



Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC)

**State Transition Task Force for Emerging Adults with Disabilities and
Special Health Care Needs Design Team Meeting
May 9, 2012- 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
Eden Hill Medical Center, 3rd Floor Conference Room
200 Banning Street, Dover, DE 19904**

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Terri Hancharick, Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) and University of Delaware (UD) Centers for Disabilities Studies (CDS); **Wendy Strauss**, Executive Director of the GACEC; **Al Rose**, Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC); **Kyle Hodges**, State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD); **Margaret Haas**, Division of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDDS); **Christopher McIntyre**, Division of Services for Children, Youth and their Families (DSCYF) **Kristin Mullen**, GACEC
Via phone: Bhavana Viswanathan, Director, Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program Delaware Division of Public Health

Co-Chair Terri Hancharick called the meeting to order, and began by giving an update on the Key Informant Group Meetings which were held on April 19 at Easter Seals in New Castle County and April 20 at The Biden Center in Sussex County. Terri feels that the Task Force and Work Groups need more family, caregiver and self-advocate participants. Margaret Haas said that as a side note, she agreed with almost all of what was shared by the participants at the Key Informant Group meetings. Margaret also added that in response to a comment made by a parent at the April 20 Key Informant Group Meeting regarding the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDDS) not attending one of their client's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meeting, she has added more staff to assist in addressing this issue. As a side note, Margaret added that Beth Miller, who is mentioned on page two of the April minutes, has now retired.

Possible ways to reach more families, caregivers and self-advocates to join a Work Group were discussed. The possibility of networking with groups such as the Brandywine Special Needs PTA, Best Buddies Delaware, Special Olympics of Delaware (SODE), Camp Lenape, Delaware People First, The State

Rehabilitation Council, Ed Tach (for the Transportation Work Group), Autism Delaware's Self-Advocacy POWER Group, Barbara Riley of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)'s Aspergers Support Group, Leach School PTA, Ennis School PTA, Kent County Community School and the Charlton School.

The Design Team then discussed parent schedules and how that may affect their availability to attend meetings. The Design Team feels that having a meeting schedule that would allow parents to attend at a time convenient to them should be considered. It was suggested that the Design Team Co-Chairs should attempt to find the meeting schedule and attend the meetings of the organizations mentioned above. At these meetings Wendy and Terri could distribute a questionnaire flyer to gauge parent's availability. The Design Team felt that the questions asked at the Key Informant Group Meetings should also be included on this questionnaire flyer. Wendy, Terri and GACEC staff are going to look into the meeting schedules of the organizations mentioned above.

Design Team members then contributed to the discussion with suggestions for potential Work Group members. Terri reiterated the need for diversity among the membership. Al Rose, Margaret Haas and Chris MacIntyre all mentioned specific persons to follow up with, which were noted by GACEC staff. Margaret stated that she will try to reach out to education staff from the western side of Sussex County. Margaret asked that GACEC staff contact her one week after today's meeting to follow up on the progress of this outreach.

Chairs and Co-Chairs for the Work Groups and the structure of the Work Groups' meetings were the next topic of discussion. It was decided that the following individuals should be asked to be Chair and Co-Chairs of the following groups:

Housing and Transportation: Al Rose and Chris MacIntyre
Employment: Andrea Guest, Margaret Haas and Barbara Riley
Education: Wendy Strauss and Dale Matusevich
Health: Cory Nourie, Jennifer Lecomte and Ann Phillips

Work Group Chairs are tasked with securing their own meeting locations, inviting the Work Group members, determining their Work Group's meeting schedule, assigning a representative to report to the main Task Force on a monthly basis, creating and distributing their own agendas and scribing their own minutes. All of the aforementioned items are to be shared with Wendy and Terri as Co-Chairs of the Task Force, with a cc to GACEC staff. Margaret raised a concern that some of the duties expected to be carried out by the Work Group Chairs and Co-Chairs may be considered too involved by some. The Design Team agreed, and it was decided to send an email to the proposed Chairs and Co-Chairs with a detailed list of what is expected of them. The proposed Chairs can then accept or decline. GACEC staff will send this email.

Terri mentioned that the Center for Disabilities Studies (CDS) may have funds to assist with printing costs of agendas, flyers, minutes, etc... for the Work Groups. Terri also shared that CDS graduate student Katie Borrás' responsibilities include gathering and disseminating information. Terri stated that she will request Katie's help. Margaret also mentioned that she has a staff member in mind to lend administrative assistance to her Work Group. Bhavana Viswanathan said that there are funds through her agency which she can possibly re-direct to this project through the D-70 Grant.

Once SCR 34 has passed the Senate and the House, it was agreed that an invitation email should be sent to those named within the legislation. The Design Team decided that this communication should come from Wendy and Terri, as Co-Chairs of the Task Force. A Doodle Poll was suggested for this initial invitation, to gauge the proposed members' availability and to help determine a future meeting schedule for Task Force meetings.

Co-Chair Wendy Strauss then briefed the Design Team on the progress of SCR 34. Wendy said that she has met with Drew Slater, Legislative Aide to Senator Bethany Hall-Long and Representative Rebecca Walker, regarding changes that the Design Team would like to see added to the legislation. SCR 34 was initially passed with several things missing. Drew explained to Wendy that he is unsure how it happened, but SCR 34 was put on the Consent Agenda without sending a draft of the proposed final resolution to the Design Team for review. The changes identified include adding Wendy as Co-Chair of the Task Force, correcting the omission of the Education Work Group, and including the Insurance Commissioner of the State of Delaware among the members of the Task Force. Wendy stated that Drew shared with her Senator MacDowell's concern about a fiscal note attached to SCR 34. Drew informed Senator MacDowell that there is no fiscal note attached to SCR 34, and that Senator MacDowell is perhaps referring to a different Task Force. Wendy said that she will be sure to notify the Design Team if and when SCR 34 passes the Senate and the House.

The next meeting of the State Transition Task Force for Emerging Adults with Disabilities and Special Health Care Needs Design Team will be held on June 11, 2012 at Eden Hill Medical Center, 200 Banning Street, Dover, DE 19904, in the third floor conference room.