

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

MINUTES

Thursday, February 21, 2013

Members in attendance: Dr. Tracy Amerman, Melanie McGacken, Michael Nevin, Bonni Rubin-Sugarman, Dr. Dorothy Van Horn

Members not in attendance: Lauren Agoratus, Myriam Alizo, Mary Ann Comparetto, Beth Kelley, Dr. Tekelah Sherrod

Resource Representatives in attendance: Susan Avny, Suzanne Canuso, Karen Carroll, Tracy Nowlin

Guests and members of the public: Lauren Bennett, Tatsiana DaGrosa, Maria Docherty, Sol Heckelman, Tina Mann, Jeanette Mejias, Chris Peters, Leslie Rubinstein, Howard Stern

I. ACCEPTANCE OF DECEMBER MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by Chair, Dr. Tracy Amerman

The December minutes could not be approved due to the lack of quorum. A motion was made and seconded to table the approval until the next monthly meeting.

II. DIRECTORS UPDATE

Dr. Peggy McDonald shared with the Council that New Jersey OSEP was given a one-month extension to submit the 2012 SPP/APR (due to Hurricane Sandy) and that it would be submitted by March 1, 2013.

Dr. McDonald informed the Council that NJ OSEP had not received notification, as of yet, from the federal OSE on the Maintenance of Effort waiver.

Dr. McDonald updated the Council on the activities of the Regional Achievement Centers (RACs).

Dr. McDonald showed the Council the NJ OSEP web site redesign.

III. PRESENTATION

Jeffrey Guenzel, Deputy Director of the Division of Children and Families (DCF) presented on the shift of services from the NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) to DCF. He stated the goal of the consolidation was to create a single point of entry for parents and students to access all agencies and services in New Jersey.

As of January 1, 2013, the New Jersey Department of Children and Families - Division of Children's System of Care (CSOC) assumed responsibility for determining eligibility for developmental disability services for children under age 18. This eligibility process for children, which was formally completed by the Division of Developmental Disabilities, is required under New Jersey law in order to access publicly available developmental disability services. Additional information and the eligibility application can be found at the PerformCare website: <http://www.performcarenj.org/>

Eligibility for individuals over 18, including life-long planning after age 18, is provided by the Department of Human Services' Division of Developmental Disabilities. More information on this can be found at the Division of Developmental Disabilities website.

DCF's Children's System of Care, CSOC, (formerly the Division of Child Behavioral Health Services) serves children and adolescents with emotional and behavioral health care challenges and their families; and children with developmental and intellectual disabilities and their families. CSOC is committed to providing these services based on the needs of the child and family in a family-centered, community-based environment. The Children's System of Care offers a wide range of services for children up to age 21 with behavioral health or developmental disability needs. These services include community-based services, in-home services, out-of-home residential services, and family support services.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Marie Docherty shared her concerns about the proposed changes to Code, particularly the changes from ten days to five and changes to private school regulations including the proposed elimination of the requirement of having highly qualified teachers.

Sol Heckelman commented on the role of case managers, stating that there is misinformation about their role. He also stated his belief that many teachers aren't familiar with code.

V. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Dr. McDonald began a discussion with the Council about the proposed changes to code. Council began reviewing each proposed change by looking at the current code and then comparing it to the proposed change(s). Due to time constraints, the Council agreed to make this review the sole topic of the March meeting.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:14 pm. The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for Thursday, March 21, 2013 at the Holiday Inn in East Windsor.

VII. LUNCH