

## Governor's Advisory Council for the Education of Students with Disabilities

April 17, 2017

Greetings,

Tracy Duncan, a representative of TN Deaf Education, presented to the Governor's Advisory Council for Students with Disabilities on Monday, April 10, 2017. The purpose of her visit was to raise awareness of issues concerning deaf students in Tennessee and to encourage the delivery of high quality deaf education throughout Tennessee.

To effect this outcome, Ms. Duncan and her group (TN Deaf Education) would like to see the formation of a Commission on Deaf Education, increased data collection, and the institution of a language acquisition plan as an addition to all Individual Family Services Plans (IFSPs), IEPs, and 504 plans.

Ms. Duncan expressed to me via telephone that she would like to see the state form a Deaf Ed task force. In her presentation, Ms. Duncan referenced studies and data that a state Deaf Ed task force could research and use to make recommendations to the DOE. What is readily apparent is that TN Deaf Education has raised questions about deaf education in Tennessee that the Advisory Council feels bears further investigation and possibly action by the DOE and/or legislature.

The membership of the Advisory Council voted to recommend that the DOE and the legislature look into learning more about Deaf Education in Tennessee and taking whatever action deemed necessary by the appropriate entity to address this unmet need.

The Advisory Council welcomes input from the public and was happy to give Ms. Duncan an opportunity to speak to the Council. It is our hope that the DOE and legislature will give her concerns appropriate consideration as the education of all students with disabilities in Tennessee is important.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our recommendation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chip Fair', with a stylized, flowing script.

Chip Fair, Chairman, Governor's Advisory Council for the Education of Students with Disabilities