

**GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CITIZENS (GACEC)
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (ZOOM MEETING)
7:00P.M., November 17, 2020
ZOOM MEETING**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sue Campbell, Al Cavalier, Nancy Cordrey, Matt Denn, Bill Doolittle, Karen Eller, Ann Fisher, Terri Hancharick, Mary Ann Mieczkowski, Beth Mineo, Marie Olivere, Robert Overmiller, Trenee Parker, Jennifer Pulcinella, Jill Scannell, Breneé Shepperson, Stephanie Ramirez, and Lindsay Williamson

OTHERS PRESENT: Dawn Alexander/Colonial School District, Deborah Gottschalk/Legislative Hall, Laura Sturgeon/Delaware State Senate, Aquiles Iglesias/University of Delaware Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders, Jacquie Truluck/University of Delaware Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders, Cindy Brown/Department of Education (DOE), Michelle Jackson/DOE, Yvette Sanchez Fuentes/DOE, Genesis Johnson/GACEC applicant, Erika Powell/GACEC applicant, Corey Gilden/GACEC applicant, Shanelle Williams/ Disabilities Law Program Community Legal Aid Society, Mark Campano/Delaware Statewide Programs Coordinator for the Deaf-Blind, Sandra Miller/ Delaware Department of Health and Social Services: Division (DHSS) for the Visually Impaired, Sarah Celestin/Director of Special Education at Red Clay School District, Amy Solomon, Agnes Pont, Kim Krzanowski, Lisa Lawson/Brandywine School District.

STAFF PRESENT: Wendy Strauss/ Executive Director, Kathie Cherry/Office Manager and Lacie Spence/Administrative Coordinator.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Thomas Keeton

Chair Ann Fisher called the general membership meeting to order at 7:04 pm. Ann welcomed everyone to the November general membership meeting. Kathie welcomed our newest members and applicants. A **motion was made and approved** to accept the November agenda. Ann requested a **motion for approval** of the October minutes. The motion was **approved**. A **motion was made and approved** to accept the September and October financial reports.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lisa Lawson from the Brandywine School District spoke to Council regarding an Early Education Center Capital Project Request on behalf of New Castle County. The full PowerPoint is attached for your review. Terri asked Lisa if the warm water therapy pool would be open after hours or on weekends for therapy services at the new center. Lisa stated that the district currently has three other pools that are available for use after hours and she would absolutely be interested in making this happen. Cindy Brown inquired if the center will have a large all-purpose room. Lisa answered that the plans include a big therapy room specifically for occupational and physical therapy in addition to a gymnasium. Bill Doolittle added that original legislation for capital construction never included preschools. Lisa agreed and stated that is why kindergarten is included in the plans. Lisa stated they are in search of the neediest students throughout New Castle County, not only in the Brandywine School District. Marie Olivere asked Lisa if the 400-student capacity would be quickly outgrown. Lisa realizes that is a possibility and there may be opportunities for other properties that will allow room for expansion. Lisa explained they would feel fortunate to achieve integrated classrooms at a

60/40 ratio. The plan is designed to have space for pullout classrooms for students who need the time in a smaller environment. Bill asked if this project does not continue to move forward if we would need to get a finding against Delaware for lack of inclusion in Early Childhood. Lisa stated it would be a shame to go that route and hopes that people will come together to avoid it. Genesis Johnson shared that she is a parent to a second grader in Wilmington who had a rough start in early childhood. He was kicked out of the Head Start Program and there was a lack of resources for diagnoses and recommendations. She would have loved for her son to have access to a program like this to avoid the academic gaps early on, as well as the stress and traumatic experiences for him and the rest of the family. Ann asked where the center would be located. Lisa replied that there has been some talk of the Capano family donating some of the old Brandywine Country Club property. The location cannot be finalized until there is a partial amount of Certificate of Necessity funding from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Department of Education (DOE). Ann inquired if Lisa would like Council to write a letter of support and Lisa said she would love that. Lisa was very appreciative of Council's time to hear the proposal.

