



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

*The Council's adopted role is "to provide leadership through advice giving and advocacy for the education of and amelioration of unmet needs of citizens of all ages who are exceptional." Council activities in fulfilling this role are intended "to improve the lives of Delaware citizens who are exceptional."*

- \* 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 2005-2006**  
**SUBMITTED BY JOHN A. WERNER, CHAIRPERSON AND**  
**WENDY S. STRAUSS, EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR**



## **Message from the Chair**

I have been both humbled and honored to serve as the Chair of this Council.

This Council 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 better the lives of those 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.

Our standing issues committees do most of the actual work of this Council; Children and Youth Committee looks into specific issues related to the school age children of our community; Infant and Early Childhood Committee looks at issues surrounding the identification and initial services for children birth through age five; Adult Transition Committee looks at issues such as housing and vocational opportunities for individuals who are becoming adults; and Policy and Law Committee looks into the regulations and proposed legislation in order to comment on how the potential regulations will affect persons with exceptionalities in our state. Additionally, we have standing administrative committees for Personnel and for Membership. Ad-hoc committees are created as needed. This framework has served us well.

Council members participate on multiple outside councils and committees, providing stakeholder feedback to the Department of Education in numerous areas. We continue to maintain a close working relationship with members of the Department of Education and other agencies that provide services for persons with disabilities.

This year, thanks to the good members of the General Assembly and the Governor, we were funded for and able to hire a new staff member to assist with the work of our Council. We are grateful to have the additional assistance, since our staff enables our all-volunteer Council to be effective.

The GACEC bids a fond farewell to the following members who resigned from Council this year:

Meri-Jo Montague  
Deborah Pote  
Diane Merritt  
Rosanna Andrews

On behalf of all Delawareans with exceptionalities, I sincerely thank the many active members of the Council who spent much time and energy towards our goals, as well as our dedicated staff.

John A. Werner  
Chairperson

## **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. Advisory council for exceptional citizens. The Governor shall appoint an advisory council to act in an advisory capacity to the Department of Education, 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.
2. Federal Statute: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and its amendments
3. As mandated by the State and the IDEA, the Council will:
  - (A) be an advocate for the needs of exceptional citizens in the State of Delaware.
  - (B) advise the Governor, General Assembly, the State Board of Education, the Department of Education and other agency heads, as appropriate, on the unmet needs and/or progress of local or state agencies responsible for providing education and related services to Delaware's exceptional citizens.
  - (C) review and comment publicly upon any recommendations for legislation proposed by the Department of Education and other agencies. The Council will review and comment upon any proposed regulations, manuals, plans, or distribution of funding affecting Delaware's exceptional citizens.
  - (D) assist the State in developing and reporting such information and evaluations to the U. S. Commissioner of Education and Office of Civil Rights under Section 618 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. This assistance shall include evaluating education programs, services and activities in the state and publishing the results thereof with recommendations to the executive, legislative, educational and other public agencies in the state with interests and responsibilities thereto.
  - (E) study and recommend legislation relative to exceptional citizens in Delaware.

## **Organizational Structure**

GACEC is an all volunteer Council in which the composition of GACEC membership represents a broad cross-section of Delaware's statewide community. The GACEC holds regularly scheduled meetings which are open to the public. 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.

### **Thirteenth Annual Fall Planning Retreat**

The GACEC held its Thirteenth Annual Fall Planning Retreat on September 16 & 17, 2005 at the Virden Center in Lewes, Delaware, as part of the Council's planning activities for FY 2006. Participants at the Retreat included GACEC members and staff, members of the Department of Education (DOE), the Center for Disabilities Studies (CDS) at the University of Delaware, United Cerebral Palsy, a teacher and students from the John S. Charlton Transition Project at Wesley College, a student from Caesar Rodney High School, two representatives from Independent Resources, Inc., along with other adults from the community.

At the Retreat, the Council offered parting gifts and said goodbye to long time members, Dr. Martha Brooks, Dr. Ron Engard and Dr. Michael Gamel-McCormick.

Martha Toomey from the Department of Education gave Council an overview of the State Improvement Plan which is being morphed into the federal Annual Performance Review.

James Brooks, a graduate from the John S. Charlton Transition Project provided music at the opening and closing of the GACEC meeting on Friday, September 16, 2005.

On Friday evening, Council heard discussion from a panel of young adults on their disabilities and how their lives have been impacted by the services they need and receive. The members of the panel were James Brooks, Tara Bustard, Jeffery Fletcher, Ray Hunt, John McNeal, Anthony Paolini and Kyheen Weaver. Some of the areas the individuals addressed were education, transportation, transition from school to work, employment, medical care, medical accessibility and home health care.

Retreat activities involved extensive planning, including:

- A survey of perceived needs of all Council members.
- Council recommendations to be included with DOE recommendations to the Legislature for FY 2006.
- Formulation of the FY 2005-2006 GACEC operational plan.
- Council reviewed their yearly goals.

### **The Council goals are as follows:**

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 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.

### **GACEC Budget Report**

The GACEC FY 2007 budget request was submitted to the Office of Management and Budget in November 2005. Chairperson, John Werner, along with Executive Administrator, Wendy Strauss presented the proposed budget to the Joint Finance Committee in March 2006. Council sought an increase in the contractual line of \$2,500 and an increase of \$1,500 in the travel line. In addition, Council asked for a one-time adjustment of \$3,400 to cover new computers and furniture for the office, which would bring the total budget up to the amount of \$168,800.

Council was granted its request for additional funds and would like to thank our legislators for being supportive of the GACEC.

### **Council Awards**

Brian J. Hartman, Esq. was one of five state level recipients of the Jefferson Award. Brian works tirelessly to ensure the rights of individuals with disabilities. Brian is very dedicated and compassionate when it comes to legislation and advocacy. He has left a permanent mark on the state of Delaware in the areas of education, accessibility, medical care, employment and independent living.



Brian J. Hartman, Esq.

Kathie Cherry received the Autism Society of Delaware (ASD) Leadership Award in April 2006. Kathie serves as the Kent County Liaison for ASD and was an ASD Board member for several years. She was honored for her valuable time, commitment and leadership.

