



**Governor's Advisory Council For  
Exceptional Citizens  
(GACEC)**

*The Council's mission is to provide leadership through advice and advocacy for the unmet needs of citizens of all ages who are exceptional in order to improve their lives. (Revised 9/08/07)*

- \* The term "exceptional citizens" consists of persons of all ages who have special needs. It should be noted that the GACEC State mandate for exceptional citizens includes the child with special gifts and talents.

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**ANNUAL REPORT 2007-2008 & 2008-2009  
SUBMITTED BY ROBERT D. OVERMILLER, CHAIRPERSON  
AND WENDY S. STRAUSS, EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR**



## **MISSION STATEMENT**

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## **COUNCIL GOALS**

1. Outcomes for students with exceptionalities will be improved by monitoring and supporting the implementation of the State Performance Plan (SPP), State Improvement Grant (SIG), No Child Left Behind (NCLB) as the NCLB pertains to students with exceptionalities and review of the Administrative Manual for Special Education Services (AMSES).
2. The delivery of special education and related services in the least restrictive and natural environments will be improved by reducing funding barriers and improving practice.
3. Programs and services for citizens with exceptionalities will be improved by reviewing and advocating for funding, policies and procedures that positively impact and empower citizens with exceptionalities.
4. The GACEC will impact legislators, agencies, councils and other entities through more effective communication strategies.
5. Delaware Department of Education standards-based reform and accountability efforts will be supported through review and advocacy for the inclusion of students with exceptionalities in all provisions and programs.

## **What is the Council?**

### **Statutory Responsibilities**

In accordance with CFR 300.650 (b), the Council serves as the State Advisory Panel for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and its amendments.

1. Delaware Code: Title 14, Chapter 31, Sub. Sec. 3111
2. Federal Statute: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and its amendments

The State Advisory Panel will:

- (1) "...advise(s) the state educational agency of unmet needs within the state in the education of children with disabilities;
- (2) comment(s) publicly on any rules or regulations proposed for issuance by the state regarding the education of children with disabilities and the procedures for distribution of funds under this part; and
- (3) assist(s) the state in developing and reporting such data and evaluations as may assist the Secretary under Section 618..."

## Message from the Chair

This year we will be formatting our Annual Report a little differently due to budget constraints and going “green”. We are going to make it a little shorter than normal but invite you to view our website for more details on Council. We are also going to combine last year’s annual report with this year’s being we did not publicly release the report last year so this will be a cost saving measure as well.

We had a few members resign or leave Council over the past two years for various reasons. They are: Patricia Maichle, Pat Heffernan, John Werner, Cathy Cowin, Patricia Darlington and Charles Tulloch. I would like to thank them for all their dedication and the countless hours they put into the Council.

We welcome the following new members: Julie Johnson, Melinda Ciccio, Karen Eller, Barbara Riley, Joanna Francis, Jennifer Ridgley, Carma Carpenter, Brandy Smith, Janella Newman, Beth Mineo, Lavina Smith, and Nina Bunting. On behalf of the Council I want to thank them for attending our meetings and working on Council and Committee goals.

The four issues committees as well as the administrative committees have worked very hard these past two years to meet their group goals as well as Council goals. I want to thank every one for their many hours of devoted service to the GACEC. We could not do all that we do without your time and dedication. Your knowledge and enthusiasm are greatly appreciated. The dedication of your time is helping to ensure equality and inclusion in our great state and nation for individuals with disabilities. Collectively, Council members volunteer over 2,000 hours annually. I would also like to thank the GACEC staff for all of their assistance and support throughout the year.

I look forward to working with the Council and the Department of Education on the needs-based funding language that was put into the budget epilogue this past year. I also look forward to learning more about the web-based IEP forms. The new IEP form aligns with the current federal IDEA and the Delaware Administrative Manual of Special Education Services (AMSES) regulations. The GACEC looks forward to working with the DOE and reviewing the proposed changes to their special education regulations. The proposed changes at 14 DE Admin Code 922 through 928 will align the State’s regulations with recent amendments to the federal regulations effective December 1, 2008. We are also looking forward to collaborating with the Department of Education and other agencies and organizations that work on issues of importance which impact the lives of individuals with disabilities and their families.

The Council recognized the retirement of Secretary of Education Valerie Woodruff and Associate Secretary and former GACEC member, Dr. Martha Brooks at one of our FY 2009 meetings. Students from the Kent County Community School sent over cards and posters they made for the event and students and teachers from the Transition Project of the Delaware Autism Program housed at Wesley College attended the meeting and read a poem they wrote for Dr. Brooks.

This past year the GACEC Executive Administrator Wendy Strauss, Terri Hancharick, Chair of Adult Transitions and I spent time meeting with cabinet secretaries and commissioners to introduce the GACEC and to find out more about their agencies. We also confirmed our desire to collaborate with them on projects impacting individuals with disabilities. We were especially pleased with the meeting to welcome and introduce the GACEC to the new Secretary of Education, Lillian Lowery. We look forward to working with Secretary Lowery to improve educational outcomes for students.

In 2008, the Council acknowledged the retirement of Mark Chamberlin, an Education Associate with the Department of Education (DOE). Mark worked in the Exceptional Children and Early Childhood Education Workgroup, focusing on Transition and Secondary Services. The Council thanked Mark for his support of the GACEC. Council will miss the outstanding work that Mark did with teachers and students across the state. However, we welcome Dale Matusevich who has filled Mark's position and look forward to working with him.

The GACEC is comprised of volunteers from varied backgrounds – parents, teachers, school administrators, and professionals in areas as diverse as social work, prisons, information systems, and the law. We join with a common cause – to improve the lives of persons with exceptionalities in this state. Annually, we plan ambitious goals during our annual retreat, and then review our progress towards those goals as the year progresses. Thank you to one and all.

Robert D. Overmiller  
Chairperson

“Never doubt that a small group of dedicated citizens can change the world.  
Indeed it's the only thing that ever has” Margaret Mead



*In Memory of Melissa H. Shahan*



On July 12, 2008 we lost our beloved Council member, Melissa H. Shahan. Melissa was a well known and respected advocate in the disability community, but most of all she was a cherished friend. She was the Director of the Client Assistance Program (CAP) and actively involved with many disability advocacy agencies and initiatives. Those of us who knew Melissa well, knew that she was a kind, caring, nurturing and fun loving individual who loved nature and all the beauty that it holds. She would help anyone with anything and if she could not help she would find someone else who could. She had what I want to refer to as “helping hands”. Melissa had hands that were strong but also gentle...hands that held her husband Gene’s hands as they raised two beautiful daughters and nursed them when they were sick; hands that worked to teach her children right from wrong and guided them into becoming a nurse and a teacher in the adult world; hands that reviewed legal documents and turned pages in countless books to ensure that her clients were getting the services they were entitled to; hands that wrote poetry and letters to loved ones and agencies; hands that were gentle and kind and hands that will be greatly missed. Our condolences go out to Melissa’s family.