Next, Mark Campano presented on the concept of creating equitable services across the state for students birth through 21 served through the Autism Spectrum Disorder, Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf-Blind and Visual Impairment Programs. The PowerPoint of his presentation is attached. Mark and Sarah Celestin asked for Council Members to share any feedback and recommendations they may have. Ann asked what the GACEC can do to help and Mark replied that a letter of support would be helpful. Al asked if this would function like the intermediate unit (IU) system in Pennsylvania. Mark replied that the concept between the two is very similar as far as shared resources and how it functions. Sarah stated that they are currently looking into different funding structures. There is an upcoming meeting with OMB, DOE and several other agencies to talk about how to move forward. Maria asked if there would be a family point of contact for this entity. She stated that sometimes families cannot get what they need from their districts and wondered if there would be someone for them in this plan. Mark replied that right now there is not a family component, but that is something they could consider. Sarah added that equitable infrastructure is just one of the goal areas of the Special Education Strategic Plan Advisory Council (SESPAC). There are goals around family support under other components of SESPAC. Marie strongly suggested that there should be someone that families can go to other than the district. Collaborating with families would be helpful because that is who they are serving. Sarah explained that right now the challenge is they are starting with designated groups but could branch out in the future. Sarah will bring that suggestion back to the committee. Ann thanked Mark and Sarah for their time.

Ann asked for a **motion** to write a letter of support to the Secretary of DOE for the certificate of necessities. The **motion was made and approved.**

GUEST SPEAKER

Michelle Jackson from the DOE Office of Assessment presented on the 1% CAP Updates. The PowerPoint is attached for your review. Bill asked if DOE is looking at what we can do to make sure that students do not end up taking any assessments this year. Michelle explained that one of the first initiatives of the 1% CAP team was to create an inclusive practices training that is geared towards students who no longer meet requirements for the alternate assessment. The training is aimed at helping teachers identify all accommodations they could provide for the student in their instruction so they can meaningfully participate in the general assessment. Bill asked if there is any effort in reaching out to parents. Michelle said there was recently a state guidelines webinar to walk parents

through the requirements. They will be also be taking a deeper dive into the alternate assessment so parents can get a glimpse of a released testlet. They have also planned a companion guide for IEP teams to use for the participation guidelines. A parent guide is being created in parent friendly terms. Tika stated that last year Michelle stated there was a way to create education plans or match instruction based on students' assessments. Tika asked Michelle if more trainings have been taking place since then. Michelle stated that idea did get sidetracked due to COVID-19, but they have been working with Dynamic Learning Maps for training in the Fall and there will be another in the Spring. Michelle hopes that attendance will improve. Tika asked how LEAs would find out about the training. Tika stated that she would be happy to share information about the training with her contacts.

DOE REPORT

Mary Ann Mieczkowski shared the following report.

Conflict Resolution Program

The Department of Education through the University of Delaware's Conflict Resolution Program offered a Fall 2020 training series. LEA staff joined for one or more two-hour, online workshops where participants learned a variety of skills for engaging parents, families, and school staff in the IEP meeting process. The trainings are as follows:

Conflict Management Styles and Communication Skills (Thursday October 22, 2020 9-11 a.m.)

- Approaches to managing conflict
- Effective communication skills

Leading Effective and Engaging Meetings (Tuesday November 17, 2020 8-10 a.m.)

- Best practices for planning and leading effective meetings
- Tips for an inclusive, transparent, and engaging process

Facilitation Skills and Parent Engagement (Thursday December 8, 2020 12:30-2:30 p.m.)

- Facilitation skills that support engagement and collaboration
- Tips for dealing with difficult dynamics

School Board Training

Pursuant to 14 DE Admin. Code 200.210, Exceptional Children Resources conducted a virtual two-hour due process training for school board members. The training, conducted on 10/12/2020, included seventeen attendees representing several districts (Delmar, Cape Henlopen, Sussex County Vo-tech, Colonial, Christina, Indian River, and New Castle County Vo-tech.)