### Council Collaborative Efforts

Throughout the year, members and staff of the GACEC collaborate with other state agencies and advocacy groups in efforts impacting individuals with disabilities. Council provides input and support on issues affecting our constituents. The following pages highlight some of the collaborative activities involving the Council in FY2006 in the State and at the national level. On July 24, 2006, many individuals from the disability community gathered at Plot 183 on Valley Run Street in Clearbrook Estates near Seaford for the groundbreaking ceremony of a Universally Designed House.



Groundbreaking

Census figures released in 2003 showed Delaware as the fifth fastest growing state in the Country in terms of the number of residents aged 65 and older. Nevada, Arizona, Florida and South Carolina are the other four states. With Delaware's growing population of retired citizens and with the growth of more individuals with disabilities moving out of nursing homes and into the community, there will be a demand for houses such as this one.

Universally designed houses will have wider hallways and doors. Also, all key living functions take place on one floor. Universal design can add up to five percent to the cost of the house depending on which features are adapted. High tech elements can be included such as countertops that can be raised and lowered and remote control features for other areas such as curtains. However, some of these items can be a substantial expense. Studies show that it is more expensive to renovate a house to make it accessible after it has been built than it is to build an accessible house from the beginning.

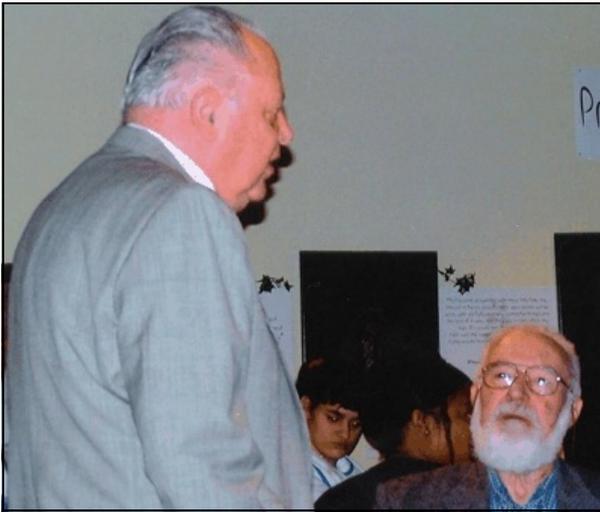
Steve Tull of Tull/Ramey Builders will be building the house near Seaford. This house will serve as a model for those who want to see how it looks and works. The house will be on the market for approximately \$240,000.



Terri Hancharick and family at Universal Design groundbreaking



Disability Awareness Picnic



Legislative Brunch



Legislative Brunch

### **Delaware Insurance Commissioner's Insurance Guide for Persons with Disabilities**

Matt Denn, Delaware Insurance Commissioner and Gregory Patterson, Advisor to the Insurance Commissioner, brought together key advocates in the Delaware disabilities community in order to develop a comprehensive insurance guide for individuals living with a disability. Representatives who participated in this project were Brian J. Hartman, Esquire, Disability Law Program; Rita Marocco, National Alliance for the Mentally Ill-Delaware; Patricia Maichle, Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council; Kyle Hodges, State Council for Persons With Disabilities and Wendy Strauss, Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens. The guide will assist persons living with disabilities in understanding the types of health insurances, managed care terms, and other helpful tips regarding utilization of insurance coverage. The guide was completed in January with hard copies being made available through the Insurance Commissioners office or their website at [www.state.de.us/insurance/default.shtml](http://www.state.de.us/insurance/default.shtml).

## Council Collaborative Activities w/Alliance for Full Participation (AFP)

GACEC members and staff joined with over thirty representatives from Delaware to be a part of the Alliance for Full Participation, an Alliance formed to promote the creation of a society where people with developmental disabilities can fully participate and lead lives filled with dignity, respect and opportunity. Over 2000 people attended this unprecedented Summit which took place over four days in September 2005 in Washington, DC. GACEC members and staff worked with other participants from the state to address issues of concern to persons with developmental disabilities in five areas. Those areas were housing, transportation, education, employment and personal safety. GACEC members took part in an interactive town hall meeting in DC and returned to Delaware with plans to continue working towards the implementation of plans and policies here at home. The members of the Delaware Alliance for Full Participation team decided their ultimate goal is to create a society where people with disabilities can achieve full participation in their communities and lead lives filled with dignity and respect for all.



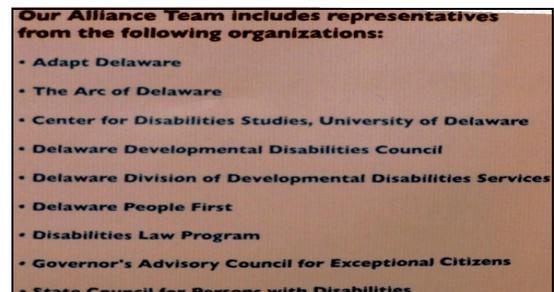
Delaware Participants at the Alliance for Full Participation (AFP)



Martin Luther King, III delivers an address at the AFP



Delaware's poster presentation on the need for community based services



Delaware's AFP team organizations

## **Delaware's Alliance for Full Participation: Call for Participation**

The goal statements developed by the group are as follows:

We can find **Leadership** by

- Continuing education programs on self-advocacy, systems advocacy, leadership, and support and champion existing advocacy training programs.
- Leadership and professional development programs to help build leaders within the system.
- Promoting the field of disabilities among students and young professionals.

We will find **Community Membership and Self Determination** by

- Building communities that welcome and support persons with disabilities.
- Building infrastructure to move toward self-directed services.
- Removing barriers to services and providing alternative funding streams.
- Encouraging a policy of open dialogue around policy and systems implementations.

We will **Enhance the Quality of Support & Services** by

- Upgrading the workforce and establishing performance expectations.
- Policy and administrative changes including pay equity between state and provider agencies, and other benefits.
- Developing minimum standards for all direct support professional, as well as a universal curriculum that focuses on values and competencies.
- Creating a true person-centered system and promoting the role of government to provide funding for services.

We need commitment from each and every one of us to help us realize the critical changes in policy and practice that need to occur in order to provide individuals with disabilities enhanced opportunities to become valued, contributing members to their local communities.

