

# STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Holiday Inn and National Conference Center  
East Windsor, New Jersey

## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 14, 2017

**Members in attendance:** Myriam Alizo, Paul Barbato, Susan Colacello, Barbara Gantwerk, Beth Kelley, Deborah Lynam, Melanie McGackin, Magaly Milton, Fred Tchang, Dorothy Van Horn

**Members not in attendance:** Leslie Rubinstein, Chris Shamburg, Amy Smith

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

**Resource Representatives not in attendance:** Donna Holzschuh, Deborah Verbos

**Guests and members of the public:** Edward Bray, Francisco Donos, Kathy Ehling, Sol Heckelman, Jeanne Lopez, Dominc Rota

### I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Deborah Lynam at 9:45 a.m.

### II. ACCEPTANCE OF NOVEMBER MINUTES

The November minutes were reviewed. After being properly moved and seconded they were approved with one abstention.

### III. DIRECTORS UPDATE

John Worthington discussed the upcoming inclusion of the Grade 8 Science exam to the Differentiated Learning Maps (DLM). Grade 5 Science is in review by the State Board of Education.

John Worthington updated the Council on the Directors Guide and the Model IEP. They are both in review for web accessibility.

John Worthington shared information on the state's efforts with Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS). Guidance and webinars may be available by late January, early February.

John Worthington updated the Council on the Facilitated IEP (FIEP) trainings.

John Worthington shared with the Council two Broadcast Memos dated for January 5, 2018 distribution.

#### **IV. PRESENTATION**

Dominic Rota from the Office of Special Education Policy and Planning (OSEPP) presented to the Council on “New Jersey’s Special Education Dispute Resolution System -- An Overview and Updates”. His presentation focused on the following: an overview of the special education dispute resolution system, the various legal authorities, how and what types of disputes are filed with OSEPP, filing data, special education mediation, due process hearings and decisions, legal hot topics, improving the system and some case law updates. Council members were very interested in the case data portion of the presentation.

#### **V. COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

Cheri Thompson asked a question regarding the (Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) and inquired as to whether or not DOE had a list of work experiences available to students. John Worthington suggested that she ask this question again at the January meeting when Lorelei Drew-Nevola will be in attendance.

#### **VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jeanne Lopez wished all in attendance “Happy Holidays”.

Sol Heckelman inquired as to whether or not OSEPP collects data from parents on their experience with the child study team process.

Francisco Donos wished everyone “Happy Holidays”.

#### **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

The next meeting of the SSEAC is scheduled for Thursday, January 18, 2018 at the Robert Wood Johnson Wellness and Fitness Center in Hamilton Township, New Jersey.