Melissa lived by and worked by the sentiment of “A Credo for Support”. She did not see the disability of an individual as a problem. She looked for the person’s strengths and built upon them. If you have never read “A Credo for Support”, it is very inspirational and moving.

**Credo for Support**

Throughout history, people with physical and mental disabilities have been abandoned at birth, banished from society used as court jesters, drowned and burned during the Inquisition, gassed in Nazi Germany, and still continue to be segregated, institutionalized, tortured in the name of behavior management, abused, raped, euthanized, and murdered. Now, for the first time, people with disabilities are taking their rightful place as fully contributing citizens. The danger is that we will respond with remediation and benevolence rather than equity and respect. And so, we offer you...

## **A Credo for Support**

**Do Not see my disability as the problem, recognize that my disability is an attribute.**

**Do Not see my disability as a deficit. It is you who see me as deviant and helpless.**

**Do not try to fix me because I am not broken.**

**Support me. I can make my contribution to the community in my own way.**

**Be a person who listens and does not take my struggle away from me by trying to make it all better.**

**Do Not use theories and strategies on me. Be with me. And when we struggle with each other, let that give rise to self-reflection.**

**Do Not try to control me. I have a right to my power as a person.**

**What you call non-compliance or manipulation may actually be the only way I can exert some control over my life.**

**Do Not teach me to be obedient, submissive, and polite.**

**Do Not see me as your client. I am your fellow citizen.**

**See me as your neighbor. Remember, none of us can be self-sufficient.**

**Do Not try to modify my behavior. Be still and listen.**

**What you define as inappropriate may be my attempt to communicate with you in the only way I can.**

**Do Not try to change me, you have no right. Help me learn what I want to know.**

**Do Not hide your uncertainty behind "professional" distance.**

**I need to feel entitled to say NO if I am to protect myself.**

**Do Not be charitable towards me. The last thing the world needs is another Jerry Lewis.**

**Be my ally against those who exploit me for their own gratification.**

**Do Not try to be my friend. I deserve more than that.**

**Get to know me. We may become friends.**

**Do Not help me, even if it does make you feel good.**

**Ask if I need your help. Let me show you how you can best assist me.**

**Do Not admire me. A desire to live a full life does not warrant adoration.**

**Respect me, for respect presumes equity.**

**Do Not tell, correct, and lead.**

**Listen, Support, and Follow.**

**Do Not work on me. Work with me.**

**Written by Norman Kunc and Emma Van der Klift**



## Organizational Structure

GACEC is an all volunteer Council with a membership composition representing a broad cross-section of Delaware's statewide community. The GACEC holds regularly scheduled monthly meetings at the George V. Massey Station in Dover, unless otherwise noted. These meetings are open to the public with meeting notifications published in several newspapers and on the State of Delaware calendar of events. Officers are elected annually, with the elected chairperson responsible for providing the Council its primary leadership and supervision for the staff members. The Board of Directors consists of the chairperson of the Council, vice-chairperson of the Council, chairperson elect, past chairperson, secretary/treasurer and committee chairpersons. The Council developed and is guided by its By-Laws and a Code of Ethics to effectively discharge its diverse responsibilities. The GACEC is comprised of two administrative committees: Membership and Personnel and four issues committees: Infant/Early Childhood, Children and Youth, Adult/Transition Services and Policy and Law.

The four standing issues committees do most of the actual work of the Council. The Infant and Early Childhood Committee is concerned with issues surrounding the identification and initial services for children birth through age five. The Children and Youth Committee looks into specific issues related to the school age children of our community. The Adult Transition Services Committee monitors and works on issues such as housing and vocational opportunities for individuals who are moving into adulthood; and the Policy and Law Committee reviews proposed regulations and legislation in order to comment on how persons with exceptionalities in our state will be affected. The two administrative committees handle personnel issues and membership monitoring and recruitment for the Council. Ad-hoc committees are created as needed. This framework has served the GACEC well.



Adult Transition Services Committee  
Members participate in a Collaborative  
Activity at the GACEC Retreat



Members of Policy and Law, Adult  
Transition Services and Infant/Early  
Childhood Collaborate on a Project

## 2007-2008 HIGHLIGHTS

The GACEC held its Annual Fall Retreat on September 7 & 8, 2007 at the Virden Center in Lewes, Delaware, as part of the Council's planning activities for FY 2008. Retreat participants included GACEC members and staff, a representative from the Department of Education and Barbara Riley of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR). Council members heard a presentation from Barbara Riley on the new partnership DVR has with Delaware Technical and Community College (DT&CC). The Supported Education Program enhances the lives of students with disabilities who are attending college. DVR partners with DTCC to provide training and supports to assist clients who participate in certificate or degree programs. The program emphasizes study skills, study habits, and accommodations necessary for students to be successful in the school environment.

*The following is a list of GACEC collaborative efforts with other organizations and agencies to promote education and awareness:*

- ✓ The annual LIFE Conference was attended by over **500** people. LIFE stands for Liberty and Independence For Everyone. This is the largest conference focusing on disabilities in Delaware. The four conference strands each year are: legislation, independence through assistive technology, families and education.
- ✓ The Delaware Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Convention entitled "Best Practices" was held at Delaware Technical and Community College. The keynote speaker was Darrell "Coach D" Andrews from New Castle, Delaware. There were approximately **400** special education and regular education teachers, administrators and specialists in attendance.
- ✓ The Disability Awareness Day Picnic was attended by more than **500** individuals with disabilities, their family members, students, teachers, agencies and organizations.
- ✓ Dr. Jane Crowley of the Rehabilitation Medicine Division at A. I. duPont Hospital for Children presented information to over **90** individuals, including teachers, speech language pathologists and school psychologists at the Traumatic Brain Injury "Across the Spectrum in the Schools" conference. She spoke on the importance of recognizing when a student has a TBI and the actions schools can take. In 2003, the GACEC introduced legislation to include TBI in the unit count when determining school funding for related special education services. Senate Bill 105 established a distinct TBI unit for the purpose of accurately identifying students with TBI. Before Senate Bill 105, only one student had been identified as TBI. In the 2004-2005 school year, seven students were identified. We are now seeing an increase in the number of students being identified.
- ✓ Disability Awareness Legislative Event – **30** participants attended training on how to contact and work with their legislators. After the training, participants spent the afternoon at legislative hall speaking with their legislators on policy issues, such as ensuring that school districts throughout Delaware have qualified speech and language pathologist and other educational professionals. Over **200** individuals received information on disability related issues at Legislative Hall during the afternoon event.
- ✓ Universal Design Coalition had a table at the Builders Convention in Harrington – Approximately **130** participants obtained information on Universal Design and Aging in place.
- ✓ Coordinating Council for Children with Disabilities held the Transition Symposium at the A.I. duPont Hospital for Children. More than **40** parents and providers heard panelists speak on issues impacting individuals with disabilities once they obtain the age of majority - Life After High School, Guardianship, Healthcare/Insurance, Medical Transition- from pediatric to adulthood, and other Legal Issues.



