

**ODR Stakeholder Council Meeting
June 25, 2020
Meeting Minutes
Office for Dispute Resolution
6340 Flank Drive
Harrisburg, PA 17112**

Participants

Cindy Duch
Janice Estabrook
Betsy Gustafson
Nancy Giacomini
Luz Hernandez
Jill Hrinda-Patten
Heidi Konkler-Goldsmith
Gina Scala
Edward Titterton, Esquire
Julie Trbovich
Jane Williams, Esquire

ODR

Kerry Smith, Director
Samantha Pudloski, Program Manager
Jake McElligott, Hearing Officer
Brian Ford, Hearing Officer
Heather Doyle, Administrative and Technical Specialist

Minutes

The September 26, 2019, December 19, 2019, and March 19, 2020 Stakeholder Council (SC) meeting minutes were adopted as written and will be published on the ODR website in both English and Spanish.

Due Process Update (Jake McElligott and Brian Ford)

Hearing Officers McElligott and Ford provided an update on due process hearings during the COVID-19 pandemic. As of March 16, 2020, all due process hearings were transitioned to virtual hearings. ODR hearing officers have been offering virtual hearings for several years prior to the pandemic, therefore, ODR's experience with virtual hearings allowed due process to continue effectively.

Given this experience, ODR's hearing officers were asked to present statewide to Pennsylvania stakeholders, as well as nationally to states with significantly less experience with virtual hearings.

Mediation Update (Nancy Giacomini)

Nancy Giacomini provided an update on mediations during the pandemic. As of March 16, 2020, all mediations and facilitations were transitioned to being held virtually via Zoom. ODR has three zoom rooms available for sessions. Each room contains a waiting room, private caucus rooms, and the ability to share screens to make sharing documents seamless.

ODR Updates

ODR staff will begin pulling statistics for the 2019/2020 annual report in July.

The COVID-19 pandemic slowed down the rate of requests, however, ODR will be searching for another independent-contracted hearing officer to help with the potential increase of requests as schools re-open.

The meeting concluded at 11:41am. The next quarterly meeting of the Stakeholder Council will be held on Thursday, September 24, 2020.