Special Education Regulations

The State Board approved Delaware Regulations 508, 922 and 925 on 10/15/2020. The regulations will go into effect for implementation in June 2021. Thank you to all stakeholders that were involved in this process!

UD's Partnership for Public Education (PPE) Features Efforts by DOE and the DE-PBS Project

The PPE *Community Engagement Initiative Newsletter* highlights resources compiled and vetted by UD Faculty and staff from the College of Education and Human Development for the benefit of school communities. The Newsletter includes DDOE Guidance, external resources, as well as webinars and a toolkit developed by the DE-PBS Project, DOE Staff and LEA Partners: *Guidance for Supporting Student and Staff Social Emotional and Behavioral Health When Reopening Schools*. The DE-PBS Project contributions were supported by the Exceptional Children Resources workgroup, as well as the Student Support workgroup's DelAWARE grant.

Access the newsletter and resources at <https://www.cehd.udel.edu/covid19-resources/>

The DE-PBS [FBA to BIP for Educators](#) webinar materials are now available! This 2-part series can be watched asynchronously for a total of 4 PDMS hours. Participants should watch the webinar and complete the associated survey for each session. Reach out to [Niki Kendall](#) with questions!

School Psychologists

Thank you for celebrating your school psychologists during national school psychology week this week! DOE partnered with DASP and UD to share pictures and information about the important work school psychologists are engaged in throughout the state. Thank you for recognizing their critical role in our schools!

CHAIR REPORT

Ann reminded members that elections will be coming up in January and two volunteers are needed for the nomination committee. They will need to ensure current officers are willing to keep their current positions and see if anyone else would like to serve. Robert and Bill volunteered for the nomination committee. Ann reported that there will be a New Member Orientation on December 15th at 10:00am. Members were advised that even if they are not new and would still like to join in on the orientation, they are welcome to do so.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Wendy reported that we had our Budget Hearing on November 13. Wendy stated director Mike Jackson seemed confident that our small budget would not be impacted much by the statewide budget cuts. Wendy mentioned that in previous years our budget has been impacted when the State has done budget cuts.

In the last few weeks Wendy has been working with the Parent Information Center (PIC) of Delaware to conduct a new survey regarding school's Parent Councils. The GACEC and PIC will be presenting information at the Special Education Leadership meeting in December. Wendy hopes the survey will go out in the beginning of December. Questions on the survey will include how COVID-19 has impacted parent participation. Wendy suggested that Council write a letter of support with recommendations regarding the Governor signing off on the settlement stipulation between the Court of Chancery and the State of Delaware. The letter could include looking at K-3 and the basic special education unit, as well as funding of Pre-K. The letter should recommend that the Ombudsmen person that is contracted should be well versed in special education. Wendy asked Council Members to submit input of any other issues that should be included in the letter within the next two weeks. Wendy asked Bill if SESPAC has drafted their letter in reference to this yet. Bill stated they are currently working on it. Wendy asked if that letter could be shared once it is finished so the GACEC could piggyback off of that. Bill agreed to share the letter once it is ready. Ann asked for a **motion to approve** drafting and sending a letter. The **motion was approved**. Wendy asked Mary Ann if we could get an update on what districts are doing as far as plans of implementation due to COVID-19 at next month's meeting. Mary Ann stated that it is ever changing and that she will find out what she can.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICY AND LAW

Beth shared that the committee discussed and is recommending adoption of the analysis provided by the Disabilities Law Program as outlined in the Legal Memo dated November 2020. The analysis provided is as follows:

1. Emergency Regulation: DHSS Communicable Diseases Emergency Regulation 4202, 24 Del. Register of Regulations 434 (November 1, 2020)

