

STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Robert Wood Johnson Fitness and Wellness Center
3100 Quakerbridge Road
Mercerville, NJ**

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 19, 2018

Members in attendance: Myriam Alizo, Paul Barbato, Susan Colacello, Barbara Gantwerk, Deborah Lynam, Magaly Milton, Leslie Rubinstein, Chris Shamburg, Amy Smith, Dorothy Van Horn

Members not in attendance: Beth Kelley, Melanie McGackin, Fred Tchang

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

Resource Representatives not in attendance: Donna Holzschuh

Guests and members of the public: Lia Camuto, Francisco Daiyo, Isabel Dana, Sol Heckelman, Lauren Krempecki, Vanessa Lombardo, Kattrina Schmitzer

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Deborah Lynam at 9:41 a.m.

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MARCH MINUTES

The March minutes were reviewed and unanimously approved.

III. DIRECTORS UPDATE

John Worthington shared with the Council that the SSIP was submitted to the federal office on April 2, 2018 and that we are now in the clarification period. Notifications will be issued in August.

John Worthington informed the Council that a guidance document is being developed from the information gathered at the Seclusion/Restraints stakeholder meeting in March.

John Worthington announced that Carolyn Marano, the new Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Learning Supports and Specialized Services will begin work on April 30, 2018.

John Worthington informed the Council that the 2nd Annual Dispute Resolution Summit will be held on May 4, 2018. He also reported that the number of filings recorded appears to be on track with the 1,700 filings from previous years.

John Worthington reported to the Council that a request has been made to join a national results based accountability collaborative.

John Worthington informed the Council that statewide assessments began this week and of the request to the federal office for a waiver on the 1% cap for the Dynamic Learning Assessment (DLM) assessment.

John Worthington shared that the statewide Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) trainings ended last week. They are provided annually in conjunction with the NJ Office of Treasury and the Public Consulting Group (PCG) which administers the program for the State of New Jersey.

John Worthington reported that the Community Resource Guide and Model IEP documents have been completed and are awaiting approval. He also reported that decisions on due process cases and the Discipline Flow Chart have been posted to the Offices of Special Education website.

John Worthington reported the approval of a new stand-alone private school for students with emotional/behavioral issues will open on July 1, 2018.

John Worthington updated the Council on the activities of the Ombudsman. There have been approximately 500 telephone calls and emails logged since the office opened last fall. Most inquiries are from parents rather than districts.

John Worthington attended an event held by the Special Olympics Unified Sports initiative held in Sayreville.

IV. PRESENTATIONS

Alexis Ziegler, Preschool Consultant from the Learning Resource Center-South presented to the Council on *Preschool: Reaching Potential through the Recommended Practices (RP2)*.

Her presentation was forwarded to the Council at their request.

V. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Magaly Milton inquired as to if/when the topic of Accessibility would be a monthly presentation.

Amy Smith directed a question to John Worthington about facilitated IEP meetings and family requests.

Susan Colacello stated concerns about training/continuity with transition coaches and transition coordinators. She also shared that one of the obstacles for successful transition is the transportation barrier that is often encountered.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

The next meeting of the SSEAC is scheduled for Thursday, May 17, 2018 at the Robert Wood Johnson Wellness and Fitness Center in Hamilton Township, New Jersey.