### **Can we count on you?**

GACEC members and staff will continue to work with the AFP team on these items which so closely parallel the GACEC goals and activities.

## **Joint Retreat with the Developmental Disabilities Council and the State Council for Persons with Disabilities**

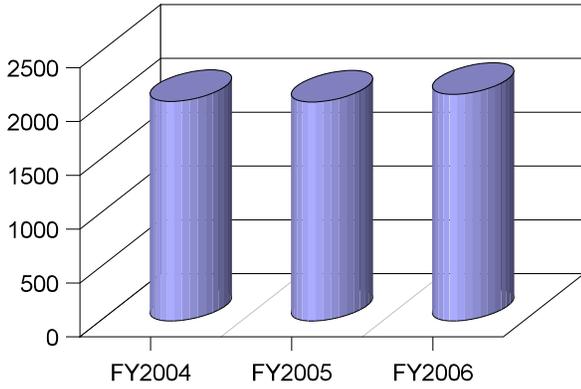
In March, the Council held its first ever joint retreat with the Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) and the State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD). In preparation for the retreat, all Council members were provided a file of information for their review and consideration. The file included the state plans from each council as well as other materials related to the work and priorities of each of the councils. A combined list of goals was developed and organized into eight strategic areas: 1) Health care accessibility; 2) early childhood education and childcare; 3) education; 4) employment; 5) empowerment and recreation; 6) home health care; 7) housing; and 8) transportation. The retreat afforded participants the opportunity to hear from a panel of four young persons with disabilities and their families regarding the eight priority areas. The panelists were: Aaron Brown, Steve Slotkin, Brigitte Hancharick, and Juliann Johnson. The GACEC will be reviewing the outcomes from this joint effort when planning their annual goals at the Fall 2007 Retreat.



Joint Retreat

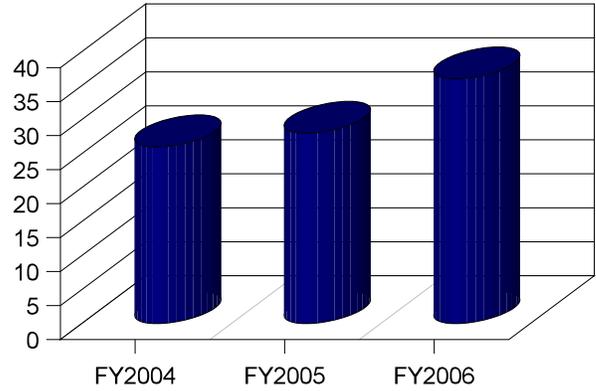
## FY2006 Performance and Collaboration Measures

**Letters on State Legislation**  
Performance Measure # 1



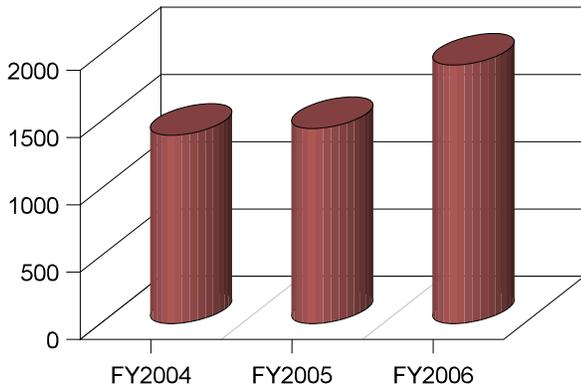
Letters on legislation and regulations to elected officials, DOE, SBE and other agency representatives.

**Participation by GACEC**  
Performance Measure #2



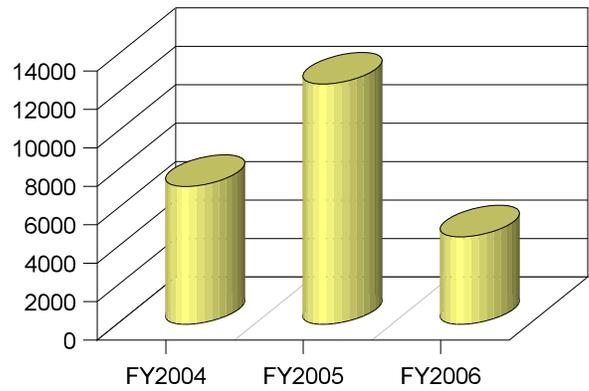
Boards, councils and committees with participation by GACEC staff and members.

**Individuals Reached by GACEC**  
Performance Measure #3



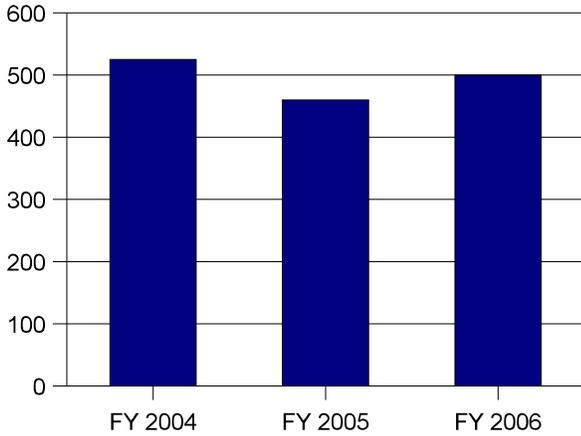
Individuals reached via GACEC presentations or co-sponsorship of conferences & workshops on education & disability related issues, by members and staff.

**GACEC Website Accessed**  
Performance Measure #3



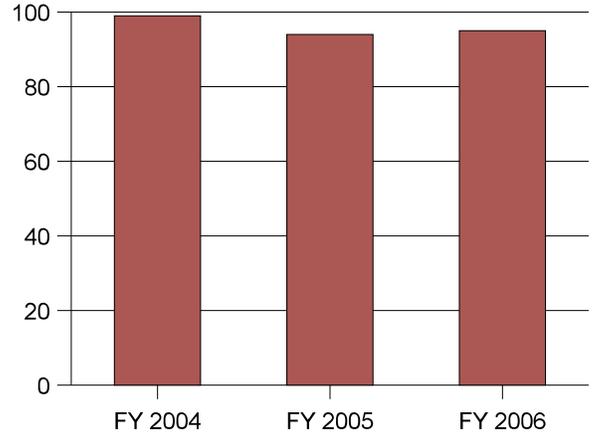
Times GACEC website home page accessed annually.

