

The State Special Education Advisory Council/Stakeholder Meeting

Virtually via Microsoft Teams

Thursday, March 16, 2023

- 9:30 am – 9:45 am Call to Order
Introduction to NJ-SSEAC
- Dr. Paul Barbato, Chairperson
 - Ms. Debora Esposito, Assistant Chairperson
- 9:45 am – 10:15 am Office of Special Education Updates
- Kimberly Murray, Director, Office of Special Education
- During the following presentations only SSEAC Council Members and Stakeholders can comment in chat.*
- 10:15 am – 11:00 am **Council Priority Engagement - “New Jersey Department of Education’s Focus on Mental Health”** followed by a Q&A
- Presenters: Mr. Luiz Periera, Director, and Ms. Kelly Allen, Manager, from the Office of Student Support Services
- 11:00 am – 11:15 am Break
- 11:15 am – 12:00 pm *Office of Special Education Promising Practices and Considerations - “Transition Planning Services and the Impact of Mental Health”*
- Presenter: Mrs. JoAnn Johnson, Transition Specialist, Office of Special Education
- During the following activity NJ-SSEAC Council Members, Internal and External Stakeholders, and members of the public can participate. Once the activity concludes, all public comments will be held until the public portion of the meeting.*
- 12:00 am - 12:30 pm *Collaborative and Interactive Discussion around Mental Health and Students with Disabilities (Mentimeter)*
- Presenters: Dr. Paul Barbato, Chairperson, and Dr. Cynthia DeFina, Mental Health Subcommittee Lead
- 12:30 pm – 12:45 pm Council Discussion
- Old Business
 - Reminder about Attendance
 - NJ-SSEAC: 2023-2024 Survey (Required), due by March 31st
 - NJ-SSEAC Evaluation for April
 - New Business

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- Update on the NJ-SSEAC Letter to the Commissioner
- The June NJ-SSEAC meeting will be held as a hybrid event at the LRC Central in Trenton, New Jersey. The event space holds up to 55 people. Council members will have first right to attendance. *Access to the location and virtual links will be posted on the NJ-SSEAC webpage.*
- Subcommittee Reports
 - Least Restrictive Environment
 - Recruitment and Retention
 - Mental Health and SWD
 - External Engagement
 - Internal Engagement
- Projected Next Steps for Subcommittees
 - Presentation during June 2023, in-person NJ-SSEAC meeting, on the Subcommittees Action Plan. Presentations to NJ-SSEAC can be in the subcommittees preferred modality (i.e. powerpoint)
- Council Member Announcements
 - Debbie Esposito ([SPAN Events](#))
 - [Starting and Running an Effective SEPAG](#) Virtual - in English and Spanish on Monday, Mar 20, 2023 from 7:00 - 8:00 PM EDT: This workshop is designed to provide best practices, tips, and strategies to start and run an effective SEPAGS or other parent groups.
 - [Iniciando y Dirigiendo un SEPAG Efectivo](#) - Virtual - En Inglés y Español on Lunes, Marzo 20, 2023, 7:00 - 8:00 PM Hora del Este: Este taller está diseñado para proporcionar las mejores prácticas, consejos y estrategias para iniciar un SEPAG eficaz u otros grupos de padres.
 - Elizabeth Alves (LDANJ)
 - The Learning Disabilities Association of NJ Transitions and Beyond Conference this May 6th at TCNJ. Please share and add to the meeting announcements.
 - Call for presenters: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdrqSMJ7eH4VPaAGkLq63f>

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ow/viewform?usp=sf_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfNiZfyFCx2B27PxCEh4t6_YfK19kPNojFDwyuBTxj8C_xWlQ/viewform?usp=sf_link)

- Here is the link for the Rosa Hagin Scholarship:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfNiZfyFCx2B27PxCEh4t6_YfK19kPNojFDwyuBTxj8C_xWlQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

- Stakeholder Announcements (*see attachment A*)

12:45 pm – 1:00 pm

Public Comments*

1:00 pm

End of Public Session (*Council Members are requested to remain online to facilitate break out sessions for subcommittees*)

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Appendix A: Stakeholder Engagement Opportunities

Entity/Stakeholder Representative	Events/Opportunities
<i>Learning Resource Center - South</i>	<p>Inclusive Education Paraprofessional Series: This professional development series is designed to provide paraprofessionals with effective strategies to help them better support students with disabilities in inclusive classrooms. The content is organized into five modules that are aligned to the six professional standards for paraeducators as outlined by the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC).</p> <p>Ongoing Professional Development (rowan.edu)</p>
<i>New Jersey Occupational Therapy Association</i>	<p><i>Town hall meeting</i> on Tuesday May 16, 2023 at 4:30 pm for NJ special education and related service professionals. The town hall in we want to hear about New Jersey school based occupational therapy successes and areas needing improvement.</p> <p>Register here for a reminder email: https://forms.gle/HoGg8a3LLFrYFAsH9</p>
<i>The New Jersey Coalition for Inclusive Education (NJCIE)</i>	<p>The New Jersey Coalition for Inclusive Education will host its Summer Inclusion Leadership Conference on June 9, 2023 at Montclair State University. This conference is sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Education and the Montclair State University Center for Autism and Early Childhood Mental Health.</p> <p>The link with more information and to register is: www.njcie.org/conference</p>
<i>The New Jersey Center for Tourette Syndrome</i>	<p>The NJ Center for Tourette Syndrome is the only organization in the state committed to education, advocacy, and research critical to those in the Tourette Syndrome and Tic Disorder community.</p> <p>Part of the work they do is education outreach to provide faculty in-services designed for teaching professionals.</p>

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- The faculty in-service presentations discuss the symptoms, diagnosis and treatment of Tourette Syndrome, Tic Disorders and the associated conditions such as OCD, ADHD, Autism Spectrum Disorder, anxiety and depression. It also reviews the strategies and accommodations that can be used in the classroom.

[Link for Tourette Syndrome & Tic Disorder Faculty In-service Presentations conducted by the NJ Center for Tourette Syndrome](#)

We also conduct monthly webinars on a variety of topics that would be of interest to the special education community.

- On **Wednesday, April 19th at 7:30 pm-8:30 pm**, the NJ Center for Tourette Syndrome is conducting a free webinar –*Introduction to Transition Services*. Participants will be introduced to the various school and agency based services available to help students aged 14+ transition from high school to adulthood. We will talk about the Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) offered by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS), additional transition related services from other agencies, and how these various agencies can work together to provide holistic services. In addition, attendees will learn about the college tuition sponsorship that the DVRS offers, how to apply, and more.

Registration Link:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/314508033723437147>

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