

# STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, May 19, 2016**

**Members in attendance:** Lauren Agoratus, Myriam Alizo, Susan Colacello, Deborah Lynam, Melanie McGackin, Amy Smith, Leslie Rubinstein, Tekelah Sherrod, Fred Tchang, Dorothy Van Horn

**Members not in attendance:** Mary Ann Comparetto, Beth Kelley, Magaly Milton, Peggy O'Reilly

**Resource Representatives in attendance:** Donna Holzschuh, Dawn Mergen, Kelley Michalowski, Eva Scott, Cheri Thompson

**Guests and members of the public:** Lauren Bennett, Sol Heckelman, Sheila Miller

### **I. ACCEPTANCE OF APRIL MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by chair Dorothy Van Horn at 9:37 a.m.

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

### **II. DIRECTORS UPDATE**

John Worthington announced that the New Jersey Office of Special Education Programs IDEA Part B application was submitted to the federal office on time. Notification will be on 7/1/16.

John Worthington shared with the Council that this week is Special Education Week and that he attended the annual luncheon sponsored by ASAH and the School Boards Association.

John Worthington updated the Council on the nine Dare to Dream conferences currently taking place throughout the state.

John Worthington shared information on the Differentiated Monitoring System. A modified version is in place now with the full version being launched on October 1, 2016.

John Worthington informed the Council that the annual Inclusive Schools Climate Initiative (ISCI) Showcase will be taking place on June 3, 2016 at Rutgers University.

John Worthington and OSEP staff will be attending a national data conference in Savannah, Georgia during the first week of June which supports the SPP/APR and the development of Indicator 17.

### **III. PRESENTATION**

Council member, Fred Tchang, Director of Assistive Technology Services at Advancing Opportunities presented to the Council on the topic of “Consideration of Assistive Technology”.

Learn more about Advancing Opportunities and the use of Assistive Technology by visiting: <http://www.assistivetechologycenter.org/>

### **IV. COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

Council members asked John Worthington about updates on ESSA community outreach, diplomas, the status of the facilitator bidding process, and the hiring of the Ombudsman. Announcements were also made about New Jersey Special Olympics and the Learning Disability Association of New Jersey State Conference in October.

### **V. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Sol Heckelman commented on ESSA and the importance of social supports.

### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m. The Transition Committee met over lunch.

The next meeting of the SSEAC is scheduled for Thursday, June 9, 2016 at the Holiday Inn and the National Conference Center in East Windsor, New Jersey.