### Co-sponsored by GACEC



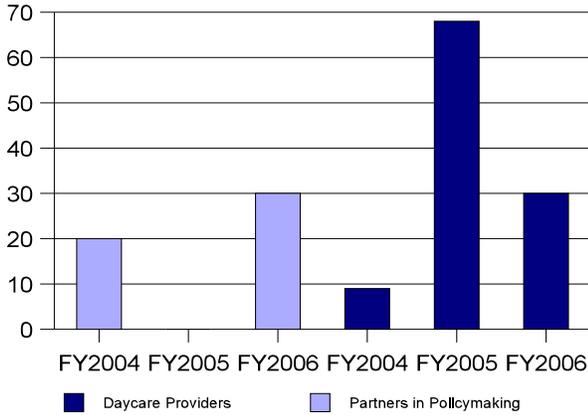
Number of attendees at the annual LIFE Conference, a GACEC co-sponsored event.

### Collaborated w/Sponsor



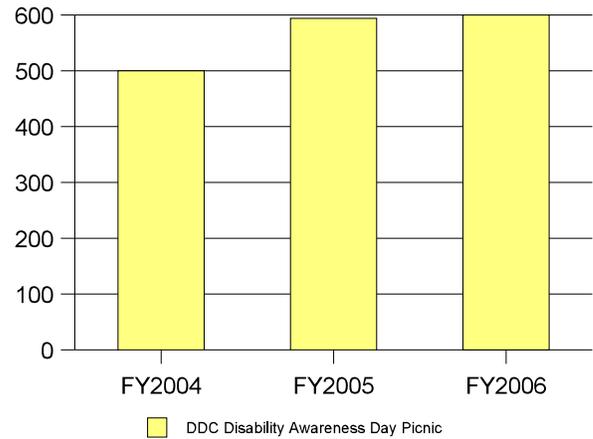
Number of individuals with disabilities, advocates and legislators who attended the Legislative Agenda Event.

### Executive Administrator Presentations



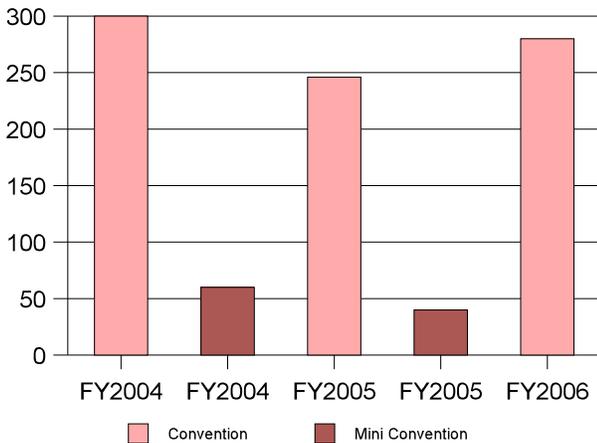
Number of day care providers who received information from the Executive Administrator on the GACEC and Number of self-advocates and family members of persons with disabilities who attended the Advocacy Panel presentation conducted at the Partners in Policymaking advocacy training.

### Collaboration



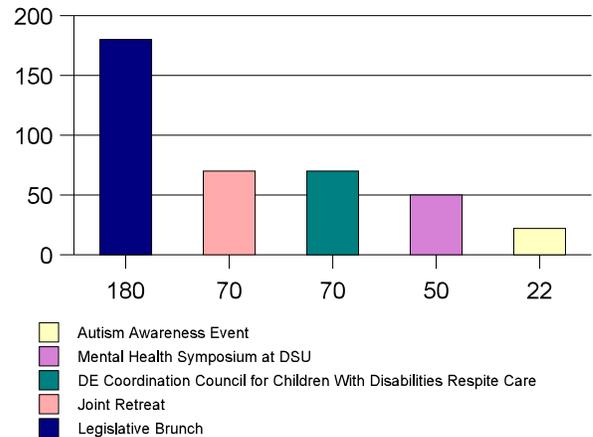
DDC Annual Disability Awareness Day Picnic -number of participants at this collaborative event between the DDC, GACEC and others which focuses on increasing awareness of issues and services available for persons with disabilities.

### DE Council for Exceptional Children



Number of persons attending this collaborative event who received information on the GACEC.

### Other FY 06



Number of attendees at collaborative events who received information on the GACEC.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES**

### **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT 2005-2006**

Three individuals were approved for membership by the GACEC Membership Committee and referred to Governor Ruth Ann Minner for consideration of appointment. The following individuals have been appointed to the Council by the Governor during FY2006:

Darlene Arena  
Michelle Arthurs  
Michael Kennedy

- ◆ Two members requested and were granted a one-year leave of absence.
- ◆ Five members submitted their resignations to Council for personal reasons.
- ◆ Two individuals applied for Council membership and were approved by the Membership Committee. They are presently awaiting appointment by the Governor.
- ◆ One individual submitted a membership application at the last meeting of the fiscal year.
- ◆ The Council and Membership Committee continue to recruit individuals who represent state juvenile and adult corrections agencies, charter and private schools, a representative who works with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Act, a representative from the agency responsible for foster care and a representative from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation in order to fulfill the membership mandate as stated in Council By-laws and the re-authorized IDEA.

### **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT 2005-2006**

The goal of the personnel committee this year was to fill the Operation Support Specialist position. Members of the committee, along with the Executive Administrator, worked with the state personnel office and governor's staff in order to develop the posting for the position. The position was posted and over 80 applications were received. Selected applicants were interviewed. Susan Hayes was selected to fill the position of GACEC Operation Support Specialist.

## **ISSUES COMMITTEES**

### **INFANT AND EARLY CHILDHOOD 2005-2006**

The goals and action steps of the Infant and Early Childhood Committee were as follows:

One of the goals of the committee was to strengthen the family voice in guiding recommendations from this committee. The committee requested New Scripts parents who have co-taught TECE I and II consider joining the committee. Michelle Arthurs has joined the committee and GACEC and has become an active part of the group's work. Michelle has a child involved in 619 services through Appoquinimink School District and also serves as a New Scripts parent.

