

**ODR Stakeholder Council Meeting
June 16, 2016
Meeting Minutes
Office for Dispute Resolution
6340 Flank Drive
Harrisburg, PA 17112**

Participants

Janice Cunningham
Janice Estabrook
Betsy Gustafson
Heidi Konkler-Goldsmith, Esquire
Debbie Leggens
Jeni Hergenreder (substitute for Robyn Oplinger)
Dr. Gina Scala
Jane Williams, Esquire

ODR

Kerry V. Smith, Esquire, Director
Suzanne McDougall, Program Director
Jake McElligott, Esquire, Hearing Officer
Edward Titterton, Esquire, Legal Counsel
Heather Doyle, SC Secretary

Presenters

None

Minutes

The March 17, 2016 Stakeholder Council (SC) meeting minutes were adopted as written and will be published on the ODR website in both English and Spanish.

Hearing Officer Update (Jake McElligott)

Jake McElligott provided a brief update on the virtual hearing pilot. Beginning with 2016/2017 due process cases, virtual hearings will no longer be considered a pilot. Jake McElligott and Cathy Skidmore are the only hearing officers currently holding virtual hearings; all other hearing officers will be trained.

Jake McElligott also provided an update on legal issues and trends that the Hearing Officers are seeing across the Commonwealth. These trends and issues include the repercussions from the decision of G.L. vs. Ligonier Valley SD, defunct Charter Schools located in the Philadelphia area, and due process cases involving students interfacing with outside agencies.

ConsultLine Update (Suzanne McDougall)

Suzanne McDougall provided a brief rundown of calls that came through the Special Education ConsultLine over fiscal year 2015/2016. There was not a lot of variation compared to previous years. Calls ranged from IEP content and implementation to educational placement, multi-disciplinary evaluations, mediation, due process, Chapter 15/504, advocates, procedural safeguards, transgendered students, bullying, and ESY.

ODR Update (Kerry Smith)

Kerry Smith provided an update on ODR activities:

ODR has hired a Hearing Officer to preside over due process cases which have Chapter 16 issues only.

ODR is in the preliminary stages of creating a Facebook page.

ODR staff have completed all required clearances, as well as contractors for ODR.

ODR has reached out to HUNE to reach out to underserved communities of the Hispanic community. This is currently in the preliminary stages.

ODR will be giving presentations at the School District of Philadelphia to new teachers and representatives during their opening day.

Suzanne McDougall will be co-presenting a CADRE webinar in July. This was originally scheduled for June, but had to be re-scheduled. The webinar will focus on constructive individual and systemic approaches to helping individuals who may be difficult to talk to or seem unwilling or unable to problem-solve around their concern.

ODR is currently accepting applications for mediator positions.

ODR has a new publication called "Preparing for your Facilitated IEP".

Kerry Smith has been offered office space at PaTTAN-East located in Malvern.

The meeting concluded at 11:06am. The next quarterly meeting of the Stakeholder Council will be held on Thursday, September 15, 2016.