## 2008-2009 HIGHLIGHTS

The GACEC held its Annual Fall Retreat on September 12 & 13, 2008 at the Virden Center in Lewes, Delaware, as part of the Council's planning activities for FY 2009. Fran Fletcher of the University of Delaware lead the group in activities to foster a spirit of collaboration and the determination of various communication styles that may be found in a group such as the GACEC.

- ✓ The LIFE Conference was attended by over **500** people this year. LIFE (Liberty and Independence For Everyone) is the largest conference focusing on disabilities in Delaware.
- ✓ The Delaware Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Convention entitled "Best Practices: Educational Interventions" was held at DTCC Dover. The keynote speaker was Denise E. Bray, M.S., president of a consulting company that provides specialized training, technical assistance, and consultation to organizations serving youth in juvenile justice and child welfare arenas. Over **400** special education and regular education teachers, administrators and specialists in attended.
- ✓ The Disability Awareness Day Picnic was attended by more than **500** individuals with disabilities, their family members, students, teachers, agencies and organizations.
- ✓ Disability Awareness Legislative Event – **25** participants attended training on how to contact and work with their legislators. Participants spent the afternoon at legislative hall speaking with their legislators on policy issues, such as ensuring that school districts throughout Delaware have qualified speech and language pathologist and other educational professionals. Over **200** individuals received information on disability related issues at Legislative Hall after the training.
- ✓ Gubernatorial Forum – Approximately **300** individuals with disabilities and their families attended the Delaware Gubernatorial Forum on July 17, 2008, at DTCC to hear the platforms of the three candidates for Governor.
- ✓ Over **10,000** individuals received information via the Delaware PTA listserv on the Press Conference in support of legislation impacting Delaware's children, held on June 25 at Legislative Hall. Lt. Governor Matt Denn and others spoke on key proposed legislation and the potential impact on the health and welfare of children in Delaware.
- ✓ Educational information and GACEC brochures were distributed at the following events: Inclusion Conference **400**; 2009 World Health Summit **100**; Joint Retreat **100**; and the HOPE Out Loud Workshop **100**.



Gubernatorial Forum

## **Infant and Early Childhood Committee 2007-2008**

- ✓ The Infant/Early Childhood committee has met monthly to stay informed on new initiatives and ongoing projects affecting children with disabilities and their families, as well as the quality and availability of services to support their development and include them in their communities. At monthly meetings, committee member, Helene Diskau, who is on the Respite Care Committee, has kept the group informed on that committee's progress. At this time, the final report is still in progress.
- ✓ Janet Cornwell, committee member, has been an active member of the Delaware Family Support Coordinating Council and has contributed to a variety of parent leadership and family support initiatives, including the Parent-to-Parent Support Network Training being planned for September. The First Annual Parent Leadership Forum in May, 2007, as well as the Partnership Summit in May 2008 brought parents and practitioners together from across the state to show them the power of their voices and their stories.
- ✓ Another goal of the Infant/Early Childhood committee was to study and make recommendations regarding issues related to children with disabilities from birth to five and their families. In keeping with that goal, the committee followed the progress of the Delaware Building Blocks program; the early childhood special education/early intervention outcomes (accountability) system. The first school year has been completed and the program has now been implemented statewide. The committee reviewed the end of the year reports from both 619 and early intervention to study baseline data from the new system.
- ✓ Jennifer Pulcinella is on the Standards of Care subcommittee of the Delaware Healthy Mother and Infant Consortium (DHMIC) and has kept the Infant/Early Childhood committee up to date on their progress. The DHMIC has been developing a program called Pursuing Motherhood to focus on what can be done before conception to aid in having a healthy pregnancy and subsequent healthier births.
- ✓ Committee member Julie Johnson, was elected to the Appoquinimink Board of Education this year. Julie has shared her expertise as the owner/director of several child care centers to help the committee follow the issues associated with the undiagnosed 3-5 year old.
- ✓ Janet Cornwell, Julie Johnson and Executive Administrator, Wendy Strauss have been involved in the development and implementation, as well as initial evaluation of Delaware Stars. They, along with other committee members continue to advocate for full implementation of this quality rating and improvement system, especially as it supports inclusion of children with disabilities in child care. The committee continues to offer an enthusiastic voice for inclusion of young children in their natural environments and communities with support available for their families.
- ✓ The Infant/Early Childhood Committee continues to follow the implementation of the new Child Care Rules as well as the development of new rules for Family Child Cares.



## Infant/Early Childhood Committee 2008-2009

This was a great year in the Infant and Early Childhood Committee, complete with two new members. The addition of Brandy Smith of the Delaware Early Childhood Center and Carma Carpenter from United Cerebral Palsy of Delaware at Camp Lenape has strengthened the family voice and provided new input to aid in making recommendations.

The committee's main goal involved following the progress of new initiatives and ongoing projects affecting children birth to five with exceptionalities and their families. We looked at the quality and availability of services to support their development and include them in their communities. Many projects were followed and we saw a lot of successes.

Thanks to the hard work of "Lt. Governor Matt Denn; Secretary of Health and Social Services, Rita Landgraf; Part C Coordinator, Rosanne Griff-Cabelli; and their staff and stakeholders"... we have a comprehensive Part C Birth to 3 plan for the funds Delaware is receiving from the **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009**. "This plan will embrace children with disabilities, the family and early childhood professionals by providing consultation and technical assistance in childcare settings and other community programs which will help everyone who comes in contact with the child. These programs will foster healthy social- emotional growth and promote inclusion for young children. Early intervention assessments, services and programs will help with school readiness, but more importantly lifelong readiness." (*Wendy S. Strauss, GACEC*)

This year, the committee met with Janae Aglio, the Hearing Coordinator of DHSS, to discuss the Delaware **Newborn Hearing Screening Program** as well as the Guide by your Side Program. Our own Julie Johnson was influential in obtaining a chapter of **Hands and Voices** for Delaware. **Guide By Your Side** is a Hands & Voices program that embodies our strong values of direct peer connections and networking.