Effective October 1, 2020, the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) issued an emergency regulation implementing the emergency order dated March 10, 2020, requiring all laboratories and providers to immediately report all SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 tests and results to the Division of Public Health. While the existing Control of Communicable and Other Disease Conditions regulation, 14 Del. Admin. C. §4202, specifies that Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) is a notifiable disease/condition, under which SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 falls, this Emergency Order clarifies that all novel coronavirus causing severe acute respiratory disease, including the 2019 novel coronavirus disease COVID-19, are considered notifiable and are required to be reported to the Division of Public Health. This regulation simply modifies an existing regulation by striking “Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)” and replacing it with “Coronavirus, novel (novel coronavirus causing severe acute respiratory disease including the 2019 novel coronavirus disease [COVID-19], severe acute respiratory syndrome-associated coronavirus disease [SARS-CoV], and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome [MERS-CoV]).” It continues to be a “report by rapid means” category. This change is a technical clarification to address the pandemic. Comment by the Council is not necessary. Should the Councils wish, they could express their support for DHSS’s action in clarifying that COVID-19 and other similar novel coronaviruses are rapid report notifiable diseases/conditions, since quick response to testing and follow-up contact tracing are such essential components to the State’s COVID response.

2. Proposed DHSS Communicable Diseases Proposed Regulation 4202, 24 Del. Register of Regulations 464 (November 1, 2020)

Like the emergency regulation, Proposed Regulation 4202 clarifies that all novel coronavirus causing severe acute respiratory disease, including the 2019 novel coronavirus disease COVID-19, are considered notifiable and are required to be reported to the Division of Public Health in accordance with these regulations. Other revisions include technical changes such as adjusting capitalization, modifying how similar terms are internally referenced, adjusting statutory citation formats, removing gender pronouns, striking the term “carrier,” and clarifying that educational institutions include higher education institutions such as nursing schools, technical and community colleges, and universities. Yersiniosis was removed from the reportable diseases/conditions.

Comment by the Council is not necessary. Should the Council wish, they could express their support for DHSS’s action in clarifying that COVID-19 and other similar novel coronaviruses are rapid report notifiable diseases/conditions, since quick response to testing and follow-up contact tracing are such essential components to the State’s COVID response.

3. Proposed DDOE District and School Shared Decision Making Regulation 201, 24 Del. Register of Regulations 445 (November 1, 2020)

The Secretary of the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) seeks the approval of the State Board of Education to repeal 14 Del. Admin. C. §201 District and School Shared Decision Making. The regulation implements 14 Del. C. Chapter 8 (note the proposed regulation incorrectly lists the citation as 18 Del. C. Chapter 8) which was enacted in the late 90s. According to the DDOE, the DDOE has not processed a School Shared Decision Making Transition Planning Grant in a number of fiscal years. “Shared decision-making” is defined by statute to mean “inclusive, representative

decision-making process in which members of the school community at the school and district levels participate as equals. Shared decision-making may occur at all levels of a school system.” 14 Del. C. §801(2). The DOE justifies the move to rescind the regulation based on the lack of recent applications and indicates that the regulation simply mirrors the statute. By statute, the DOE has to promulgate guidelines for the approval of school improvements grants. 14 Del. C. §806. It seems that DOE wants to discontinue this program since it is not being used but it is proceeding backwards by rescinding the regulation prior to the statute, especially given the statutory dictate to promulgate guidelines for these grant applications. That said, since the program is not being used currently the existence of the regulation is unlikely to impact students with disabilities and thus it is likely not worth the Council’s time to comment on this.

