

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

**MINUTES**

**Thursday, December 19, 2013**

**Members in attendance:** Lauren Agoratus, Myriam Alizo, Dr. Tracy Amerman, Beth Kelley, Melanie McGacken, Michael Nevin, Bonni Rubin-Sugarman, Dr. Tekelah Sherrod

**Members not in attendance:** Mary Ann Comparetto, Dr. Dorothy Van Horn

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

**Resource Representatives not in attendance:** Suzanne Canuso

**Guests and members of the public:** Lauren Bennett, Sol Heckelman, Deborah Lynam

**I. ACCEPTANCE OF NOVEMBER MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m.

The minutes were reviewed. All were in favor.

**II. DIRECTORS UPDATE**

Dr. McDonald shared with the Council that she attended a regional state meeting conducted at the Northeast Regional Resource Center (NERRC) with discussion around the SPP/APR.

Dr. McDonald introduced Chinwe-Mgbenwelu (Chi Chi) as the newly hired Math Specialist in the Office of Special Education Programs.

**III. PRESENTATION**

Mary Haspel, the newly hired Autism and Multiple Disabilities Specialist in the Office of Special Education Programs presented "AUTISM: State of the Evidence and Implications for Public School Programs" to the Council.

#### **IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Sol Heckelman commented that he appreciated the Council's conversation about mental health issues in schools. He also stated that School Psychologists can provide services if needed.

#### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 am. The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for Thursday, January 16, 2013 at the Holiday Inn in East Windsor.

#### **VI. LUNCH**