

VITA

Michael J. Opuda

PERSONAL DATA

Address: RFD #1, Box 3750
Wayne, Maine 04284

Telephone: (207) 685-4564
email: michael.opuda@state.me.us

EDUCATION

1999 – Ph.D., Special Education Administration, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, GPA: 3.92

1997 – C.A.G.S., Special Education Administration, , Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, GPA: 3.92

1987 – M.Ed., Special Education; University of Maine, Orono. GPA 3.93

1978 – 24 graduate hours, Community Counseling, University of Maine, Orono. GPA 3.66

1973 – B.A., Psychology; University of Maine, Orono. GPA 2.33

1968 – High School Diploma, Milton High School, Milton, Mass.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Due Process Coordinator – Maine Department of Education, (December 1986 - August 1995, December 1997 to date) Responsible for the development and management of the Department Education's mediation, complaint investigation, and due process hearing system including the recruitment, training, and supervision of the state due process hearing officers and mediators. Additional responsibilities include reviewing and revising the Maine Special Education Regulations, scheduling public hearings and the analysis of comments as required by the Maine Administrative Procedures Act; drafting policy positions and advisory rulings regarding special education for the Commissioner of the Department; and providing technical assistance through distance education, local and regional workshops.

Lecturer – University of Maine Orono, (July 1998 to date) Adjunct faculty responsible for development and presentation of SED 540 Law and Policy Affecting Individuals with Disabilities, a three credit hour graduate course.

Intern – Northeast Regional Resource Center, Burlington, VT, (June – July 1997) – Conducted longitudinal study of monitoring reports from the Office of Special Education Programs, U.S. Department of Education for all State Education Agencies. Reviewed technical assistance activities provide by the Regional Resource Centers to states and regions. Developed report of monitoring findings for all SEAs which identified compliance issues and technical

assistance activities provided by the Regional Resource Centers to assist states with achieving compliance.

Graduate Teaching Assistant – Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Aug. – Dec., 1996) Responsible for the development and presentation of EdSE 6254: Legal Aspects of Special Education to doctoral students in special education administration.

Intern – Council For Exceptional Children, Office of Public Policy, Reston, VA, (June – July, 1996) – Assisted the office in the review of the proposed statutory changes in the Individuals with Disabilities Education, participated in meetings with parents and professional advocacy groups and congressional liaisons. Analyzed existing statutes and proposed amendments and identified policy implications

Lecturer – University of Maine Farmington, (January 1994 - May 1995) Adjunct faculty responsible for instructing undergraduate students utilizing the Interactive Television Network enrolled in SEDF 450 - Program Design for Special Education. Course objectives focused on Maine and Federal Laws and Regulations that effect the provision of Special Education; the development and implementation of the Individualized Educational Program, (IEP); knowledge of group process/ team building and the IEP process. Responsible for the development of syllabus, course content and activities

Consultant for Exceptional Students – Maine Department of Educational and Cultural Services, (January 1983 to December 1986). Responsible for development and management of the Maine Surrogate Parent Program; state department review, approval, and data management of special education placements of students in residential or special day schools; approval and data management of contracted special education services; development of a compliance review and technical assistance process for private special purpose day schools; state department representative on the Maine Autism Advisory Council; state department liaison with Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs and Maine Indian Education.

Program Director – Advocates for the Developmentally Disabled, (now “Maine Advocacy Services,” Augusta, Maine), (January 1980 to December 1982). Responsible for the direction and management of state-wide advocacy services for people with developmentally disabilities.

Coordinator of Rehabilitation Services – Bangor Regional Rehabilitation Center, Bangor, Maine, (September 1978 to December 1979). Assistant to the Director of Rehabilitation. Responsible for supervision of all direct service staff in a work adjustment/work activities training center for adults with developmental delays.

Assistant Principal and Lead Teacher, Regional Learning Center, Bangor, Maine, (September 1977 to June 1978). Responsible for assisting the principal with ordering materials; planning in-service training for a staff of 15; acting as liaison with public schools and community agencies; referral, intake, and discharge of students; budgeting and accounting for all monies; maintaining effective communication with staff; and assuming the responsibilities of the principal in the event of absence.

Lead Teacher, Regional Learning Center, Bangor, Maine, (September 1973 to June 1977).

