



**ODR Stakeholder Council Meeting
December 12, 2024
Meeting Minutes
Office for Dispute Resolution
6340 Flank Drive
Harrisburg, PA 17112**

Participants

Cindy Duch
Nancy Giacomini
Lenny Greany
Luz Hernandez
Conny James
Staci Kenney
Heidi Konkler-Goldsmith
Edward Titterton, Esquire
Jane Williams, Esquire

ODR

Kerry Smith, ODR Director
Ashley Smith, ODR Program Manager
Heather Doyle, Administrative Project Specialist

Minutes

The September 2024 Stakeholder Council (SC) meeting minutes were adopted as written and will be published on the ODR website in both English and Spanish.

SC Member Introduction

A Council Member representing a Parent Training Information Center has retired and has made a replacement recommendation. The SC welcomed Conny James, who is the Parent Center Director and Lead Training & Educational Advocate for Mission Empower.

PDE-PEAL Collaboration with CADRE

The ODR Program Manager and an SC member updated the SC on a Building Local Level Capacity Workgroup collaboration with CADRE. The workgroup consists of 10 states, including Pennsylvania, and will focus on solving problems at the table before they escalate to more litigious forms of dispute resolution. The initiative will last approximately two years.



Common Myths about Mediation

The SC discussed common myths related to mediation and what types of opportunities can be used to address them in the future. Discussion also included the role of mediators in resolving conflict and the value of feedback.

Monthly Stats Update

The ODR Program Manager provided an update on current statistics, including hot topics discussed during ConsultLine calls.

Miscellaneous

SC members discussed the topic of parties declining to participate in mediation.

ODR and PEAL will be presenting two sessions at the upcoming PDE Conference in February. Additional discussions were held related to future presentation opportunities.

The meeting ended at 11:02am. The next quarterly meeting of the Stakeholder Council will be held on Thursday, March 20, 2025.