

**ODR Stakeholder Council Meeting
March 18, 2021
Meeting Minutes
Office for Dispute Resolution
6340 Flank Drive
Harrisburg, PA 17112**

Participants

Janice Estabrook
Betsy Gustafson
Nancy Giacomini
Luz Hernandez
Jill Hrinda-Patten
Kevin Kane
Heidi Konkler-Goldsmith
Gina Scala
Edward Titterton, Esquire
Jane Williams, Esquire

ODR

Kerry Smith, Director
Samantha Pudloski, Program Manager
Heather Doyle, Administrative and Technical Specialist
Ashley Sultzaberger, Due Process Case Manager / Database Technical Specialist

Other

John Cica

Minutes

The December 17, 2020 Stakeholder Council (SC) meeting minutes were adopted as written and will be published on the ODR website in both English and Spanish.

Trend Analysis (John Cica)

John Cica presented to the SC on mediation and due process trends throughout the last few years. Pennsylvania trends are comparable to other states throughout the country.

Mediation Campaign Update

ODR staff have several projects in the works regarding outreach for increased mediation usage. Topics of discussion included the following: the formation of an ODR staff committee to brainstorm ways to reach under reached communities; presentations to different groups; videos; updated information on the ODR website and monitoring website analytics; and updated ODR Guide to Mediation.

As of March 1, 2021, attorneys may participate in mediation. ODR forms and publications have been updated to reflect this information. BSE has alerted PAIU and is notifying LEAs about the change. Additionally, ODR has notified all active attorneys listed in the ODR database.

ODR Mediators have recently participated in several professional development opportunities. These training opportunities include an annual mediator training with

Special Education Solutions, Pennsylvania Council of Mediators Pre-Conference, TAESE National Mediator Training, PDE Conference, and bi-monthly community of practice calls with ODR. Additionally, ODR has updated information about ODR procedures, forms, trainings, links to regulations and materials on the ODR mediator portal.

ODR procedures have been updated to streamline the process for constituents. Options are now available for parties to sign and submit paperwork through online submission forms. Mediation requests involving a parent who is not represented are sent to ConsultLine/Family Engagement staff for initial outreach. When mediation is held but parties do not reach agreement, ConsultLine/Family Engagement staff reach out to parents for perspectives on why agreement was not reached. When mediation is declined by an LEA, case managers reach out to the LEA to determine reasons for the denial.

A new ODR case management database is being created. The update will allow ODR to better track students through the dispute resolution continuum and capture more detailed information.

PaTTAN's Special Education Law Workgroup is looking to highlight ODR and Alternative Dispute Resolution.

PEAL presented a session encouraging mediation at the PDE Conference.

Upcoming projects include outreach to IU Directors to offer trainings to new staff on Alternative Dispute Resolution and ODR; collaboration with PaTTAN on mediation training for special education directors and supervisors; and the production of short videos on ODR, mediation, and facilitation.

The meeting concluded at 11:18am. The next quarterly meeting of the Stakeholder Council will be held on Thursday, June 24, 2021.