Duties included diagnostic-prescriptive teaching in a self-contained classroom of twelve moderately to severely learning disabled and emotionally handicapped adolescents, and supervision of a full-time support teacher, student intern, art teacher, and physical education teacher. Responsible for programming to meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of the students; assisting in the screening and intake of students; conducting individual, group, and crisis intervention counseling with the students; and assisting in the reintegration or alternative placement of each student.

Lab Technician, Psychology Department, University of Maine, Orono, (August 1970 to June 1973). Responsible for collection and statistical analysis of data from operant research involving pigeons, monkeys, and preschool children with autism. Responsible for the programming and maintenance of operant conditioning equipment.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Emergency Medical Technician - Winthrop Ambulance Service, Winthrop, Maine (January 1994 to August 1995). Responsible for providing emergency medical services as member of a 2 - 3 person ambulance crew responding to medical emergencies within a 6 town area.

Director/ Emergency Medical Technician - Wayne Rescue, Wayne, Maine (1991 to 1995, 1998 to present) Responsible for the organization, management and provision of a First Responder Service licensed by the Maine Office of Emergency Medical Services to provide prehospital care up to and including the Emergency Medical Technician level.

Treasurer and Vice Chair, Therapy and Leisure Center, Winthrop, ME. (December 1985 - June 1989). Member of the Board of Directors of a private, non-profit agency providing residential and programming services to recently deinstitutionalized adults with developmental disabilities.

Member, Maine Autism Society (1984 - 1987) Member of the Board of Directors of a private, non-profit association affiliated with the National Autism Society. Instrumental in effectively lobbying for community based services for individuals with autism and their families.

Member, Maine Head Injury Task Force (1984 - 1985). Appointed by the Speaker of the Maine House and the President of the Maine Senate to identify the needs and recommend to the Maine legislature a service delivery system for individuals with Traumatic Head Injury.

Member, Maine Advisory Panel on Vocational Education and Chairperson, Secondary Education Committee (1982 - 1984). Appointed by Governor Joseph Brennan to represent the interests of secondary students with disabilities to ensure access to vocational education.

Assistant Group Leader, Child Psychiatry Department, Eastern Maine Medical Center, Bangor, Maine, (September 1975 to June 1977). Assisted M.S.W. in planning and implementing a therapeutic program to further social and emotional growth in moderately to severely emotionally handicapped boys.

Counselor and Crisis Worker, Therapeutic Day Camp sponsored by the Child Psychiatry Department, Eastern Maine Medical Center, (July 1975 to August 1975). Responsible for programming and implementing daily, success oriented growth experiences for four moderately to severely emotionally handicapped, latency aged children. Responsible for assisting other counselors with crisis intervention, and for direct supervision of two assistant counselors.

LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS

Maine Department of Education

Professional Certification - Elementary Education, (K-8), Learning Disabilities, (K-12), Emotional Disturbance, (K-12)

Provisional Certification - Special Education Director, Special Education Consultant

Maine Office of Emergency Medical Services

Emergency Medical Technician (Basic)

PUBLICATIONS

Summary of OSEP Monitoring Reports And Technical Assistance Activities Provided by the Regional Resource Centers(February 1993 – July 1997), Northeast Regional Resource Center, December 16, 1997

IDEA: Side by Side Comparison of Current Law with Senate and House Proposals, Department of Public Policy, The Council for Exceptional Children, July 1996

Maine Special Education Regulations, Maine Department of Education, July 1995 revision

Maine Special Education Regulations, Maine Department of Education, July 1992 revision

Maine Complaint Management System Guidelines, Maine Department of Education, September 1991

Maine Special Education Regulations, Maine Department of Educational and Cultural Services, August 1988

Surrogate Parent Handbook, Maine Department of Educational and Cultural Services, (March 1983)

A Preliminary Report on the Status of Maine's Private Special Purpose Day Schools Serving the Developmentally Disabled, Maine Department of Educational and Cultural Services, 1982

Transfer of Matching to Sample in Pigeons, G. William Farthing and Michael J. Opuda, Journal of Experimental Analysis of Behavior, 1974, 21, pp. 199-213.

PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

Implementation of IDEA '97 – Procedural Safeguards and Due Process, Faculty for the Council for Administrators of Special Education Institute, Clearwater Beach, FL, January 28 – 30, 1998.

IDEA '97 – Procedural Safeguards and Due Process, paper presented at the International Public Policy Conference, Council for Administrators of Special Education, November 20, 1997

Discipline and the Reauthorization of the IDEA: Issues Addressed and Questions Unanswered, paper presented at the Legal Issues for Inclusive Schools Conference, Roanoke, VA, October 27, 1997.