Another goal of the committee had been to study and make recommendations regarding issues related to children from birth to five with disabilities and their families. The group studied the work of the statewide and county early care and education councils.

The Committee joined statewide efforts in advocating for increased funding for Purchase of Care for child care to assist families in poverty and those with children with disabilities to meet their child care needs. They also discussed the need to provide child care providers with information and support regarding inclusion. Committee members have discussed developing a presentation on inclusion to present to child care providers throughout the state.

The Infant and Early Childhood Committee became informed on new initiatives impacting young 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 the monthly meetings, they discussed current initiatives and their impact on children with disabilities and their families. The issues of inclusion and the transition of children at age three from early intervention services to preschool special education continue to be of high concern.

The committee will continue to study in order to make recommendations regarding issues related to children with disabilities from birth to five and their families. This year they continued to have presentations from various speakers and discussions on the Child Outcomes Project. The Child Outcomes Project is preparing to establish processes to measure the progress of children, ages birth to five, served in early intervention and/or preschool special education programs. The committee will need to follow up on this project in the fall of 2006.

A major concern for this committee is the transition of children at the age of three into Part B services. Transition is especially important in terms of compliance with State Performance Plan requirements and the needs of children and families. The Infant and Early Childhood Committee will continue to follow this issue as the state conducts extensive training in this area in the fall 2006.

This committee will continue the work they began last year in advocating for the preschool unit count and the use of "developmental delay" for children until age 8. The committee is following school districts that are implementing alternative funding methods as to how those methods affect funding for

preschool children with disabilities. They will continue to advocate for funding that supports inclusion and continuity for children birth to five.

### **CHILDREN AND YOUTH 2005-2006**

This year proved to be a busy year for the Children and Youth Committee. They had several visitors who shared information concerning the needs of and somewhat controversial issues in relation to persons with impaired hearing. The committee also reviewed several reports from the Department of Education and school districts.

This year, the goals for the Children and Youth Committee were as follows:

- 1) Review the effectiveness of discipline practices.
- 2) Review implementation of inclusion practices.
- 3) Review State Assessment initiatives (DSTP and DAPA)

The committee reviewed the reports of the different vocational school districts in order to address the question of whether there is a disproportionately low number of children with special needs who are accepted into vocational programs. The committee reviewed a report by Mark Chamberlin, from the Department of Education, who had completed an investigation of the vocational schools and published a report entitled, "Career-Technical Education Special Education Participation Report" on August 29, 2005.

The issue concerning the inclusion of children with exceptionalities in charter schools was also discussed. The Charter School of Wilmington was of particular interest during this review and discussion. Letters were written to all charters schools in the State, requesting the following data:

1. *Enrollment*
2. *Demographics*
3. *Number of applicants for enrollment*
4. *Activities your charter school does in order to recruit children*
5. *Number of special education students served*
6. *Number of gifted and talented students served*
7. *Tests given prior to enrollment*

Responses were received from the majority of charter schools addressing our concerns. This information was reviewed by the Council which resulted in a letter being sent to the Office of the Attorney General requesting an investigation be conducted on enrollment practices being utilized by the schools.

At the request of Linda Heller, from the Hearing Loss Association of Delaware (HLADE), the committee looked into the many issues concerning children and adults who are deaf or hard of hearing. Linda Heller spoke with this committee in March 2006, and Ed Bosso, former principal of the Margaret S. Sterck- Delaware School for Deaf, spoke to this committee in April 2006. Mr. Bosso discussed how the school handles the educational needs of students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

The committee also discussed the new graduation requirements and has many questions that we will seek answers to in the upcoming year concerning the impact of these requirements on children with special needs.

### **ADULT/TRANSITION SERVICES 2005-2006**

One of the goals of the Adult Transition Committee was to research the availability of respite programs in Delaware. Carma Carpenter, director of United Cerebral Palsy in Felton, Delaware, came to speak to the committee about respite options that United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) has for families.

Another major goal of the committee was to investigate and research transportation issues for persons with disabilities. The committee invited Dr. Dean Betts of DOE to discuss driver's education issues. The committee researched the availability of accessible vans and assistive technology in cars in drivers education programs. They were informed by Dr. Betts that Moss Rehab, an out of state firm, comes to Delaware with accessible vans. It would be too expensive to have accessible vans in state. The committee will continue to work on improved transportation services across Delaware for people with disabilities. The committee will be proposing some draft legislation on driver education for the Policy and Law Committee to review and comment on.

The Committee met with Lizzy MacDonald, a student with disabilities, to discuss her concerns and obstacles in taking drivers education. They also met with Bonnie Hitch of DART. She informed the committee of the strides the Department of Transportation has taken in regard to addressing the transportation needs of persons with disabilities.

The Committee also met with Corey Nourie from the University of Delaware Center for Disabilities Studies. Corey shared information on the REAL project with the group. The committee will continue to research the availability of other recreational and social activities for persons with disabilities.

One other goal of the committee was to identify and follow up on special education in the prison education system. Information was requested on the prison education system status report. At the close of this fiscal year, the report had not been received.

The committee also invited someone from the Department of Corrections (DOC) and the Department of Education (DOE) to give them information on the status of education in the prison system. No speakers were available at the end of this year due to staffing changes. A representative from DOC will speak with the committee in October of 2006.

### **POLICY AND LAW COMMITTEE 2005-2006**

The Policy and Law Committee reviews and analyzes proposed state legislation and regulations as well as state policies and federal legislation affecting exceptional citizens. The GACEC in conjunction with other Councils and Committees, was successful in recommending changes in a number of pieces of legislation. This year the Policy and Law Committee reviewed thirty-nine pieces of proposed legislation and twenty-seven proposed regulations, policies and interagency agreements. See Appendix A for a list of regulations and legislation commented on by the Council after review by the

Policy and Law committee, with responses and outcomes. The following is a brief summary of a few of the issues addressed by the Committee and Council, along with responses to Council recommendations.

