

STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Holiday Inn and the National Conference Center
399 Monmouth Street
East Windsor, New Jersey**

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Members in attendance: Lauren Agoratus, Myriam Alizo, Susan Colacello, Mary Ann Comparetto, Barbara Gantwerk, Beth Kelley, Deborah Lynam, Melanie McGackin, Magaly Milton, Tekelah Sherrod, Amy Smith

Members not in attendance: Peggy O'Reilly, Leslie Rubinstein, Fred Tchang, Dorothy Van Horn

Resource Representatives in attendance: Donna Holzschuh, Tracy Nowlin, Robert Paige, Eva Scott

Resource Representatives not in attendance: Nancy Mimm

Guests and members of the public: David Armstrong, Lauren Bennett, Nancy J. Hammill, Sol Heckelman, Mary Ortner

I. ACCEPTANCE OF OCTOBER MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by acting chair Deborah Lynam at 9:48 a.m.

The October minutes were reviewed, and after being properly moved and seconded passed unanimously.

II. DIRECTORS UPDATE

Dr. Peggy McDonald shared that the updated version of the Parental Rights in Special Education (PRISE) booklet will be released in a few weeks and will be available on the Department website.

Dr. McDonald updated the Council on the recently passed *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA). Further information concerning changes from the former NCLB will be forthcoming from the Commissioner of Education's Office.

Dr. McDonald will be conducting county held meetings with the County Supervisors of Child Study beginning this month and into April.

Dr. McDonald shared the *Planning a Successful Transition from School to Adult Life* timeline form developed by Bill Freeman after conversations with the Transition committee.

Dr. McDonald informed the Council that the *4th Edition, PARCC Accessibility Features and Accommodations Manual* has been released and can be accessed here: <http://www.parcconline.org/resources/educator-resources>

Dr. McDonald updated the Council on the *New Jersey Collaborative Online Resource Exchange* (NJCore) website and informed them that it is once again up and running. She encouraged Council members to look at the updated site. <http://www.njcore.org/>

Dr. McDonald thanked Susan Colacello from Special Olympics New Jersey and Sandy Peth from the New Jersey Department of Education for their collaborative work on *Learn. Practice. Play. UNIFIED. Guide to Inclusive Physical Education and Sports Activities*. A copy of the guide can be found at: <http://www.sonj.org/learn-practice-play-unified.html>

She also thanked Deborah Lynam for her work on the Dyslexia Handbook.

III. PRESENTATIONS

Liz Manley, Assistant Commissioner of the Children's System of Care (CSOC), Department of Children and Families presented to the Council. CSOC 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 provides these services based on the needs of the child and family in a family-centered, community-based environment. Provided services are located at: <http://www.nj.gov/dcf/about/divisions/dcsc/>

PerformCare is the single portal for access to care and is available 24/7/365. Information is available at: <http://www.performcarenj.org/> CSOC's Mobile Response network provides crisis response and planning 24/7/365 and can be reached at 1-877-652-7624. The CSOC also serves over 17,000 individuals who are Developmental/Intellectual Disabilities eligible. They also provide substance abuse treatment services.

IV. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Magaly Milton initiated a Council discussion about Special Education Parent Advisory Groups (SEPAGs).

Deborah Lynam gave an update on the activities of the Standards Review Committee. They are currently reviewing public commentary and are working on the Introduction to their report.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sol Heckelman felt that Liz Manley's presentation was on point. He believes that the Children's System of Care can provide a useful connection between those needing services and child study teams.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

The Transition committee met briefly during lunch. The PARCC committee decided not to meet.

The next meeting of the SSEAC is scheduled for Thursday, January 21, 2016 at the Holiday Inn and the National Conference Center in East Windsor, New Jersey.