4. Proposed DDOE Regulation 934 Family and Large Family Care Homes, 24 Del. Register of Regulations 453 (November 1, 2020)

The DDOE proposes to revise existing regulations pertaining to standards for the licensure and operation of family childcare homes and large family child care homes. These regulations now fall under the jurisdiction of the DDOE due to the recent relocation of the Office of Child of Care Licensing (OCCL) from the Department of Services for Children Youth & Families (DSCYF) to the DDOE. “Family child care home” and “large family care home,” as defined by the regulations, generally refer to “a private home in which a licensee lives and provides licensed child care,” although large family child care homes may also be provide care in a non-residential setting. A “family care home” is distinguished from a “large family care home” by the number of children provided care; family care homes may serve as many as six to nine children depending on the home’s designated level (Level I or Level II) and the ages of the respective children, while large family care homes may serve as many as twelve children. As the regulations are quite lengthy, only the proposed amendments to the existing regulations will be discussed here.

The amendments to the regulations are primarily wording changes for consistency and compliance with the Delaware Drafting & Style Manual (for example, changing replacing the word “administrator” with “director” in reference to OCCL leadership, and numerous adjustments of “his or her” to more gender neutral language). There are three revisions that provide substantive clarification to existing rules. First, language is added in the proposed amended regulations at 6.6 to clarify that only one license can be issued for a given address. Second, the proposed amended regulations at 8.1.7 would require a licensee to have both property liability insurance and comprehensive general liability insurance, while the existing regulations simply require liability insurance without further specification.

The third substantive clarification, in the form of deletions in the proposed amended regulations at 4.2, 55.2-55.5, and 56.2-56.3, is that family care home licensees cannot designate another entity to provide childcare services. Per the synopsis published with the proposed regulations, this is to address “a previously posted error that allowed a family child care home to designate a family provider, when the licensee must be the provider.” It is not clear why the regulations were previously published allowing for the designation of a family provider. Per the proposed amended regulations at 4.2, it appears a licensed large family child care home could still designate a “large family provider,” however the amendments would further clarify that “[a] licensee must designate a natural person, not an entity.” If that distinction between family child care homes and large family child care homes was intended, it would be helpful for additional language to be added to emphasize that only large family care homes can designate a large family provider, while other family care homes cannot designate a family provider and that the licensee must act as the provider. Simply removing existing references to designation leaves it a bit ambiguous.

It does not appear the proposed amendments would result in any major substantive changes in the actual provision of childcare in this context.

5. Proposed DDOE Regulation 1581 School Reading Specialist, 24 Del. Register of Regulations 458 (November 1, 2020)

The DDOE proposes to amend 14 Del. Admin. C. §1581, which describes the requirements for obtaining the School Reading Specialist standard certificate (hereinafter “Certificate”) pursuant to 14 Del. C. §1220. DDOE, in cooperation with the Professional Standards Board (hereinafter “The Board”), is proposing to amend this regulation to add definitions to Section 2.0, clarify the requirements for issuing a Certificate, specify application requirements, and add Sections 7.0-10.0 which concern the validity of the Certificate, discipline actions, requests for the Secretary of Education to review applications and, recognizing past certifications, respectively.

DDOE, in partnership with the Board, has been systematically reviewing and updating the requirements for the different Standard Certificates since approximately April of 2020. Council previously submitted comments to several of these proposed regulations with little to no effect. Of the recommendations put forth by the Council, DDOE and the Board have adopted only one – clarifying the language of subsection 3.2, which was ambiguous in the proposed regulation for the Special Education Teacher of Students with Disabilities (found at 14 Del. Admin. C. §1571). This change has been adopted in the proposed regulations which followed. As this proposed regulation is nearly identical to the previous, Council may wish to support the proposed regulation as is.

6. Final Regulation: DHSS Title XXI Delaware Healthy Children’s Program State Plan – Health Services Initiatives – Vision Services – School-Based Initiative, 24 Del. Register of Regulations 480 (November 1, 2020)

In the January 20, 2020 Delaware Register of Regulations, Delaware Health and Social Services (DHSS) and Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance (DMMA) proposed changes to Delaware’s Healthy Children’s Program State Plan regarding Health Services Initiatives. The regulation sought to revise the definition of low income to comport with the Delaware Department of Education’s (DDOE’s) definition of low income in its vision services and to revise the process to aid in identifying uninsured children.