Comments were written to the Honorable Ruth Ann Minner, Governor of Delaware; the Honorable Jennifer Davis, Cabinet Secretary of the Office of Management and Budgets; and the Honorable Valerie Woodruff, Secretary of Education in regard to Section 386 of the Fiscal Year 2006 budget epilogue, which relates to students with Learning Disabilities in the Special Education population. Council pointed out several problems with the provision, which had been in the epilogue language for at least fifteen years.

The Department of Education responded that it had made requests in the past to remove this section from the budget epilogue; however, it was determined that this language should be continued in the epilogue. The DOE agreed with the GACEC assessment and stated that it would recommend the deletion. The section was deleted in the FY 2007 budget epilogue.

In addition, the committee reviewed the Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance (DMMA) regulation which would amend the definition of “institutional spouse” and “community spouse” in the context of its long-term care and spousal impoverishment standards. The GACEC opposed the proposed spousal impoverishment regulations intended to reduce the amount of protected community spousal assets for a number of reasons. The Division wrote the GACEC a letter stating that the DMMA withdrew their proposed regulation.

Council wrote a letter to Governor Ruth Ann Minner in regard to Executive Order 81 (Employment Discrimination) and Executive Order 86 asking that the Executive Order be amended to include “genetic information” which was the only basis omitted from the regulation which is proscribed under Delaware’s employment discrimination in statute, Title 19, Del. C. §711. On May 2, 2006 Governor Ruth Ann Minner signed Executive Order 86 which added genetic information to the list of prohibitive discrimination in state employment.

Council endorsed Executive Order 84 which formed a Task Force to review and research the shortage of speech language pathologists in Delaware and the lack of Delaware colleges that offer classes for Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) accreditation. The Executive Order was signed by Governor Minner on April 13, 2006. The order called for a representative from the GACEC to be on the Task Force. The GACEC Executive Administrator is filling that mandate.

Listed below is a comprehensive list of organizations and councils as well as public meetings with which GACEC staff and/or members are involved on a recurrent basis, and which assist the Council with interagency collaboration and coalition building.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| State Board of Education  | University of Delaware Center for Disabilities Studies (CDS)                      |
| Department of Education, Special Education Group  | Department of Labor Vocational Rehabilitation Advisory Committee                  |
| Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) for Part C of IDEA   | Delaware Student Testing Program (DSTP) Task Force                                |
| Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC)  | Workforce Investment Act Advisory Board   |
| Delaware Alternate Portfolio Assessment (DAPA) Program  | Governor's Commission on Employment of People w/Disabilities                      |
| Partners Council for Children with Disabilities (PCCD)  | Division of Vocational Rehabilitation/Delaware Autism Program (DVR/DAP) Taskforce |
| State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD)  | Downs Syndrome Association  |
| Delaware Federation & National Federation Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)                  | 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Learning Center Advisory Committee                       |
| Governor's Commission on Community-Based Alternatives for Individuals with Disabilities (GCCBAID) | "Coaching" Steering Committee   |
| Association for the Rights of Citizens with Mental Retardation in Delaware (ARC-Delaware)         | Partners in Excellence (PIE) Early Care and Education Initiative                  |
| Coordinating Council for Children with Disabilities (CCCD)  | Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Disorder (CHADD)                       |
| Parent Information Center of Delaware (PIC)   | SCPD Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Committee                                       |
| Autism Society of Delaware (ASD)  | Collaborative Efforts to Reinforce Transition Success (C.E.R.T.S)                 |
| Protection and Advocacy of Individual Rights (PAIR)   | SCPD Public Relations Group   |
|   | DOE Child Outcomes Work Group (COWG)  |

DOE Teacher Retention and Recruitment	Delaware Counseling Association
Delaware Ticket to Work Committee	Alliance for Full Participation Committee
Camden-Wyoming Challenger Little League	Abuse/Neglect Child Death Review Panel (ANCDRP)
Executive Order 84-Speech/Language Pathologist Taskforce	

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**

- ▶ Lisa Marcum, DOE - State Performance Plan (SPP)
- ▶ Brian Touchette, DOE – DAPA and deletion of the functional skills curriculum
- ▶ Corey Nourie, CDS - Recreation Enhancement and Learning Program (REAL)
- ▶ Jim Lesko, DOE - Early Childhood Initiatives
- ▶ Jack Jadach, principal, John G. Leach School - Collaborative Efforts to Reinforce Transition Success (CERTS)
- ▶ Carma Carpenter, UCP- Respite
- ▶ Beverly Stapleford, CDS and Deanna Pedicone of ARC- Project Illumination
- ▶ Dr. Dean Betts, DOE - Drivers Education for Children with Special Needs
- ▶ Ellen Wharton & Evelyn Keating, Family and Workplace Connection - Advocacy
- ▶ Linda Heller, Hearing Loss Association of DE (HLADE) - Services for children with hearing loss
- ▶ Dr. Wendy Roberts, DOE - DSTP and Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Assessment Tool
- ▶ Lizzy MacDonald - Driver Education from the perspective of a student with a disabilities
- ▶ Edward Bosso - former director of the Sterck Delaware School for the Deaf, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources - School Services for hearing impaired students, Christina School District
- ▶ Dr. Larry Gabbert, DOE - Charter Schools
- ▶ Bonnie Hitch, DART- Paratransit System

**GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CITIZENS  
(GACEC)  
MEMBERSHIP LIST 2005-2006**

Marie-Anne Aghazadian	Danna M. Levy
Darlene Arena	Patricia Maichle
Michelle Arthurs	Christopher McIntyre (appointment pending)
Jean Butler	Janet S. Milnamow
Al Cavalier, Ph. D.	Karen O'Brien
Nancy Cordrey	William P. O'Neill
Dr. Janet R. Cornwell	Robert D. Overmiller, M.S.M.
Cathy Cowin (appointment pending)	Jennifer Pulcinella
Patricia Darlington	Dennis Rubino
Helene Diskau	Melissa Shahan
Jane Donovan	Judy A. Smith
Lisa Gonzon	Darlene M. St. Peter
Bernhard Greenfield	Martha Toomey
Terri A. Hancharick	Charles W. Tulloch, II
Brian J. Hartman, Esq.	John A. Werner
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Michael Kennedy	
Christopher Laniyan	

