

SECAC – PG GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
April 28, 2009

Attending:

Mike McLaughlin
Lillie Bond
Meg Dillman
Gail Voigt
Susan Cecere (PGCPS Physical Therapy Specialist)
Mary Bell (Coordinating Supervisor in Depr of Special Education)
ITia Meika Purnell Davenport
Vanessa Ridgeway
Sharin Laufer
Fidelia Nwachukwu

Greetings and Introductions were given by all those in attendance.

Susan Cecere, PGCPS Physical Therapist, is our Guest Visitor tonight giving a presentation on physical therapy. She showed the SECAC a large handbook which was created when a Steering Committee was formed by MSDE comprised of Occupational and Physical Therapists from across the state. The handbook describes the standards for occupational and physical therapy and is a nationally recognized document.

Ms. Cecere indicated that one third of Maryland's physical therapists have clinical doctorates.

The purpose of physical therapy is to optimize the function of the body within the confines of the educational model. The education model is different from the medical model in that the education model helps students participate in the school program which for the most part is in the general classroom. This differentiation of definition is crucial in understanding the role and types of therapies used by PGCPS physical therapists. As an example, medical model physical therapists may help a student to walk while the school physical therapist may concentrate on therapies for the student in a wheel chair because the student can participate in classroom activities in a wheel chair.

The emphasis on school physical therapy is to look at the strengths of the students, that is enablement, not the deficits and how the student can participate in classroom activities.

Goals and objectives are created for the student based on the family and the related service professionals meeting together and deciding on the scope of school priorities. The type and amount of service is identified by how much physical issues are a barrier to the educational process and what goals are realistic and measureable.

There is a discussion of related service goals with the emphasis on delivery on the fact that goals must be Measureable

Dr Downing-Hosten's Update

PGCPS Special Education Dept will have a part in the stimulus package. A 2 year professional development plan was created that will discuss supports and services needed by special education students.

The 4th phase of the MEANS classroom will be an intensive classroom for the co-taught classrooms. The Boundless Learning staff at Hopkins will facilitate the training. Also, all middle school CSEP students will be returned to their neighborhood schools. Forty three teachers and paraprofessionals will be dispersed to the to the schools.

MOE Waiver – County Executive Jack Johnson wants to cut the amount of PGCPS tax money spent on PGCPS schools. A number of counties in Maryland were considering asking the State of Maryland for waivers. Some have decided against the MOE. It appears the Prince George's will continue to ask for the MOE.

The Extraordinary Services Award Ceremony will take place (now on June 15). Please send in your suggestions for persons that deserve recognition for their work for students with disabilities.

Please send in your suggestions for SECAC officers for the next year. Chair, Co-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Assistant Secretary are all up for re-eldction.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail Voigt
Assistant Secretary