The committee also spoke with Ann Phillips and Valarie Werner from **Delaware Family Voices** (Family-to-Family Health Information Center). Family Voices aims to achieve family-centered care for all children and youth with special health care needs and/or disabilities.

Samtra Devard met with the committee to discuss the **HOPE Center** as well as **Balcony People**. HOPE represents Happiness, Opportunities, Possibilities, and Expectations. **Balcony People** is a group of volunteers united in providing a network of support and source of encouragement for individuals and families.

**Early Success** contains many projects of interest to the committee. Under *Ready Early Care & Education*, **Delaware Building BLOCKS** is an accountability system for educational programs to monitor children's progress through their early learning experiences. The progress monitoring system is fully aligned with Delaware's Early Learning Foundations and is required as part of Delaware's IDEA Part B and Part C programs for children with disabilities.

Under *Ready Families*, the Committee followed the work of the **Family Support Coordinating Council**. **FSCC** is a multi-disciplinary, collaborative, public-private council that includes family

members and professionals who are committed to assuring that quality family education and support programs, including home visiting, respite care, community based family resource centers and early care and education are available statewide.

**Sussex Early Childhood Council (SECC)** is county-based and links statewide early childhood system change to local needs and initiatives. This group spent time this year developing its mission which is to foster collaboration among families, communities, providers, and schools for children's early success in Sussex County. SECC is committed to work at the local level to build the system of early childhood.

The Committee continued to follow the **Delaware Stars for Early Success** as they completed the second year of "testing" the Delaware Stars system implemented in sixty-nine child care programs in all three counties. Delaware Stars programs are serving more than 5,000 children and their families.

The Partners in Excellence Project is a partnership between the Delaware Early Childhood Center, Nemours Health and Prevention Services and the Head Start Collaboration Project. The mission of the Partners in Excellence project is to offer support in the area of children's social and emotional development through training, technical assistance and system development mentoring. Technical assistance has been designed on a framework of program wide change consistent with the Positive Behavioral Support (PBS) system used in schools. The PIE project is working closely with PBS to enhance the connection between projects and the implementation of cross-systemic changes that promote continuity.

The Committee also followed the accomplishments of the Delaware Healthy Mother and Infant Consortium (DHMIC). Among their successes, they collaboratively worked to engage consumers (patients) in promotion and understanding of a "Reproductive Life Plan" and preconception health, monitored the progress of the Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) and the implementation and progress of the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS). The 3rd Annual Delaware Summit on Maternal and Infant Health Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies was held this year. Two hundred seventy people attended. The focus of the summit was Preconception Care and Prematurity.

The addition of a **Policy and Law (P&L) Liaison** has enabled the committee to have more input on Legislative activities involving children birth to five. Julie Johnson is the P&L Liaison for the Committee. House Bill 199 (sponsored by Representative Schooley) requires insurance carriers to cover developmental screening for infants and toddlers. This has been recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics to improve our early detection of developmental problems in small children and allow for more effective treatment. Jennifer Pulcinella and her daughter Claudia spoke to the House on behalf of this bill.

There is a new website for **respite** services, which is <http://www.delrespite.org/>. This website includes *RespiteOnline*, a free service enabling you to do a real time search for care providers in your area who offer respite care. Respite Care provides short-term relief for primary caregivers from the demands of ongoing care of a loved one with disabilities or special needs of some kind. *RespiteOnline* contains information on both child and adult respite care options.

Overall, it has been a busy year. The committee looks forward to witnessing more successes in the coming year.

## Children and Youth Committee 2007-2008

- ✓ One of the goals of this committee was to review and comment on statewide training initiatives for all educators and para-educators. The committee accomplished this goal by reviewing DOE documents and having DOE personnel present information to them.
- ✓ The committee also heard from presenters so they could advocate for students with special needs in schools designated as “Under Improvement” by the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) accountability rating.
- ✓ Ron Russo from the Charter School of Wilmington led committee discussions on how charter schools and students with special needs may be affected by and can benefit from the new educational reforms. Ron and the committee also discussed the needs of the gifted and talented population and collected information on available resources.
- ✓ The committee reviewed new graduation requirements and learned how these will affect the education and graduation rates of students with special needs.
- ✓ Former Delaware Autism Program (DAP) Director Dr. Peter Doehring presented information to the committee on DAP services. His presentation led the committee to reaffirm the importance of early intervention for children with autism, as well as increased professional development for all educators and members of the school community. This is critical for improvements in the educational and emotional development of children with autism and will also assist with meeting accountability goals in schools.



U. S. Senator Tom Carper visiting with students from the John S. Charlton School at the Transition Project Class at Wesley College

## **Children and Youth Committee 2008-2009**

Throughout the year, this committee discussed drop out rates, school accountability, inclusion, Response to Intervention (RtI) and the continuing need for speech pathologists.

To address their goal of reviewing and commenting on RtI, the committee invited Lori Duerr of DOE to speak on RtI and provide an update on the progress and training that is going on now. Ms. Duerr provided information on the implementation timeline.

The committee sent a letter to all of the school districts and charter schools requesting information on students in the DAPA program who were receiving homebound services. The responses indicated that there was not a systemic problem with this population.

The committee discussed under-represented students with cognitive disabilities and behavioral issues or students with high behaviors and low cognition in regard to the question of how districts are addressing the needs of this population of students. This population used to be sent out of state but fewer students are being sent out of state due to funding issues. The committee noted that the level of services has not increased appreciably.

The committee discussed students who may or may not be on a diploma track or students with dual diagnosis and the responsibility of the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDDS) to provide services to these students.

Children and Youth committee members joined with the Policy and Law committee to be a part of the discussion and review of House Bill 119. Other members attended the Adult Transition Services committee meeting in order to hear the presentation from Dale Matusевич on certificates and diplomas.

The group discussed the Edmonton Project and Vision 2015. The group is looking into doing research into how special education melds with these two programs in Delaware.

