

**GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CITIZENS**

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September 19, 2012

Susan Henry
Disabilities Law Program
100 West 10th Street, Suite 801
Wilmington, DE 19801

RE: Disabilities Law Program FY 2013 Priorities

Dear Ms. Henry:

The Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) has reviewed the Disabilities Law Program's FY 2013 priorities pertaining to the Protection and Advocacy System for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI), Developmental Disabilities (PADD), Traumatic Brain Injury (PATBI), Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology (PAAT), Protection and Advocacy for Individual Rights (PAIR) and Protection and Advocacy Rights for Voter Access (PAVA). We appreciate the services provided through each of these areas on behalf of citizens with disabilities and their families in Delaware.

The GACEC would like to take this opportunity to thank the Disabilities Law Program (DLP) for its service to the disability community and for giving us the opportunity to review and comment upon the priorities you have set for FY 2013. As always, we look forward to continuing our collaboration with your agency on disability-related issues. Of special collaborative interest is ensuring that regulations proposed by the Department of Education (DOE) will provide needed services and protect the rights of students receiving special education as required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), as mentioned in PADD and PAAT. Per one of DLP's listed priorities under PATBI, the GACEC also looks forward to collaborating with the DLP and DOE to develop legislation, regulations and policies which preserve protections and improve access to special education services by students with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). The continued monitoring of the use of seclusion and restraints as identified within the PATBI priorities remains a top concern of the GACEC as well.

The GACEC applauds the DLP for your efforts, and hope to continue to work with you to protect the rights of all Delawareans with disabilities. Please feel free to contact me or Wendy Strauss at the GACEC office at 302-739-4553 if we may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terri Hancharick".

Terri A. Hancharick
Chairperson

TAH:kcm

CC: Brian J. Hartman, Esq., Disabilities Law Program