

**NORTHWEST SPECIAL EDUCATION REGION**

**LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LAC)**

**(Serving Foster, Foster/Glocester, Glocester and Scituate School Districts)**

**September 10, 2014**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Heather Kennedy attended and meeting convened at 6:30 p.m.**

**Denise Brierley and John Magner also were present at the meeting.**

**Minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and approved.**

**Group discussed the results of the survey regarding the Local Advisory Committee, Resource Fair and Support Group. Only 20 people responded with mixed results. Families feel generally happy with services and don't see a need to attend other meetings.**

**Interested topics include:**

**Resources for adults with special needs and their families (including helping them obtain work, apply for SSI benefits, etc.)**

**Respite Care, programs for children to learn coping skills with their individual challenges**

**What community services are available, particularly as the student ages**

**More work on pairing children with special education needs with peers/mentors**

**Autism training for school personnel-all teachers need to be trained**

**NECAP is a concern-kids do well in class and on report cards and have difficulty on state assessment**

**How do we negotiate the school system in reference to IEP's? What are the legal rights of my child?**

**Ms. Kennedy shared concerns from families across the state regarding the adoption of the Common Core and impact on students with disabilities. She had hoped that people would be interested in the topic and would attend a LAC meeting.**

**John Magner shared the proposal to provide support and guidance for families regarding self-determination and employment for students with disabilities (Dr. Antosh from the Sherlock Center). Ms. Kennedy would love to be engaged in the program. She voiced her concern that people seem to be complacent and not seeking information from the LAC. How do we motivate parents to want to participate/be educated?**

**John indicated that he would be happy to invite Dr. Antosh to a meeting to discuss the Sherlock Center proposal.**

**Group discussed the possibility of banding together for purpose of LAC membership. John also discussed the possibility of putting out a parent newsletter regarding changes in regulations/graduation requirements.**

**Discussed the topics to be discussed at the next LAC meeting:**

- 1. Special Education Community discussion on Common Core**
- 2. Information will provided on an opportunity for families to participate in a grant funded program to support youth and families in the transition from school to adulthood.**

**Discuss the next meeting date for October depending on the availability of the speaker. In the email/flyer that goes to families, encourage them to email us with any questions they have regarding the Common Core.**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.**