## Adult Transition Services Committee 2007-2008

- ✓ A major goal of the Adult Transition Services Committee is to advocate for accessibility for all citizens with physical disabilities. The committee accomplished this goal by requesting minutes from the Universal Housing Coalition and collaborating with the Developmental Disabilities Council's (DDC) Universal Design Committee. In May 2008, Mr. Al Rose from the DDC presented to the committee on Universal Housing. The Council wrote a letter endorsing the concept of draft legislation which would require builders to include accessible features in new housing.
- ✓ The committee identified and followed up on education in the prison system. Committee member John Ryan from the Department of Corrections provided program updates. The committee invited Maureen Whelan, State Director for Adult Education to speak with the group about educational programs in the prison. With Maureen and fellow ATS member John Ryan, a tour was arranged at the Delaware Correctional Center. On February 27<sup>th</sup> Wendy Strauss and ATS committee member Danna Levy toured the facility. Danna brought back a detailed report on vocational and life skills opportunities for inmates.
- ✓ The ATS committee continues to advocate for improved transportation services across Delaware for people with disabilities. ATS monitors DART and DAST services. Cathy Smith from DART presented information to the general council and ATS members asked questions and voiced concerns at that time.
- ✓ The ATS committee advocates for improvements in the provision of medical, social and other health services for persons over the age of eighteen who are transitioning into adult services. They support, advocate and educate people on the work of the patient transition committee at A. I. DuPont Hospital for Children. Terri Hancharick, chairperson of ATS is a committee member and reports back to ATS. Terri is also working at the Center for Disabilities Studies (CDS) on the transition website, [Transitionmapde.org](http://Transitionmapde.org). ATS will continue their advocacy in regard to adequate insurance coverage for people with disabilities over the age of eighteen.
- ✓ The committee heard a presentation from committee member Barbara Riley from Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) on the Early Start to Supported Employment Program with DDDS. The Program promotes the addition of life skills and vocational skills to the academic curriculum in high schools. The program also explores alternative opportunities for people with disabilities including small business ownership.
- ✓ The ATS Committee also explored the availability of afterschool programs to accommodate students in special education from ages 14-21. Meghan Evans from Variety Club-Delaware and Dionne Jones from Kencrest came to two meetings to present information on their after school programs. The committee informed them of the struggle that working parents have in finding after school care for their teenagers and young adults. The GACEC wrote a letter of support to both programs and also asked them to consider an "afterschool program" for people who attend day programs during the day.



Adult Transition Services Committee Chair Terri Hancharick at the park with her children

## **Adult Transition Committee (ATS) 2008-2009**

One of the goals of the Adult Transitions Services Committee is to review and comment on current agency practices and services and the potential for increasing training and employment opportunities. The Committee invited Ed Tos from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) to speak about the Order of Selection program. In addition, ATS committee member, Barbara Riley keeps us updated on areas of interest at DVR.

Dale Matusевич, DOE state transition coordinator presented information to the Committee on transition issues. The committee was especially interested in the difference between diplomas and certificates and how employers view each of these when an individual is entering the workforce. Dale informed us that he did not think that was a major issue for people with disabilities.

Chairperson Robert Overmiller, ATS Chairperson Terri Hancharick and GACEC Executive Administrator Wendy Strauss met with Secretary Rita Landgraf of the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS). We discussed DHSS services, how the economic downturn is impacting the DHSS and how the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) funds will assist the State of Delaware.

Another important goal for this committee is to improve transportation options for persons with exceptionalities. Bonnie Hitch, Customer Service Manager of Delaware Transit/ DART First State recently began attending meetings to keep us updated on areas of interest. Committee members Nancy Cordrey and Jennifer Ridgley are very interested in this topic and attend Paratransit Work Group meetings with DART. There are many changes going on at DART due to the economy that affect people with disabilities.

Some of the changes the Committee is following are the ADA routes where DART does not have to go outside of a certain number of miles for pickups. This will especially impact individuals in Kent and Sussex County who need door to door service. DART is also considering having priority pick ups.

DART has supplied the committee with the drivers manual that will be used to train all DART drivers. Committee member, Jennifer Ridgley is going to start drivers training and will keep us apprised on the outcomes.

The ATS committee advocates for improvements in the provision of medical, social as well as other health services for individuals over the age of eighteen who are transitioning into adult services. ATS has spent many hours on this particular goal. ATS Chairperson Terri Hancharick attends the patient transition committee meetings at A. I. DuPont Hospital for Children. Terri is also working on the transition website at the Center for Disabilities Studies (CDS). She keeps the Committee and Council apprised of transition topics and areas of interest.

Terri will be attending the transition meetings for Christiana Care. Transition of Care is now a department at the DuPont Hospital for Children staffed by a full time social worker, full time physician, and part time advanced practice nurse. This is a great resource for families and physicians.

ATS has also started a recreation subcommittee. Terri and Wendy Strauss are active in this area. Paul Nicholson of the Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control (DNREC) has spoken to the ATS Committee on accessibility in State parks and playgrounds. Arrangements were made for the



release of an accessible bike to be housed in Bellevue State Park. This is the first accessible bike in a state park. Lt. Gov. Matt Denn attended the Press Conference and supports the work of this Committee. There was some very nice press coverage from local television stations, newspapers and radio. The Committee is trying to secure an accessible bike for lower Delaware as well.

In addition, this committee will be meeting with officials in Rehoboth Beach to discuss beach access. A letter drafted as a joint effort by the GACEC, Developmental Disabilities Council, State Council for Persons with Disabilities, Healthy Delawareans with Disabilities and Delaware Family to Family was sent to the Rehoboth Beach Planning Commission in regard to the development of their Comprehensive Development Plan and accessibility. Recommendations for beach access were made and the groups intend to follow up with a face to face meeting.

Terri and Wendy also joined the Innovative Action Committee (IAT) with the Department of Education. They are representing students with disabilities. The IAT is looking for some innovative, out of the box ideas for a very large grant/Race to the Top. This group met once a week through the summer to develop creative ideas for educating students in Delaware. Delaware will be competing with other states for this federal grant.

Terri and Wendy also met with Delaware Representative Quentin Johnson and discussed several legislative issues. Representative Johnson was very supportive of many initiatives of the GACEC. Representative Johnson is also the prime sponsor for House Concurrent Resolution 19 Disability History and Awareness Month. October is now Disability History Month for Delaware Schools. We will be working to get this information out to districts in late September.

The ATS committee advocates for improvements in the provision of Special Education services in the prison system.

Council Chairperson Robert Overmiller and Wendy Strauss met with Commissioner Danberg and others from the Department of Corrections to discuss available services and education in the prison system. Members of the ATS had compiled a list of questions that were discussed during the meeting. The attendees left the meeting feeling that their questions had been answered and that changes were being made to improve the welfare of individuals in the prison system.