CLASI reviewed the proposed amendments and made several recommendations, which Council adopted and forwarded to the Planning & Policy Development Unit of DMMA. Council opposed the definitional change that would include only those schools that qualify as a Community Eligibility (CEP) Schools because it would result in fewer children receiving school-based vision services. Moreover, if the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) proposed change to the categorical eligibility in SNAP is adopted, one (1) million students nationwide, including students in Delaware, would lose access to free school meals. Because of this, Council recommended that DMMA retain the current definition of low-income based upon a Title I School.

In addition, Council recommended that the need for parental consent for the provision of eye screening, eye examinations, or corrective lenses and frames be retained since consent is required by Delaware law (13 Del. C. §707(a)(2)). Council also recommended that the request for insurance information be included in the initial consent form, in order to streamline the process. Lastly, Council recommended that DMMA should include a timeline of when students could expect to receive corrective eyewear once the insurance information that was requested of parents was provided.

CLASI was asked to address whether the recommendations tendered by Council were accepted or rejected by DMMA. It should be noted, that in addition to the comments from Council, DMMA received numerous comments from other sources. Regarding the recommendation made by Council concerning the definition, namely that the current definition be retained based upon Title I school; DMMA rejected the recommendation because of changes in the school-based nutrition program.

Regarding parental consent, DMMA will continue to require parental consent since it is required by law. As to the timeline on when students can expect to receive glasses once insurance information is provided, DMMA said it will take the “recommendation under consideration.”

Regarding the recommendation that DMMA request the insurance information as part of the initial consent form, DMMA rejected it and indicated that it will continue to solicit information “after the screening.”

In sum, Council was successful in having the regulations retain parental consent and as to the timeline of when the corrective lenses would be supplied; DMMA is at least considering this recommendation. Unfortunately, the definition of low income that DMMA adopted will constrict the number of students that will be eligible for school-based vision services.

7. Final DHSS/DPH Regulation 4470 State of Delaware Medical Marijuana Code, 24 Del. Register of Regulations 485 (November 1, 2020)

The Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) provided an explanation to both questions raised by Council.

First, Council requested additional information for why anxiety was not included as a qualifying condition eligible for access to the entire Delaware Medical Marijuana Program. In response, DHSS explained that SB 170 established a CBD-Rich medical marijuana card for the treatment of anxiety or other conditions approved by DHSS for treatment with CBD-Rich medical marijuana. The proposed regulations were updated to conform to this law, which was signed by Governor Carney on July 7, 2020. DHSS did not provide a direct response as to whether the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) restriction on funding for programs which advocate or supply medical marijuana as treatment has any bearing on the addition of anxiety as a qualifying condition.

Second, Council requested additional information regarding the regulation’s potential impact on the current availability of CBD oil outside of the medical marijuana context. The response by DHSS does not directly answer the question but provides that: “[c]ommercial CBD oil can be derived from hemp or medical marijuana strains rich in CBD. Compassion centers may use hemp-derived CBD as a lower cost alternative. The Office of Medical Marijuana requires that each batch of medical marijuana or hemp sold in a Delaware compassion center undergoes comprehensive testing for mold, fungus, and pesticides by batch or lot number.”

This regulation was adopted and will become effective November 11, 2020. Council may wish to express their appreciation for DHSS’s responses to Council’s questions; however, Council may also wish to clarify/re-request information concerning the regulation’s impact on CBD products outside of the medical marijuana context.

8. Final Department of Insurance Regulation 1409 Insurance Coverage for Telemedicine and Telehealth, 24 Del. Register of Regulations 488 (November 1, 2020)

Regulation 1409 enumerates the requirements for insurance coverage for the delivery of healthcare services through telemedicine and telehealth. The Department of Insurance is updating Regulation 1409 to confirm with the House Bill that was signed by Governor Carney on July 17, 2020. It should be noted that the law incorporates the requirements for telehealth contained in Governor Carney's Declaration of a State of Emergency and the joint order of the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) and the Delaware Emergency Management Agency.

