



**Governor's Commission on Disabilities
Legislation Committee
Education Working Group Minutes
October 15, 2012 9:00 am**

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Meeting graphic

Attendees: Angelina Stabile, Judi Drew
Staff: Gabrielle Mele-Algus, Mary Brennan Public Policy Fellow

Action Items:



Public forum graphic

1. Public Forums on the Concerns of People with Disabilities and their Families

Purpose/Goal: To review the testimony from the public forums, identify common concerns and develop recommendations

Meeting Notes:

1. Most of legislation for education already in place
2. Concerns brought forth in forums:
 - a. Children with Autism and parents trying to get what need from the school systems
 - b. Harder to enforce laws for a learning disability
 - c. Laws are not enforced
3. Possibly have conversation with Attorney's General office
 - a. Based on testimony widespread concern about quality of services provided to children with disabilities both in education and group housing
4. There are situations where staffing cut and there was not adequate support
5. Possibly contact Cathryn Sansonetti – Disability Law Center
 - a. Sits on state rehab council
 - b. Has parents coming to talk about school systems
 - c. May have ideas of whether there is any legislative action that needs to be taken
6. Difference between what law requires and what person needs
7. Is there a possibility of amending current law
8. Out of district placement
 - a. Talk to Betty Merner – follow up if the money is being restricted, is it how the funds is being interpreted – Meadowbrook Waldorf school
 - b. Possibly talk to boss
 - c. Law says have to provide out of district placement – does the language in the law need to be more strict
9. RIPIN
 - a. Talk to them about complaints hearing from parents
 - b. May find a trend that can be identified for legislative action

On Pages	Concerns	Recommendations
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36, 38, 44	Public funding is flowing to private schools but often the parents have to fight to get the funding to follow	Look into how the money is being restricted or how the funds are being used.
33	Services for the individual are not aligning with the needs of the individuals	Rights of students should be affirmed to have free and appropriate education that fosters their independence.
 voting check off graphic	MOTION: To propose the concerns and recommendations above AS/JD passed unanimously	
 alarm clock graphic	2. Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 9:45 am	