

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

MINUTES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Members in attendance: Dr. Tracy Amerman, Angela Durso, Philip Gartlan, Carolyn Hayer, Kathleen Mullery, Michael Nevin, Kathy Roberson, William Sellar, Blanche Stetler

Members not in attendance: Scott Elliott, Dr. Howard Lerner

Resource Representatives in attendance: Karen Carroll, Betsy Collins

Resource Representatives not in attendance: Gordon Reibman, Debbie Stewart

Guests and members of the public: Lauren Agoratus, Sol Heckelman, Susan Lonnie, J. L. Seymore

I. ACCEPTANCE OF JUNE MINUTES

The meeting was officially called to order at 9:54 a.m. by Dr. Roberta Wohle. The June minutes were approved and seconded. **All in favor.**

II. ELECTION OF CHAIR/CO-CHAIR

Nominations for the 2009-2010 SSEAC Chair and Co-chair were accepted from the floor. Dr. Howard Lerner was elected Chair and Carolyn Hayer was elected Co-chair.

III. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The Council explored agenda items for the 2009-2010 school year. The impact of mental health issues on the general education and special education student populations was discussed extensively by Council members. The following topics were identified as relevant to the discussion of mental health: proactive/preventative measures, resources for schools, family, students, and coordination of available resources. The Council members also recognized the relevance of mental health issues to Inclusion and Transition. Potential speakers/resources for future meetings were generated including:

- “Value Options”
- “Dual Diagnosis Task Force” -- Dan Baker
- County Training and Referral Systems (e.g. Union County, Ocean County)
- Input from medical field – doctors, psychologists, developmental pediatricians
- National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI)
- Staff from the NJDOE Office of Educational Support Services

Council members reiterated the need for a grant initiative that would include an emphasis on the development of social skills for students with disabilities.

Michael Nevin shared that he had spoken at an Inclusion Conference on July 8, 2009, at NJN on July 28, 2009, and a Best Practices Leadership Conference on August 27, 2009.

IV. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Dr. Wohle reported the following:

- Summer ARRA applications were processed with funds allocated for items such as: summer instructional enrichment programs, extended school year programs, FM systems, expanded in-district program options, instructional resources, assessment resources, data enhancement, data analyses, assistive technology, professional development, summer enrichment programs; and stipends.
- The NJ Office of Special Education Program grant agreements have been renewed with the Statewide Parent Information Center, the Centers for Independent Living, the Boggs Center, UMDNJ and local school districts for the "Providing Quality Intensive Early Literacy (IEL) Instruction to Students with Disabilities (K-4) – Year 5" and the "Providing IDEAL Instruction to Students with Disabilities (K-4) – Year 4" (IDEAL is the acronym for the Initiative for the Development of Early Achievement in Literacy).
- The Department will be issuing guidance on the use of calculators during statewide assessments.
- Three of the Learning Resource Centers will be relocating; most likely in January of 2010.
- Jacqueline Jones from the New Jersey Department of Education has been named Special Assistant to Arne Duncan, Secretary of Education, U.S. Department of Education.
- Dr. Wohle and Council member Michael Nevin participated in a Leadership Forum in Bergen County.
- A policy clarification from NJOSEP is forthcoming regarding goals and objectives for students being educated in general education programs.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m. The next full meeting of the Council is scheduled for Thursday, October 15, 2009 at the Holiday Inn in East Windsor.

VII. LUNCHEON