Because the amendments to the regulation make them consistent with changes in the law without otherwise altering the substance of the regulation, neither public notice nor comment is required. These amendments to the regulation take effect on November 11, 2020; both the law and the amendments to the regulation expire on July 21, 2021.

Telehealth is the use of technologies such as telephones, remote patient monitoring devices, or other electronic means used to provide health care, consultation, health related education, public health, and health administration services not requiring technology allowing visual communication.

These amendments require insurers who issue individual or group policies providing hospital, medical, surgical, or major medical coverage; health service corporations who issue or provide individual or group accident and sickness subscription contracts; and managed care organization and health maintenance organizations that provide a health care plan for health care services to provide coverage for the cost of such health care services provided through telehealth. However, to be covered, the service must be a covered service and the health care provider providing the service is licensed under state law and is practicing within the scope of state law.

In addition, the afore-mentioned insurers, health service corporations, and managed care organization or health maintenance organizations shall not restrict an insured from seeking medical care by telehealth solely because the service is provided through telehealth. These restrictions include but are not limited to preauthorization, medical necessity, homebound requirements, or requiring the use of technology permitting visual communication.

These amendments conform to the law. Even though comments or public notice are not needed, it is easy for Council to support these amendments as they permit insureds to utilize telehealth.

A motion was made and approved to accept the Policy and Law Memo comments as written.

ADULT TRANSITION SERVICES COMMITTEE

There was no Adult Transition Services Committee report for this month.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Bill reported that the Children and Youth Committee met with representatives from the Speech Language Pathology (SLP) program at the University of Delaware. They continue to turn out a significant number of school SLPs, but there is still a need for more. They shared that they are trying to get a bridge program started for students who did not specifically get a bachelor's degree ahead of SLP. The Committee is going to work on assisting them with getting funding to reduce tuition at the University of Delaware as it is more pricey than other programs. Wendy asked if they gave any ideas on how to go about this. Bill answered that the Board of Trustees and Legislative are the trigger

points. Bill would like to have a Committee meeting in December. Karen agreed to set up the Committee meeting. Terri recommended that Senator Sturgeon be invited to future meetings because she showed a strong interest and was excited about what she learned by attending today.

INFANT AND EARLY CHILDHOOD

Sue Campbell reported that Senator Sturgeon and Deborah Gottschalk spoke to the committee about drafting legislation to move Part C to the DOE. The draft is expected in January or February and the move is proposed for July of 2022. They also discussed a Request for Proposal (RFP) being moved forward for the Part C data System. There are concerns about having separate data systems. As of now there are no data systems that go from birth through early education. The best we can hope for is to have a birth to three data system that is compatible with the DOE data system. Ann added that currently there are 15 different data systems within early childhood with no integration between systems. Sue informed Council that the new Part C Coordinator has been selected and will be starting on November 23rd. An RFP is also being drafted for early intervention services. New contracts will be in place by the end of the fiscal year.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

There was no Personnel Committee report for this month.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bill Doolittle shared his concern for curriculum pacing this year for children with disabilities. Districts are trying to stay on the pacing guide when instruction is not as effective due to the current circumstances. It is creating a fair amount of stress for parents and children. Bill had been doing some behind the scenes work to address these issues. The issue seems to be generalized throughout the state. Bill added that the unit count has been a challenge this year. We should closely monitor the drop out rates of children with disabilities and other underserved populations.

OUTSIDE COMMITTEE UPDATES

There were no Outside Committee updates for this month.

Ann welcomed and thanked visitors and guests for attending the meeting this evening. She reminded members to contact the GACEC staff for any responses to letters. **A motion was made and approved** to adjourn the meeting at 9:04pm.