

**ODR Stakeholder Council Meeting  
March 19, 2015  
Meeting Minutes  
Office for Dispute Resolution  
6340 Flank Drive  
Harrisburg, PA 17112**

**Participants**

Cindy Duch  
Linda Deal  
Dr. Mary Beth Gustafson  
Jane Williams, Esquire  
Debbie Leggens  
Kay Lipsitz  
Tanya Alvarado, Esquire  
Robyn Oplinger  
Dr. Gina Scala

**ODR:**

Edward Titterton, Esquire, Legal Counsel  
Kerry V. Smith, Esquire, Director  
Suzanne McDougall, Program Manager  
Cindy Judy, Legal Assistant  
Heather Doyle, SC Secretary

**Presenters**

None

**Minutes**

The December 11, 2014 Stakeholder Council (SC) meeting minutes were adopted as written and will be published on the ODR website in both English and Spanish.

**Chapter 16 Recommendations – Linda Deal**

Linda Deal provided an update to the Chapter 16 Recommendations. Documents are currently being processed through the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) for approval, which is hoped to be approved by mid-May. Teacher trainings will be geared more towards regular education teachers and endorsements will be offered to undergraduate, as well as, graduate students. Out of 24 credits, 6 of those credits would be required for gifted education.

**ODR Updates**

Suzanne McDougall presented information on a Gifted Mediation Webinar that ODR is working on with Shawn Lochinger, who is the ODR hearing officer assigned to gifted cases, and Tanya Morret, who is an Education Consultant for Gifted Education. This

webinar is specifically for the purpose of training mediators about gifted education. Some topics include eligibility, evaluation, programming, and the nature of conflicts that arise between families and schools. It will be pre-recorded and posted in the mediator's portal on the ODR website.

Suzanne McDougall provided an update on ODR's upcoming IEP Facilitation Training. As a reminder, this training will be presented by Trisha Bergin-Lytton, who is an expert in the field and has presented with CADRE in the past. The training will be held on June 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. The mediators are required to attend both days of the training to receive a certificate of completion and be able to perform facilitations for ODR in the 2015/2016 fiscal year.

Cindy Judy provided an update on the electronic submission of online request forms, which is in the final stages and will go live in April 2015. A link will be posted under the "What's New" section on the ODR website once the service goes live.

Cindy Judy provided an update to the hearing officer and appeals decision databases. These databases will be searchable by keyword, ODR file number, LEA name, Hearing Officer, among others. A link will be posted under the "What's New" section on the ODR website once the databases go live in April 2015.

Kerry Smith discussed ODR's Hearing Officer Ethics Statement. Hearing Officers will now be reviewing and signing this statement on a yearly basis.

Kerry Smith provided an update on the Hearing Officer Interviews, which will be held on April 21, 2015. The hearing officer position was posted throughout the state of Pennsylvania and was emailed to attorneys, PASA, law schools, colleges, special education departments, among others. Applicants are not required to have law degrees. Applications and writing samples will be scored by the ODR Director, ODR Legal Counsel and Hearing Officer Anne Carroll. Those who scored the highest will be interviewed by the SC.

The meeting concluded at 10:44am. The next quarterly meeting of the Stakeholder Council will be held on Thursday, June 18, 2015.