- member at large

 - Laurie Mayor- member at large (absent)

There were no previous meeting minutes to review.

Discussion:

Facebook TAER O&M page is available. More O&Ms need to access the page and the page could really be utilized for networking and professional assistance amongst members.

Creating a contact list of Texas COMS's has been discussed for many years. Carrie is in the process of creating this. A sheet was passed around asking for members name and email address. The information gathered will be compiled and a document will be created to share.

Old Business:

Service Pins- Only 1 pin was given. 30 years to KC Crager

New Business:

Marji asked for input from the floor. Any issues the COMS are dealing with?

 - House Bill 11 was mentioned and discussed. The evaluation timelines being presented within the bill are concerning. The bill was intended as a mental health bill rather than education. The bill has not been passed at this time.

TAER as well as the TAER O&M division are members of AVIT (Alliance of and for Visually Impaired Texans) http://alliancevitexans.org/

The AER International O&M Conference is being held this year in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The dates are July 19-22, 2017, at the Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh.

A member shared that she is having difficulties within her district of going back to ARD within a timely time frame to review 3-year re-evaluations, so she wanted some clarification and feedback on how others are handling this.

 - The law states an O&M specialist must be a part of the multidisciplinary team determining the scope of any reevaluation for a student who is eligible based on having a visual impairment. This means that the O&M Specialist should be included in the ARD meeting requesting the re-evaluation which is typically 1 year prior to the actual assessment being due. Planning for the re-evaluation 1 year in advance helps all of the evaluations to be completed at the same time and reviewed at the annual ARD meeting together.

Chris Tabb let the group know about O&M REED for which is available through Region 13. Search O&M REED Form Region 13

http://www4.esc13.net/vi/teacher-notebook/

It was mentioned that Chris Tabb has also created an online LiveBinder for O&M documents. Search Chris Tabb O&M livebinder

http://www.livebinders.com/shelf/search\_author?terms=christabb

The board asked if the group would be interested in utilizing a google group for Texas O&M.

 - The response was undecided. Carrie will look into this more.

Next year, TAER 2018 in will be in Fort Worth.

It was mentioned that the board should look into having an O&M dinner one night during the TAER conference.

 - This happened in years past, but interest declined. Andrew Bernet is from the Fort Worth area and maybe could help coordinate putting a dinner together for next year's conference.

One last question was brought before the group. What is the liability for homemade/specialist created AMDs?

 - Three members responded that they have worked in other states and in each of their states, they could only use commercially purchased devices.

 - Chris Tabb offered further insite to AMDs. Always ask yourself "What is the purpose of the tool?" Also, use due diligence that it is made sturdy and is safe. Make periodic inspections and make sure staff members know to contact you if they see anything wrong/broken on the device.

Meeting was adjourned.