

**Southeastern Massachusetts  
Educational Collaborative**

**FY 12  
Annual Report**

**SMEC Leadership**  
**July 1, 2011-June 30, 2012**

**Board of Directors 2011-2012**

Frank Kuthan, SMEC Board Chair, Acushnet

Michelle Ouellette, Marion

Gerald Johnson, SMEC Board Vice-Chair, Mattapoisett

Michelle Cusolito, Rochester

Brian Monroe, Fairhaven

Jonathan Schwartz, Dartmouth

Marlene Pollock, New Bedford\*

James O'Brien, Old Rochester Regional

\*Replaced Jill Ussach, January 2012

**Treasurer**

John Nunes

**SMEC Administrative Team**

Catherine S. Cooper, Executive Director

Karyn Labonte, Business Office Manager

Michelle Goettlich, Student Services Director

Nelson Cordeiro, Adult Services Asst. Director

Karen Stern, Adult Services Director

Sean Mitchell, SAIL Program Manager

**Member Special Education Directors**

Nance Bellizzi, Acushnet

Linda Maniglia, Dartmouth

David Kenney, Fairhaven

Teresa Hamm, Marion, Mattapoisett, Rochester and Old Rochester Regional

Kathleen Turner, New Bedford

**Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative**  
**Five Year Strategic Plan**  
**June 2008**

**Mission Statement**

The Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative is dedicated to providing high quality programs and services for all children and adults who need specialized instruction or support.

The Collaborative utilizes a team approach to service provision and is dedicated to meeting the needs of the whole individual.

**Guiding Principles**

We believe that all people have strengths, abilities and gifts and must be treated with respect and dignity regardless of their level of need.

We strive to ensure that support and services are guided by an individual's goals and preferences.

We strive to assist each individual to participate in and contribute meaningfully to their community through school, work, community service and recreation.

We believe that all individuals have the ability and need to learn and can learn in a safe, nurturing environment with the appropriate support.

We will safeguard each individual's right to privacy, dignity and respect.

We believe that parents and families are their children's most important advocates and teachers.

We believe that through collaboration and teamwork we strengthen the resources of school districts and adult agencies to provide the very best in school age and adult programs.

We have high expectations for the success of our students, staff, consumers, parents and the community.

We believe that an effective organization is diverse in perspective, culture and experience.

## **Goals and Objectives**

To provide quality services and individualized programs to meet the ever-changing needs of students and consumers from early childhood through adulthood.

To provide high quality, inclusive, sequential programs for grades Pre-K through adulthood with a continuum of services in our area;

To conduct annual internal evaluations and needs assessments of each program;

To maintain frequent dialogue with our purchasers and conduct periodic external quality surveys and needs assessments for current and future programming;

To analyze the need and logistics of expanding our adult services to include a Medicaid funded day-habilitation program;

To analyze additional areas of need outside of special education that the Collaborative may be able to address for our member and surrounding districts.

To provide appropriate facilities to accommodate programs and services.

To find a suitable facility for our current Transitional Services Program(s);

To provide on-going and regular communication to our member school districts and develop mutually beneficial agreements with regard to the use of public school facilities for Collaborative programs;

To assess the facility needs of the SAIL adult program and either negotiate an extension of our current lease or identify a new location(s) at least one year prior to the expiration of our existing lease.

To provide comprehensive professional development opportunities for school districts and SMEC staff in accordance with the SMEC Professional Development Plan.

To develop and implement a comprehensive assessment process to evaluate SMEC and district professional development needs;

To provide staff training to meet all local, state and federal regulations;

To provide staff development that sustains and enhances present programming within the Collaborative.

To enhance the Collaborative infrastructure to support and sustain high quality programs and growth.

## **Goals and Objectives (continued)**

To implement the DOE approved SMEC 3 year technology plan to improve the integration of technology into the curriculum, use of assistive technology, efficiency of administration and communication/outreach to parents, students, purchasers and current and prospective employees;

To develop a formal public relations and marketing campaign to improve the visibility of the Collaborative;

To support smart growth with professional recruitment and retention strategies, administrative infrastructure and appropriate staffing and support at all levels;

To continue to expand and improve our relationships with local employers and other community resources and recognize their contributions to the lives of our students and consumers.