Robert, Terri and Wendy also met with Secretary of Education Lillian Lowery, after meeting with Dan Cruce, Esq. Associate Secretary/Chief of Staff with DOE in April to discuss students with disabilities. Mr. Cruce was very supportive of the GACEC. The GACEC feels that it is very important to meet with the new members of the Governor's cabinet to ensure that they are aware of the role of the GACEC and how we can work together with them to impact individuals with exceptionalities. Wendy Strauss organized a meeting for members of the GACEC with Lt. Governor Matt Denn to discuss special education services and the stimulus funds that Delaware has received. Meeting attendees discussed funding for therapies, parents requesting services in student's IEPs, the lack of speech therapists, as well as many other issues. It has been a busy and productive year for the Adult Transition Services Committee.

## Policy and Law Committee 2007-2008

- ✓ This year the Policy and Law committee reviewed thirty-three pieces of proposed legislation and seventy-one proposed regulations, policies and interagency agreements. See **Appendix A and B** for a list of responses and outcomes of regulations and legislation commented on by the Council after review by the Policy and Law committee.
- ✓ Council endorsed **Senate Bill 222 (Early Childhood Education Quality Improvement)**, which is a quality improvement program for day care providers. Governor Ruth Ann Minner signed this bill into law on June 8, 2008.
- ✓ There were several other proposed bills endorsed by the GACEC which impacted persons with disabilities. **House Bill 393 (Student-Instructor Ratio)** was signed by Governor Minner on June 16, 2008. **House Bill 285 (Single Gender Charter Schools)**, **House Bill 297 (Children of Military Families)** and **11 DE Reg. 1404 (DOE Proposed Unsafe School Choice Option) Regulations** are additional examples of bills and regulations that Council provided input on as advocates for individuals with exceptionalities.
- ✓ A letter was written to legislators in support of **House Substitute 1 for House Bill 18 (Diploma Standards)**. This legislation essentially delays implementation of a statute tightening diploma standards from January, 2008 to January, 2011. As a result, a standard diploma would still be issued to a student who does not achieve competency on the DSTP until January, 2011. The rationale for the deferral is that the DSTP is pending revision. This initiative favors students with disabilities attempting to qualify for a diploma between 2008-2010 since students with disabilities demonstrate a lower than average rate of passing the DSTP. Governor Ruth Ann Minner signed this bill into law on April 5, 2007.
- ✓ Governor Ruth Ann Minner signed **House Bill 355 (Health Insurer Coverage of Hearing Aids)** on June 18, 2008.

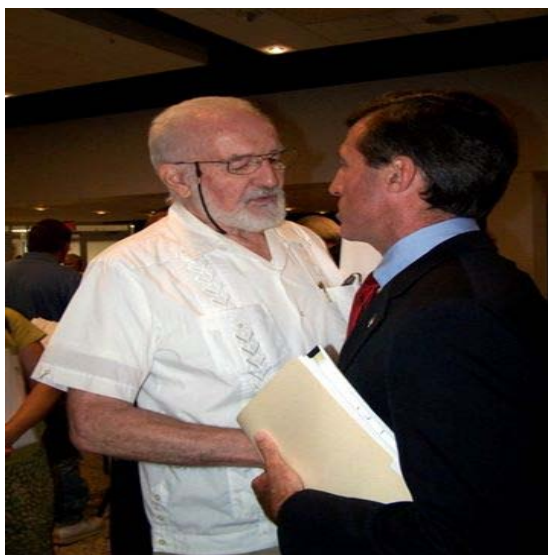


Nicole Brittingham with her children Taylor and Sammy at Legislative Hall for the signing of **House Bill 355**, Delaware's Health Insurer Coverage for Hearing Aids for Children. Both of Nicole's children will benefit from this legislation. This makes Delaware the 11th state to pass a hearing aid insurance law.

## Policy and Law Committee 2008-2009

- ✓ This year the Policy and Law committee reviewed twenty-eight pieces of proposed legislation and forty-five proposed regulations, policies and interagency agreements. See Appendix A for a list of responses and outcomes of regulations and legislation commented on by the Council after review by the Policy and Law committee.
- ✓ Council wrote a letter endorsing the piloting of a new funding system for special education in FY 2008. In 2008-2009, Council formed an ad hoc committee to discuss some of the changes to Delaware Code that would come about as a result of the Needs-Based Funding System. Epilogue language in the June 30, 2009 budget added the remaining districts to the pilot. The ad hoc committee will continue to meet to discuss the changes with DOE until the regulations are drafted.
- ✓ Council members met with DOE to discuss regulations impacting the Extended School Year (ESY). A new subsection was added, based on meetings with GACEC and DOE representatives, that will require a parental notice and acknowledgement section in the IEP form. That added section will identify students eligible for twelve month programs and document the parental option to accept a twelve month program.
- ✓ Council strongly endorsed **Senate Bill 65 (Dental Insurance)** which requires private health insurers, regulated by the Delaware Insurance Commissioner, to pay non-network dentists who treat children with severe disabilities, the higher of negotiated compensation or reasonable and customary compensation. This bill was signed by Governor Markell on 6/25/09.
- ✓ Council provided comments at a press conference called by Lt. Governor Matt Denn in support of **House Bill 199 (Newborn Screening Insurance Coverage)** and other legislation impacting children with disabilities. The bill passed the House and Senate and was expected to be signed by Governor Markell in July or August.
- ✓ Council wrote letters supporting legislation drafted by the Disabilities Law Program in response to issues impacting individuals with disabilities at the Delaware Psychiatric Center (DPC). **House Bill 163 (Mortality Review Committee)** creates a committee to assess causation; promote improvements in policies, practices, and the service delivery system; and reduce prospects for preventable deaths of individuals receiving residential services through the Department of Health and Social Services or funded private providers. **House Bill 36 (DLP Access to LTC Facilities)** authorizes the Disabilities Law Program (DLP) to solicit and investigate reports of abuse, neglect, mistreatment and financial exploitation in covered facilities; **House Bill 37 (Mental Health Bill of Rights - Restraint/Grievances)** adds various protections to the Mental Health Patients' Bill of Rights Act, including safeguards in the administration of restraints and requirement of an enhanced patient grievance system for DPC patients; **House Bill 38 (Death & Critical Incident Reports to DLP)** requires mental hospitals and residential centers covered by the Mental Health Patients' Bill of Rights Act to report deaths and critical incidents to DLP which is authorized by federal law to investigate such occurrences; **House Bill 39 (DPC Anti-retaliation)** introduced statutory anti-retaliation and protective provisions to protect all patients and employees at DPC and apply such protections to all DPC facilities and **House Bill 165 (Adult Abuse Registry)**, which permits the Department of Health and Social Services to provide online access to the names and nature of the conduct committed by those persons who are actively listed on the Adult Abuse Registry as a result of substantiated findings of abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation. House Bill 165 was signed by Governor Markell on 6/30/09.