IDEA Proposed Regulations, facilitated a workshop which reviewed and developed responses to the proposed rules for the implementation of the 1997 Amendments to the Individuals with Disabilities Act - Legal Issues for Inclusive Schools Conference, Roanoke, VA, October 27, 1997.

Parent / Professional Partnerships: Working for a Comprehensive IDEA, panel presentation at the 75th Annual Convention of the Council for Exceptional Children, Salt Lake City, Utah, April 13, 1997.

Alternatives for Resolving Parent and School Conflict, paper presented at the 75th Annual Convention of the Council for Exceptional Children, Salt Lake City, Utah, April 10, 1997.

Special Education - Special Duty? A Review of Current Cases and Things to Come by Ed. Sarzynski. Reactor to presentation, Education Law Conference (formerly NOLPE), New Orleans, LA, Nov. , 1997.

Lessons Learned in the Reauthorization of the IDEA, luncheon address presented at the Responding to Students with Behavior Challenges Conference, Orono, Maine, November 8, 1996

Discipline of Special Education Students - The 10 Commandments paper presented at the Current Legal Issues in Virginia Schools Conference, Roanoke, Virginia, October 29, 1996

Cost As A Factor In Determining An Appropriate Special Education Program Or Placement. Paper presented at the 73rd Annual Convention of the Council for Exceptional Children, Indianapolis, Indiana, April 1995; South Dakota Special Education Law Conference, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, May 1995 and The Utah Special Education Law Conference, Salt Lake City August 8, 1995

The State of Due Process in Maine, Paper presented at the Winter Conference of the Maine Association of Special Education Directors, Jan. 29, 1995.

Public Schools' Obligations for Unilaterally Placed Students with Disabilities. Paper presented at the Maine Council of School Board Attorneys Annual School Law Seminar, Portland, Maine, December 2, 1994.

Legal Issue in the Education of Students with ADD/ADHD. Paper presented at the Special Services Conference, Sunday River, Maine, November 8, 1994.

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Home Schools, Private Schools, Parochial Schools - What are a Public School's Special Education Obligations? Paper presented at the 72nd Annual Convention of the Council for Exceptional Children, Denver, Colorado, April 7, 1994 and at the New England Regional Resource Center's Hearing Officer Training Conference, Sturbridge Village, Mass., April 18, 1994.

The Impact of the Office of Special Education Programs, 1993 Draft Monitoring Report on Special Education Services in Maine. Paper presented at the Maine Council of School Board Attorneys Annual School Law Seminar, Augusta, Maine, December 10, 1993.

Assistive Technology Devices and Services -- Federal Regulations, OSEP Advisories and Case Studies. Workshop presented at the Maine Association of Directors of Services to Exceptional Children, Bar Harbor, Maine, June 24, 1993.

Free Appropriate Public Education During Periods of Declining Resources - When is an Education "Free" and "Public?" Paper presented at the Maine Council of School Board Attorneys Annual School Law Seminar, Orono, Maine, February 5, 1993.

Policy Issues in the Revision of the Maine Special Education Regulations. 1992 Special Education Director's Academy, Bar Harbor, Maine, August 5, 1992

The Third Wave of Due Process -- State Special Education Complaint Investigations. Paper presented at the 70th Annual Convention of the Council for Exceptional Children, Baltimore, Maryland, April 17, 1992

The Special Education Regulations You Were Never Told About. Paper presented at the Maine Council of School Board Attorneys Annual School Law Seminar, Portland, Maine, December 6, 1991

Public Policy Issues in the Revision of the Maine Special Education Regulations. Paper presented at the Special Education Support Network Conference, Samoset Resort, Rockland, Maine, February 7, 1991

Special Education Due Process Procedures -- The Role of the Maine Department of Education and Cultural Services. Paper presented at the Maine Council of School Board Attorneys Annual School Law Seminar, Bangor, Maine, March 16, 1990

Selective Attention in Matching to Sample in Pigeons, G. William Farthing and Michael J. Opuda. A paper read by the second author at the Eastern Psychological Association Convention, Washington, D.C., May 5, 1973.

Numerous presentations to graduate and undergraduate classes, parent groups and public school groups on Federal and Maine Special Education Regulations and Law.