## **FY12 General Statistics**

Years in Service:	37
Employees:	150
Member Districts:	8
Program Sites:	9
Students Served in or by SMEC School Programs or Services in FY12:	370
Adult (Age 22+) Consumers Served FY12:	125

## **FY12 Revenue**

Total Revenue:	\$5,858,596
Tuition and Services Member:	\$2,270,140
Tuition and Services Non-Member:	\$ 109,131
DDS Contracts:	\$2,735,706
MCB Contract:	\$ 128,272
MassHealth/Medicaid:	\$ 501,017
DESE CACFP:	\$ 33,018

**FY12 Revenue (continued)**

Professional Development:	\$ 52,299
Grants:	\$ 1,700
Investment Income:	\$ 288
Self-Pay:	\$ 3,809
Miscellaneous:	\$ 23,216

**Cost Savings to School Districts**

Average FY12 MA Private School Special Education Tuition 180 Day Program:	\$52,645.75
Average FY12 SMEC Tuition 180 Day Program:	\$30,420.00
Average Private Agency Therapist Fee:	\$100/hour
Average FY12 SMEC Therapist Fee:	\$58/hour

Further cost savings are realized by operating programs within local school districts thereby significantly reducing special education transportation costs.

**Amount Expended on Services for Students/Consumers Age 22+**

SAIL Program (DDS/MCB Contracts):	\$2,726,893
ADH Program (Medicaid):	\$ 502,539
<u>FY12 Total Adult Service Expenses:</u>	<u>\$3,229,432</u>

## **Program Descriptions**

### **SMEC Early Childhood Program**

The SMEC Early Childhood Program, located at Acushnet Elementary School, serves children ages three to six with developmental and language delays. Staffed by a special education teacher, speech pathologist, COTA and paraprofessionals the program provides a full day, five day per week program with a 2:1 student/staff ratio.

### **SMEC Primary Language Program**

The SMEC Primary Language Program, located at E. Fairhaven Elementary School, serves students in grades 1-4 with significant language delays and autism spectrum disorders. Staffed by a special education teacher, speech pathologist, COTA and paraprofessionals, the program offers intensive, language based programming with a small staff/student ratio and opportunity for inclusive activities within the host building.

### **SMEC Integrated Services Program**

The SMEC Integrated Services Program, located at the Ford Middle School in Acushnet, serves students in grades 5-8 with significant language delays and autism spectrum disorders. It provides a continuum of services for students exiting the Primary Language Program who still require a substantially separate classroom with a small staff/student ratio or for new students referred at the middle school level. Services are provided by a special education teacher, paraprofessionals, a COTA and a speech language pathologist.

### **SMEC Alternative Learning Classroom I**

The SMEC ALC I program, located at the Ford Middle School in Acushnet, serves students in grades 5-8 with social/emotional, behavioral and learning disabilities. Students are served in a substantially separate classroom with a small student/staff ratio and inclusion opportunities. Services are provided by a special education teacher, reading specialist, paraprofessional, and licensed mental health counselor.

### **SMEC Alternative Learning Classroom II**

The SMEC ALC II program is located at Dartmouth High School, serving students in grades 9-12 with social/emotional, behavioral and learning disabilities. Students are served in a substantially separate classroom with a small student/staff ratio and inclusion opportunities. Services are provided by a special education teacher, paraprofessionals, a licensed mental health counselor and consulting employment development coordinator.

### **SMEC Transitional Services**

SMEC offers transitional services to students ages 17-22 with developmental disabilities. Student services include job development, employment skills training and support, life skills/ADL instruction, social/community skills development and case management. Instruction is community based with classroom space available in Dartmouth and New Bedford. Transitional Services Staff include 3 special education teachers, paraprofessionals, a vocational coordinator, a consulting LMHC, and a job development specialist.

### **SMEC FACE Program**

The FACE after school program provides an extended day social skills activity group to students in grades 5-8 with significant social/language delays.

### **Supporting Adults for Inclusive Living (SAIL) Program**

SMEC's SAIL program serves individuals over the age of 22 who have been deemed eligible for adult service funding through the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and the MA Commission for the Blind (MCB). SMEC is a qualified state provider for employment support, residential support, community day support and individual support services. Funding for the SAIL program is provided through state contracts with DDS and MCB.

### **SMEC Adult Day Health (ADH) Program**

SMEC's ADH program provides a continuum of services for individuals over the age of 22 who require daily supervision, activities and case management. The ADH program supplements the services provided through SMEC's SAIL program. The ADH program is currently funded through Medicaid/MassHealth, with reimbursement for hot lunches provided through the DESE's CACFP program.

### **Ancillary Services**

SMEC provides specialized staffing and therapeutic services to school districts throughout our region. SMEC speech pathologists, occupational therapists, COTAs, SLPAs, physical therapists, school psychologists, ELL teachers and sign language interpreters provide therapeutic and consultation services to students and staff in member and non-member districts and charter schools throughout the region on a contractual basis. In addition, our vocational specialist offers transitional/vocational assessment services to students referred for evaluation by their LEA.

### **Professional Development**

SMEC offers a variety of professional development activities for educators from member and non-member districts throughout the year.

### **Special Education Transportation**

SMEC offers special education transportation services to member school districts. Currently, transportation services are limited to students and consumers attending SMEC programs.