

ODR Stakeholder Council Meeting
September 18, 2014
Meeting Minutes
Office for Dispute Resolution
6340 Flank Drive
Harrisburg, PA 17112

Participants

Dr. Janice Cunningham
Janice Estabrook
Dr. Mary Beth Gustafson
Jane Williams, Esquire
Jill Hrinda-Patten
Debbie Leggens
Dennis McAndrews, Esquire
Robyn Oplinger
Dr. Gina Scala

ODR:

Kerry V. Smith, Esquire, Director
Suzanne McDougall, Program Manager
Heather Strausbaugh, SC Secretary

Presenters

None

Minutes

The June 19, 2014 Stakeholder Council (SC) meeting minutes were adopted as written and will be published on the ODR website both in English and Spanish.

ODR Updates

The Parent Education Network (PEN) was not successful in their recent grant application to continue as a Parent Training and Information Center (PTI). PEAL was chosen as the sole Pennsylvania PTI. A written invitation will be sent to PEAL for the vacant PTI position.

Rebecca Moyes has resigned from the SC. An invitation will be sent to Kay Lipsitz to continue as one of the Parent Advocate representatives.

Janice Estabrook provided information on Gifted Recommendations, which will support improvements for gifted education across the state. These recommendations were passed on September 11, 2014.

At the June 19, 2014 SC meeting, BSE Director Pat Hozella shared a potential parent training program, which would assist parents with how to prepare for a due process hearing. SC Members are urged to submit written suggestions to Pat Hozella or Kerry Smith for BSE submission.

One of the hearing officers has announced her retirement at the end of the fiscal year. SC members will interview and make recommendations as to selection of the hearing officer.

2013/2014 ODR Annual Report & CADRE Data

Kerry Smith provided a review of ODR's 2013/2014 Annual Report.

The Evaluative Conciliation Conference (ECC) numbers are slow, but steadily growing.

ODR staff continue to work with the SC IEP Facilitation subcommittee. The facilitation request procedures have been simplified, data collection is being expanded, and staff are reviewing trainer information to select a trainer for ODR's annual facilitator training.

The Virtual Hearing and Electronic Exhibit pilots are ongoing.

SC members had some concerns regarding trends in due process numbers as well as trends in the hearing officer decisions.

The meeting concluded at 12:03pm. The next quarterly meeting of the Stakeholder Council will be held on Thursday, December 11, 2014.