

STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 20, 2016

Members in attendance: Myriam Alizo, Paul Barbato, Susan Colacello, Beth Kelley, Deborah Lynam, Melanie McGackin, Magaly Milton, Chris Shamburg, Amy Smith, Fred Tchang, Dorothy Van Horn

Members not in attendance: Mary Ann Comparetto, Barbara Gantwerk, Leslie Rubinstein

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

Resource Representatives not in attendance: Dawn Mergen

Guests and members of the public: Lauren Agoratus, Cathy Balto, Lauren Bennett, Bill Freeman, Sol Heckelman, Alice Hunnicutt, Joanne Lopez

I. ACCEPTANCE OF SEPTEMBER MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by chair Dorothy Van Horn at 9:45 a.m.

The September minutes were reviewed. After being properly moved and seconded, they were accepted unanimously.

II. DIRECTORS UPDATE

John Worthington reported on the changes to the Highly Qualified Teachers (HQT) requirements as a result of ESSA.

John Worthington shared with the Council that the number of mediation and due process cases are holding at a consistent rate with previous years. He updated the Council on the schools that are participating in the pilot program and the work that the facilitators are doing.

John Worthington updated the Council on the data review project being conducted by The College of New Jersey. Two interns are doing a file/paper review of data. Amy Smith asked if the findings can be shared with the Council when completed.

John Worthington commented on the progress of the Reading Disabilities/ Dyslexia Manual. He also shared information on the Model IEP; indicating that 9 of the 11 sections have been drafted.

John Worthington updated the Council on the LRE Settlement. The districts involved can now choose the training dates that best meet their needs.

John Worthington announced that NJ OSEP will conduct a Dispute Resolution Stakeholder Summit sometime in the spring of 2017.

John Worthington reminded the Council of the Stakeholder Meeting to be held on Wednesday, October 26, 2017.

John Worthington announced the relocation of the Learning Resource Center – South which has moved to the Wolverton Building on the campus of Camden County College in Blackwood, New Jersey.

III. PRESENTATION

Alice Hunnicutt, Director of Vocational Rehabilitation Services at the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development presented an “Overview of the Changes to Title IV of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)”. Changes to the Act went into effect on September 19, 2016. Three of the major changes to WIOA involve: employer engagement, pre-employment transition strategies and a limitation on the use of subminimum wage. Information about DVRS services can be found at:

http://careerconnections.nj.gov/careerconnections/plan/foryou/disable/vocational_rehabilitation_services.shtml

IV. COUNCIL DISCUSSION/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deborah Lyman shared with the Council that October is Learning Disabilities Awareness Month and that the International Dyslexia Association Annual Reading, Literacy and Learning Conference will be held in Orlando, Florida from October 26-29, 2016.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Lauren Agoratus updated the Council on the work of several national panels on which she serves; including, Medicaid 2.0, a UCLA Medical panel and the Lucille Packard panel.

Jeannie Lopez asked a question pertaining to the posting of meeting dates for Special Education Parent Advisory Group (SEPAG) on district websites.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

The next meeting of the SSEAC is scheduled for Thursday, November 17, 2016 at the Riverbank Charter School of Excellence in Roebling, New Jersey