- ✓ Council submitted comments and recommendation on a number of education related bills. **House Bill 119 (Public Schools)** elicited comments from the GACEC and other councils and lead to **House Substitute No. 1 for House Bill 119**. The legislation was intended to provide more flexibility for district expenditure of funds. After considerable dialogue between members of the Councils, DOE and the Lt. Governor, **House Substitute No. 1 for House Bill 119** was drafted and is expected to be signed by the Governor in July or August. Council endorsed the concept and provided commentary on **Senate Bill 95 (Consolidation of School Districts)** and **House Bill 120 (Zero Tolerance)** which was signed by Governor Markell on 6/26/09.
- ✓ **House Concurrent Resolution 19 (Disability History and Awareness Month)** was the result of a collaborative effort between Representative Quinton Johnson and the GACEC. This Concurrent Resolution was passed by the House and Senate. It proclaims the month of October to be “Disability History and Awareness Month” in Delaware and encourages all Delaware schools annually during the month of October to provide instruction and events focusing on disability history, people with disabilities and the disability rights movement.



Bernie Greenfield of the Policy and Law committee discusses issues with gubernatorial candidate John Carney.

# GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CITIZENS (GACEC)

The legal authority of this Council shall be Title 14, Chapter 31, Exceptional Persons, Sub. Sec. 3111: "The Governor shall appoint an advisory council to act in an advisory capacity to the State Board of Education and other State agencies on the needs of exceptional citizens." The General Assembly shall provide for the maintenance of the Council. The Council shall also serve in the capacity of the Advisory Panel as required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

(a) *General.* The membership of the State advisory panel must consist of members appointed by the Governor, or any other official authorized under State law to make these appointments, that is representative of the State population and that is composed of individuals involved in, or concerned with the education of children with disabilities including:

1. Parents of children with disabilities (ages birth through 26);
2. Individuals with disabilities;
3. Teachers;
4. Representatives of institutions of higher education that prepare special education and related services personnel;
5. State and local education officials, including officials who carry out activities under subtitle B of title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.);
6. Administrators of programs for children with disabilities;
7. Representatives of other State agencies involved in the financing or delivery of related services to children with disabilities;
8. Representatives of private schools and public charter schools;
9. Not less than one representative of a vocational, community, or business organization concerned with the provision of transition services to children with disabilities;
10. A Representative from the State child welfare agency responsible for foster care; and
11. Representatives from the State juvenile and adult corrections agencies.

(b) *Special Rule.* A majority of the members of the panel must be individuals with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities (ages birth through 26).

*GACEC plants the seeds for a better future for all Delawareans with disabilities and their families so everyone can blossom.*



**GACEC MEMBERSHIP LIST 2007-2008**

1. Darlene Arena - parent	18. Julie Johnson - parent
2. Michelle Arthurs - parent	19. Christopher Laniyan-person w/disability
3. Jean Butler-parent - higher education	20. Danna M. Levy - educator
4. Al Cavalier, Ph. D.- higher education	20. Patricia Maichle- parent
5. Melinda Ciccia - educator	21. Christopher McIntyre-child welfare
6. Nancy Cordrey - parent	22. Janet S. Milnamow - educator
7. Dr. Janet R. Cornwell – program admin.	23. William P. O’Neill - parent
8. Cathy Cowin - parent	24. Robert D. Overmiller - educator
9. Patricia Darlington - educator	25. Jennifer Pulcinella - parent
10. Helene Diskau - concerned citizen	26. Dennis Rubino - higher education
11. Jane Donovan - educator	27. Ronald Russo-charter school
12. Lisa Gonzon - educator	28. John Ryan - Dept. of Corrections
13. Bernhard Greenfield - person w/disability	29. Melissa Shahan - vocational/business
14. Terri A. Hancharick - parent	30. Judy A. Smith - parent
15. Brian J. Hartman, Esq. - parent	31. Martha Toomey - DOE liaison
16. G. Patrick Heffernan – parent	32. Charles Tulloch, II - person w/disability
17. Dave Hosier, II - parent	33. John A. Werner - parent



*Thank you GACEC members*

## GACEC MEMBERSHIP LIST 2008-2009

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Darlene Arena - parent</li><li>2. Michelle Arthurs - parent</li><li>3. Nina Bunting – concerned citizen</li><li>4. Jean Butler-parent - higher education</li><li>5. Carma Carpenter – program admin.</li><li>6. Al Cavalier, Ph. D.- higher education</li><li>7. Steve Chang - parent</li><li>8. Nancy Cordrey - parent</li><li>9. Dr. Janet R. Cornwell – program admin.</li><li>10. Helene Diskau - concerned citizen</li><li>11. Jane Donovan – educator</li><li>12. Karen Eller – educator</li><li>13. Joanna Francis - parent</li><li>14. Lisa Gonzon - educator</li><li>15. Bernhard Greenfield - person w/disability</li><li>16. Terri A. Hancharick - parent</li><li>17. Brian J. Hartman, Esq. – program admin.</li><li>18. Dave Hosier, II – parent</li><li>19. Julie Johnson - parent</li><li>20. Christopher Laniyan-person w/disability</li></ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>21. Danna M. Levy – educator</li><li>22. Christopher McIntyre-child welfare</li><li>23. Janet S. Milnamow – educator</li><li>24. Beth Mineo – higher education</li><li>25. Janella Newman – program admin.</li><li>26. William P. O’Neill – parent</li><li>27. Robert D. Overmiller – educator</li><li>28. Jennifer Pulcinella – parent</li><li>29. Jennifer Ridgley – person w/disability</li><li>30. Barbara Riley – vocational program</li><li>31. Blake Roberts – person w/disability</li><li>32. Dennis Rubino - higher education</li><li>33. Ronald Russo-concerned citizen</li><li>34. John Ryan - Dept. of Corrections</li><li>35. Brandy Smith – parent</li><li>36. Judy A. Smith – parent</li><li>37. Lavina Smith – McKinney-Vento rep.</li><li>38. Martha Toomey - DOE liaison</li><li>39. Mila Wells – parent</li><li>40. Vanessa Withers-Little - parent</li></ol> |
|---|--|

*Thank you GACEC members*



GACEC members and staff are involved on a recurrent basis with the following organizations and committees. These groups assist the Council with interagency collaboration and coalition building.

