

STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Holiday Inn and National Conference Center
East Windsor, New Jersey

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 15, 2016

Members in attendance: Myriam Alizo, Paul Barbato, Beth Kelley, Deborah Lynam, Chris Shamburg, Amy Smith, Fred Tchang, Dorothy Van Horn

Members not in attendance: Susan Colacello, Mary Ann Comparetto, Barbara Gantwerk, Melanie McGackin, Magaly Milton, Leslie Rubinstein

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

Resource Representatives not in attendance: Dawn Mergen, Eva Scott

Guests and members of the public: Lauren Agoratus, Kelly Allen, Debbie Esposito, Sol Heckelman, Kandra Kanea, Jeannie Lopez, Lori Marabella

I. ACCEPTANCE OF NOVEMBER MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by chair Dorothy Van Horn at 9:49 a.m.

The November minutes were reviewed. After being properly moved and seconded, they were approved unanimously.

II. DIRECTORS UPDATE

John Worthington reported to the Council on the recently announced reorganization of the former Office of Special Education Programs into two new offices – the Office of Special Education Programs and the Office of Tiered Systems of Supports and Specialized Services.

John Worthington shared with the Council updated information on three federal regulations: Disproportionality, Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS). States have the option to submit their ESSA plans on one of two dates, April 3rd or September 17th.

John Worthington informed the Council that the Dyslexia Work Group would meet again in December to work on the Dyslexia Manual. When completed the manual will then be submitted for approvals.

John Worthington updated the Council on the status of the Model IEP project.

III. PRESENTATION

Kelly Allen, Manager in the Office of Student Support Services at the New Jersey Department of Education presented to the Council on “School Climate and Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying”. All of the information she presented can be found on the Department of Education website at: <http://www.nj.gov/education/students/safety/behavior/hib/>

IV. COUNCIL DISCUSSION/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Myriam Alizo asked for clarification regarding the new titles for the former Regional Achievement Centers (RACs) and Focus Schools. She announced that the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN) would be conducting a webinar on NJTSS on February 2, 2017 from noon to 1:00 p.m.

Dorothy Van Horn inquired if the revised Department of Education Organization Chart could be made available to the Council.

Amy Smith announced a February 1, 2017 deadline for the submission of proposals (Call for Papers) for the October 19-20, 2017 annual Autism New Jersey conference.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Lauren Agoratus expressed concern over proposed changes to several health care initiatives, specifically SEMI. She also inquired as to whether there was any mention of restraints and aversives in ESSA.

Lori Marabella asked if any of the dyslexia professional development training sessions would ever be conducted in person rather than via the web.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

The next meeting of the SSEAC is scheduled for Thursday, January 19, 2017 at the Holiday Inn and National Conference Center in East Windsor, New Jersey