

**ODR Stakeholder Council Meeting
December 17, 2020
Meeting Minutes
Office for Dispute Resolution
6340 Flank Drive
Harrisburg, PA 17112**

Participants

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

ODR

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

Minutes

The September 24, 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 (Brian Ford)

Hearing Officer Ford provided an update on due process hearings during the COVID-19 pandemic. Hearings are proceeding on pace as they were pre-COVID. Since April 2020, approximately 253 hearing sessions have been held virtually and 35 decisions have been issued with some or all hearings involved taken place virtually.

Mediation Update

ODR will be holding a training for ODR mediators with Special Education Solutions at the end of February. The training will focus on agreement writing, dealing with difficult parents, and best practices for virtual sessions.

ConsultLine has begun reaching out to mediation participants post-mediation for cases that did not reach agreement.

ConsultLine staff are also reaching out to local task forces to offer the ODR Overview training. Stakeholder Council members should reach out to the ODR Program Manager with any interest for presentation requests.

Other upcoming outreach opportunities include a training series on mediation and a collaborative PaTTANPod on the topic of mediation with PaTTAN, ODR, PEAL, and the BSE Director.

ODR Updates

ODR staff are still working remotely with an anticipated hybrid return of July 2021.

Other ODR updates include a special education coordinator working with the Center for Schools and Communities on equity work, ODR being closed for the winter break, and ODR working with an accessibility expert to ensure documents are accessible prior to being posted on the ODR website.

ODR Needs Assessment

ODR staff are working on an office-wide needs assessment project. The ODR Director and Program Manager will be going through ideas to determine which projects to move forward with.

Gifted Education

A Gifted Education webinar is scheduled for April 7, 2021. This webinar is sponsored by the PA Gifted Education team and will provide an overview of gifted education in the state of Pennsylvania.

Stakeholder Council Member Concerns

SC Members briefly discussed Senate Bill 1216, now called Act 136, that was signed by the Pennsylvania Governor.

The meeting concluded at 10:53am. The next quarterly meeting of the Stakeholder Council will be held on Thursday, March 18, 2021.