<b>Department of Education, Special Education Group</b>	<b>Universal Design Coalition</b>
<b>Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) for Part C of IDEA</b>	<b>Building Blocks Capacity Grant Committee</b>
<b>Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC)</b>	<b>Children&amp;Adults w/Attention Deficit Disorder (CHADD)</b>
<b>DE Alternate Portfolio Assessment (DAPA)</b>	<b>SCPD Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Committee</b>
<b>Partners Council for Children with Disabilities (PCCD)</b>	<b>Collaborative Efforts to Reinforce Transition Success (CERTS)</b>
<b>State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD)</b>	<b>SCPD Public Relations Group</b>
<b>DE &amp; Natl. Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)</b>	<b>Healthy Delawareans w/Disabilities 2010</b>
<b>Governor’s Commission on Community-Based Alternatives for Individuals with Disabilities (GCCBAID)</b>	<b>DOE Teacher Retention and Recruitment Committee</b>
<b>Association for the Rights of Citizens with Mental Retardation in Delaware (ARC-Delaware)</b>	<b>Delaware Ticket to Work Committee</b>
<b>Coordinating Council for Children with Disabilities (CCCD)</b>	<b>Camden-Wyoming Challenger Little League</b>
<b>Parent Information Center of Delaware (PIC)</b>	<b>Speech/Language Pathologist Taskforce</b>
<b>Autism Delaware (AD, formerly known as ASD)</b>	<b>Delaware Counseling Association</b>
<b>Protection &amp; Advocacy of Individual Rights (PAIR)</b>	<b>Alliance for Full Participation Committee</b>
<b>Univ. of DE Center for Disabilities Studies (CDS)</b>	<b>Abuse/Neglect Child Death Review Panel</b>
<b>Dept. of Labor Vocational Rehabilitation Advisory Committee</b>	<b>Adult Autism Taskforce</b>
<b>DE Student Testing Program (DSTP) Task Force</b>	<b>Association for Supervision &amp; Curriculum Development</b>
<b>Workforce Investment Act Advisory Board</b>	<b>Correctional Education Association</b>
<b>Governor’s Commission on Employment of People w/Disabilities</b>	<b>American Counseling Association</b>
<b>Division of Vocational Rehabilitation/Delaware Autism Program (DVR/DAP) Taskforce</b>	<b>Natl. Assoc. for the Education of Young Children</b>
<b>Downs Syndrome Association</b>	<b>Brandywine Special Needs PTA (BSNPTA)</b>
<b>DOE IEP Work Group</b>	<b>Delaware Association of School Administrators</b>
<b>Hearing Loss Association of DE</b>	<b>Delaware Family Support Coordinating Council</b>
	<b>Respite Care Committee</b>
	<b>DE Coalition for Americans w/Disabilities Act</b>
	<b>Delaware Family Voices</b>



**The GACEC gratefully acknowledges the efforts and assistance of representatives from the Department of Education, representatives from various State of Delaware agencies and our invited guests. Council is indebted to these individuals who have been so helpful by attending our meetings to provide information, additional points of view and answer questions for our committees and Council as a whole.**

### **Presenters & topics 2007-2008**

The Honorable Valerie Woodruff, Delaware Secretary of Education, Steering Committee Member and Implementation Team of Vision 2015 re: Information on Vision 2015

Barbara Riley, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) re: DVR/DTCC Partnership Supported Education Program and Early Start to Supported Employment Program

Cathy Smith, DART First State Planning Manager re: DART Business Plan

Martha Toomey, DOE re: Response to Intervention (RtI); Needs Based Funding Initiatives, District Progress Reports from the annual performance review, Update on the pilot secondary and transition IEP forms Update on the Rollout of IDEA; Delaware's Regulatory changes to the Administrative Manual for Special Education Services (AMSES))

Dr. Martha Brooks, DOE re: No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and procedures for working with districts and schools that are Under Improvement (UI)

Maureen Whelan, DOE re: DOE/ Department of Corrections Prison Education Program

Dr. Peter Doehring, Delaware Autism Program re: Delaware Autism Program (DAP)

Dr. Wendy Roberts, DOE re: Delaware State Testing Program (DSTP)

Dionne Jones and Debbie Lord, Kencrest re: After School Program

Michael Birnbaum Director and Megan Evans, Variety-The Children's Charity re: After school programs

Brian Touchette, DOE re: Delaware Alternate Portfolio Assessment (DAPA) and deletion of the functional skills curriculum, new IEP form

Al Rose, Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) re: Universal Design Housing

Margaret Haas, Division of Developmental Disabilities Services re: Early Start to Supported Employment

Dr. Jim Lesko, DOE re: Screening process for infants and early childhood services

Mark Chamberlin, DOE re: Dropout Rates in Delaware

Karen Jones, DOE re: Accessible Instructional Materials Consortium (Readable Print)

## **Presenters & topics 2008-2009**

The honorable Senator Nancy Cook re: Proclamation and plaque to the family of Melissa Shahan

Karen Jones, DOE re: Inclusive Schools Initiative

Paul Nicholson, Supervisor of Park Operations, DNREC re: accessible parks in Delaware

Martha Toomey, DOE re: Interagency Collaborative Team (ICT) 2006 report and Annual Performance Report (APR) to federal DOE

Bonnie Hitch, DART First State re: Paratransit Work Group

Anne Phillips re: Family to Family Health Information Center Program

Ed Tos, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) re: DVR Order of Selection

The honorable Matthew Denn-Lt. Governor re: his educational plan with focus on special education

Terri Hancharick, Center for Disabilities Studies re: Transition of Care Program

Doug Tynan and Norma Everett of Nemours re: Help Me Grow Program

Lynne Knable, Jeanne Zimmerman/teachers; Marcus Young and Kurtis Cherry/students from the Delaware Autism Program Transition Project at Wesley College re: presentation to retiring Secretary of Education Valerie Woodruff and retiring Associate Secretary of Education and former GACEC member Martha Brooks

Kris Stroh, "All the Difference" Inc. re: "All the Difference" therapy services for children with developmental and learning disabilities

Lori Duerr, DOE re: Response to Intervention (RtI) update

Dale Matusevich, DOE re: drop out rates and transition; diplomas vs. Certificates of Completion

Dennis Rozumalski, DOE re: Delaware Grant to Integrate Schools and Mental Health System

Janae Aglio, DHSS re: Newborn Screening Program and CDS "Reducing Loss to Follow-Up after Failure to Pass Newborn Screening Grant

Samtra Devard re: Hope Center of Delaware and Balcony People

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