**GACEC STAFF**

Wendy S. Strauss  
Executive Administrator

Kathie P. Cherry  
Administrative Assistant

Susan L. Hayes  
Operations Support Specialist

**GACEC REVIEW OF STATE LEGISLATION  
143rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FY 2006**

<b>BILL</b>	<b>SYNOPSIS</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>REVIEW DATE (as of 6/30/06)</b>	<b>STATUS (as of 7/01/06)</b>	<b>OUTCOME</b>
HB 235	DE Healthy Child Prog.(Dental)	07/26/05 – Endorsed	07/22/05	06/30/06 – Senate Passed	
HB 259	Medicaid; Dental Coverage	07/27/05 - Endorsed	07/25/05	06/16/05 - House Appro. Comm	
SB 146	Del. Health Ins. Pool	07/26/05 – Endorsed	07/22/05	06/28/06 - House Appro. Comm	
HB 244	Charter School Eligibility	Requested Data	09/17/05	06/22/05 - Out of Committee	
HB 317	Preferred Drug List	Endorsed with request to add Epilepsy & Traumatic Brain Injury	10/18/05	06/14/06 – Senate Finance Comm	
	Budget Epilogue Change Request	10/28/05 - Requested Language Change Re: Identification of LD Students	10/18/05		12/15/05 – Agency responded Agreed to delete section
	Draft Mental Health Commitment Code	Opposed Code	11/15/05		
SB 251	Full-Day Kindergarten	03/09/06 – Endorsed	02/21/06	07/01/06 – Senate Passed	
HB 349	Accountability	03/09/06 – Opposed Proposed Bill	02/21/06	06/20/06 – Stricken	
HB 328	DUI Boat Bill	03/09/06 – Endorsed	02/21/06	06/30/06 – Senate Passed	
HB 329	Restroom Access	03/09/06 – Shared Observations	02/21/06	01/18/06 – House Labor Comm	
HB 346	School Nurse Funding	03/29/06 – Endorsed	03/21/06	03/30/06 – Stricken	
	Purchase of Care	03/31/06 – Sent Ltr. Supporting Additional Funding	03/21/06		
HB 376	Corporal Punishment	04/28/06 – Opposed	04/18/06	03/23/06 – House Educ. Comm	

**GACEC REVIEW OF STATE LEGISLATION  
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FY 2006**

<b>BILL</b>	<b>SYNOPSIS</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>REVIEW DATE (as of 6/30/06)</b>	<b>STATUS (as of 7/01/06)</b>	<b>OUTCOME</b>
HB 377	DSTP	04/28/06 – Opposed	04/18/06	03/29/06 – Out of Committee	
HB 372	Student Physical Fitness	04/28/06 – Endorsed Concept	04/18/06	07/01/06 – Senate Passed	
SB 270	DUI	05/24/06 – Opposed	05/16/06	06/28/06 - Signed	
SB 289	Public School Health Advisory Council	05/24/06 – Endorsed	05/16/06	06/30/06 - Signed	
SB 297	Delaware Prescription Drug Payment Assistance Program	05/24/06 – Endorsed	05/16/06	06/28/06 – House Passed	
SB 271	Sex Offenses Against Minors	05/24/06 – Endorsed	05/16/06	06/07/06 – Out of Committee	
HB 355	DSAAPD Eligibility	05/24/06 – Endorsed	05/16/06	06/30/06 - Signed	
HB 412	Admissibility Of Health Care Provider Statements	05/24/06 – Opposed	05/16/06	06/13/06 – Substituted	
SB 320	DSTP	06/21/06 – Endorsed	06/20/06	06/27/06 - Signed	
SB 315	School District Audits	06/26/06 – Endorsed	06/20/06	06/30/06 –Out of Committee	
HJR 4 w/SA 2	Assessment Task Force Report May 31, 2006	06/27/06 – Endorsed	06/20/06		
HB 446	Health Insurance for Young Adults	06/26/06 – Endorsed subject to consideration of observations	06/20/06	07/01/06 – Senate Passed	
HB 438	Health Insurance Arbitration	06/26/06 – Endorse subject to amendment	06/20/06	06/29/06 – House Passed	

**GACEC REVIEW OF POLICY AND REGULATIONS  
FY 2006**

<b>REGULATION</b>	<b>SYNOPSIS</b>	<b>COUNCIL ACTION</b>	<b>REVIEW DATE (as of 6/30/06)</b>	<b>RESPONSE</b>
9DE Reg. 30	DOE Proposed LEP Regulations	07/20/05 - Shared Observations	07/18/05	08/11/05 - Agency responded without substantive changes
9DE Reg. 35	DOE Proposed School Transportation Regulations	07/20/05 – Endorsed	07/18/05	08/11/05 – Agency responded – Thank you for endorsement
9DE Reg. 51	DOE Prop. Autism/Severe Disabilities Teacher Cert	07/20/05 – Endorsed	07/18/05	08/11/05 – Agency responded – Thank you for endorsement
9DE Reg. 85	Bd. Of Pharmacy Final Licensing Regulation	07/25/05 - Issued “Thank You” Letter	07/18/05	
9DE Reg. 19	DOE Proposed Charter School Mod. Reg	07/20/05 - Shared Observations	07/18/05	08/11/05 – Agency responded without substantive changes
9DE Reg. 34	DOE Prop. Supportive Instruction (Homebound) Reg	07/20/05 - Shared Observations	07/18/05	08/11/05 – Agency responded – agreed to word change
9DE Reg. 70	DSS Prop. Spousal Impoverishment Resource Reg	07/25/05 - Opposed Concept, Shared Analysis	07/18/05	
9DE Reg. 402	DOE Final Homebound Regulation	Sent a Follow Up Letter	09/17/05	
9DE Reg. 547	Professional Standards Board Final Technology	10/19/05 - Sent Letter Advising of Error	10/18/05	10/20/05 – Agency responded – apologized for error
9DE Reg. 558	Professional Standards Board Foreign Language Teacher	10/19/05 - Sent Letter Advising of Error	10/18/05	10/20/05 – Agency responded – apologized for error
9DE Reg. 521	DMMA Prop. Long-term Care Application	10/26/05 - Shared Observations	10/18/05	11/18/05 – Agency responded – agreed to add clarifying language
9DE Reg. 523	DSS Proposed Case Record Maintenance	10/26/05 - Sent Letter of Endorsement	10/18/05	11/18/05 – Agency responded – Thank you for endorsement
9DE Reg. 522	DMMA Prop, Assisted Living Bed Hold	10/25/05 - Shared Observation	10/18/05	11/18/05 – Agency responded – Thank you for endorsement

