

**STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**National Conference Center at the Holiday Inn**  
**399 Monmouth Street**  
**East Windsor, NJ 08520**

**MINUTES**

**Thursday, January 15, 2009**

**Members in attendance:** Dr. Sharon Maricle, Dr. Howard Lerner, William Sellar, Angela Durso, Scott Elliott, Kathy Roberson, Dr. Tracy Amerman

**Members not in attendance:** Philip Gartlan, Carolyn Hayer, Kathleen Mullery, Debra Fernandez, Blanche Stetler, Michael Nevin

**Resource Representatives in attendance:** Gordon Reibman, Elizabeth Collins, Robert Paige

**Resource Representatives not in attendance:** Debbie Stewart

**Guests and members of the public:** W. Zinke McGeady, Stephanie Kramer, Dr. Richard Labbe, Lauren Agoratos

**I. ACCEPTANCE OF DECEMBER MINUTES**

The meeting was officially called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Chairperson Sharon Maricle. The December minutes were approved and seconded. **All in favor**

**II. PRESENTATIONS:**

***New Jersey Family and Educational Resources for Children with Hearing Loss***  
**Therese Sheehan, Office of Special Education Programs, New Jersey Department of Education – PowerPoint Presentation**

Therese Sheehan presented to the Council on the *New Jersey Family and Educational Resources for Children with Hearing Loss* project; a collaborative effort by the New Jersey Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), the New Jersey School for the Deaf (Katzenbach) and three offices in the New Jersey Department of Health: Early Hearing Detection and Intervention, Special Child Health Services and the New Jersey Early Intervention System. The project was developed in response to inquiries from Pediatric Cochlear Implant Centers in the Tri-State Region regarding the special education identification and referral processes. Mrs. Sheehan discussed how data from the Department of Health and NJOSEP reflected the need for and guided the project. The project is being implemented through the distribution of a packet of materials to: Local Educational Agencies, Private Schools for Students with Disabilities, Charter Schools, Parent Groups and Audiologists participating in the NJ Department of Health Pediatric Healthcare Directory.

The packet includes flow charts that identify the referral process for Children with Hearing Loss – Birth to Age Three, Ages Three to Twenty One, Preschool Age Children attending Nonpublic Elementary Schools and Children Ages 5-21 attending Nonpublic Schools. All materials are available at <http://nj.gov/education/specialed/deaf/>. The materials are also available at pediatric hospitals and care providers throughout the Tri-State area.

### ***Discussion of Community-Based Instruction and Social Skills***

**Dr. Dan Baker, Boggs Center, UMDNJ**

In response to the Council's request for additional information on social skills, Dr. Baker entertained questions regarding the extent to which the NJOSEP Community-Based Instruction Initiative addresses the social skill needs of students with disabilities. Dr. Baker and Council members engaged in a discussion that focused on the significance of social skills to employment and successful on the job experiences. Additionally, Dr. Baker discussed the nature and scope of the Community-Based Instruction Training Sessions. Based on the information provided, a potential area of need was identified for additional training of job-coaches or other personnel involved in supporting students "on-site" with regard to direct instruction in social skills.

## **III. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

### **Accountability Regulations**

Dr. Wohle distributed the NJDOE memo on the Final Accountability Regulations, dated January 7, 2009, and reviewed that part of the memo that discusses the requirement for the Executive County Superintendent of Schools to provide information on available in-district options for the consideration of the IEP team. She highlighted the portion of the memo that states, "Only the IEP team can make placement decisions for students with disabilities."

### **Parent Groups**

Dr. Wohle shared with Council Members that she has asked the County Supervisors of Child Study to identify local districts that report a positive experiences establishing "Parent Advisory Groups." Dr. Wohle will extend invitations to a sample of the identified groups to present their experiences at future SSEAC meetings.

### **Revision to the Core Curriculum Content Standards**

Dr. Wohle informed Council members that she will keep them apprised of the status of the revisions to the New Jersey Core Curriculum Standards and the process for review and input.

### **State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report**

SSEAC members were reminded the second SPP/APR stakeholder meeting will be held on January 23, 2009 at the Learning Resource Center-Central.

#### **IV. COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

Scott Elliott shared with the Council information on Career Gateway, designed to serve recent high school graduates ages 17 or older with disabilities made possible through a grant from the Kessler Foundation. He also distributed the latest edition of the Transition Tribune produced by the Centers for Independent Living.

#### **V. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Lauren Agoratos, Family Voices informed the Council of her participation in teleconferences on Autism and the Maternal & Child Health Bureau.

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at approx 12:20 p.m. The next meeting of the Council is scheduled on February 19, 2009 at the Holiday Inn in East Windsor

#### **VII. LUNCH**