**GACEC REVIEW OF POLICY AND REGULATIONS  
FY 2006**

REGULATION	SYNOPSIS	COUNCIL ACTION	REVIEW DATE (as of 6/30/06)	RESPONSE
9DE Reg. 509	.DMMA Long-term Care Facility Reim. Rates	10/27/05 - Shared Comments	10/18/05	11/18/05 – Agency responded – agreed to clarifying language
9DE Reg. 501	Prof. Standards Board Prop. Alt Route to Teacher Cert	10/19/05 - Sent Comments Endorsing Subject to Correction of two concerns	10/18/05	11/16/05 – Agency responded – agreed to add language to Section 5.
9DE Reg. 498	Prof. Stan. Board Prop. Special Inst. for Teacher Cert.	10/19/05 - Shared Observations	10/18/05	11/16/05 – Agency responded – agreed to revise Section 3.1.4.1
9DE Reg. 676	DOE Prop. Prohibition of Discrimination	11/17/05 - Shared Observations, Requesting Addition of ‘genetic information’	11/15/05	12/15/05 – Agency responded – no changes
9DE Reg. 677	DOE Prop. Career-Technical Education Program	11/17/05 - Shared Observations	11/15/05	12/15/05 – Agency responded – agreed to add phrase to 4.1 and 3.1 – also agreed to insert “or charter school” in Section 2.0
9DE Reg. 859	DMMA Prop. LTC Institutional/Community Spouse Reg.	12/27/05 - Shared Observations	12/19/05	01/20/06 – Agency responded –DMMA withdraws proposed regulations
9DE Reg. 852	Prof. Stan. Board Prop. Special Education Institute Cert. (Reg. is a revision of original proposed Reg. 9 DE Reg. 498)	12/14/05 - Sent Letter of Endorsement for Revised Set of Proposed Regulations	12/14/05	
9DE Reg. 971	Prof. Stan. Board Final Alternate Routes to Teacher Cert.(Reg. is a revision of original proposed Reg. 9 DE Reg. 501)	12/14/05 - Sent “Thank You” letter for Incorporating Suggested Changes in Final Regs	12/14/05	
9DE Reg. 996	DMMA Final Long-term Care Application Reg. (Reg. is a revision of original proposed Reg. 9 DE Reg. 521)	12/27/05 - Sent “Thank You” letter for Reviewing Comments and Implementing Changes	12/27/05	
9DE Reg. 1069	DOE Final Prohibition of Discrimination	01/30/06 - Sent Letter Providing Comments	01/16/06	
9DE Reg. 1033	DSS TANF “Study Time”	01/23/06 - Sent Letter of Endorsement	01/16/06	02/21/06 – Agency responded – Thank you for endorsement

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FY 2006**

<b>REGULATION</b>	<b>SYNOPSIS</b>	<b>COUNCIL ACTION</b>	<b>REVIEW DATE (as of 6/30/06)</b>	<b>RESPONSE</b>
9DE Reg. 1034	DSS TANF "EBIA" Resource & Income	01/23/06 – Sent Letter of Endorsement	01/16/06	02/21/06 – Agency responded – Thank you for endorsement
9DE Reg. 1070	DOE Final Career-Technical Education Program	01/24/06 – Endorsed with 2 Amendments	01/16/06	
9DE Reg. 1356	DelDot Proposed Safe Route to School Regulations	03/29/06 - Shared Observations	03/21/06	05/22/06 – Agency responded – Thank you for comments. Helped to strengthen language & encouraged them to explore issues that were overlooked
9DE Reg. 1396	Executive Order No. 81 (Employment Discrimination)	03/29/06 - Sent Supplemental Letter With Observations Noted	03/21/06	05/05/06 – Agency responded – Order signed – “genetic information” included
9DE Reg. 1338	DSS Proposed Replacement Benefits Regulations	03/29/06 - Shared Observations	03/21/06	04/21/06 – Agency responded – agreed to add statement to end of Section 2008. Also agreed to substitute “issue” for “provide” in Sections 2007 and 2008
9DE Reg. 1301	DOE Proposed Charter School Regulation	04/04/06 - Letter Supporting Change	03/21/06	
9DE Reg. 1454, 1495	DOE Proposed Reading Specialist	04/19/06 - Shared Observations	04/18/06	05/04/06 – Agency responded without substantive changes
9DE Reg 1506	DMMA Proposed EPSDT Dental Reimbursement Reg.	04/26/06 - Sent Comments	04/18/06	05/22/06 – Agency responded without substantive changes
9DE Reg 1672	DOE Proposed Accountability Regulations	05/18/06 - Shared Observations (opposed)	05/16/06	06/13/06 – Agency responded – agreed to make change that was also recommended by NCLB Stakeholder group
9DE Reg 1776	DelDOT Final Safe Route to School Regulation (Final of Proposed 9DE Reg 1356)	05/23/06 – Thank you for considering and implementing Council’s recommendations	05/16/06	

**GACEC REVIEW OF POLICY AND REGULATIONS  
FY 2006**

REGULATION	SYNOPSIS	COUNCIL ACTION	REVIEW DATE (as of 6/30/06)	RESPONSE
9DE Reg 1756	DSS Final Replacement Benefits Regulations (Final of Proposed 9DE Reg1338)	05/23/06 – Thank you for incorporating Council’s recommendations	05/16/06	
9DE Reg 1849	DOE Proposed District Curricula-State Content Standards Alignment	06/21/06 – Shared Observations	06/20/06	
9DE Reg 1994	Executive Order No. 86 (Employment Discrimination)	06/26/06 –Thank you for including “genetic information”	06/20/06	
9DE Reg 1992	Executive Order 84 (Speech/Language Pathologist Task Force)	06/26/06 – Shared Recommendations	06/20/06	
9DE Reg 1852	DSS Proposed Renal Disease Program Drug Benefit Regulation	06/26/06 – Shared Observations	06/20/06	