



The Citywide Council for District 75

Committee on Outreach/Committee on Busing & Safety/Ad-hoc Committee on Legislation
Grisel Cardona, Chair Amy Ming Tsai, Chair Debra Altman, Chair
Amy Ming Tsai, Co-Chair

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The Citywide Council for District 75, Committee on Outreach, hosted a public meeting, on the 11th of May, 2020, on the topic "Regression in Students with Disabilities." The committee convened a number of clinical providers to answer certain questions in response to identifying an overwhelming issue of District 75 students' intolerance to remote learning and related therapy platforms put in place by the NYC Department of Education due to Covid-19 school closures.

The Panelists for this meeting were all clinical providers, having extensive experience in treating the special needs population in their respective professions. Among the key opinions, conclusions and recommendations expressed by the panelists were:

- Remote learning and therapy-related services for students with disabilities are problematic and are not effective modalities to meet the needs of students with I/DD classifications;
- The rate of regression in the student disability population is significant and rapid; reversal of its affects are difficult and prolonged with the potential to have an "irreversible impact" on development as an adult;
- Expect significant, global regression in the absence of hands-on therapy interventions;
- Conduct mandatory re-evaluations of I/DD students upon re-opening of schools; re-establish a baseline and appropriate treatment plan and supports amendments to I.E.P's;
- Resumption of hands-on related services as soon as possible giving parents the choice of all of (1) school sites; (2) at-home; (3) private facilities;
- Existing CDC pandemic protocols that providers are currently operating under must be used to safely resume hands-on therapy modalities;
- There are no services available for those students that cannot tolerate remote, tele-therapy.

All panelist practitioners, by signing below, state the foregoing opinions, conclusions and recommendations are within a reasonable degree of certainty, within the professions of each of the panelists, with said attestation electronically recorded at the May 11, 2020 meeting.

Gershon Ney

GERSHON C. NEY, MD.
Diplomate, American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology
Ney Centers for Epilepsy Care and Sleep Medicine

Mary Beth Sivak

MARY BETH SIVAK, MA, PsyD, Clinical Psychology
Assistant Regional Senior Supervisor, Queens Mental Health
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Vinod somareddy

VINROD SOMAREDDY,PT, DPT
Director of Physical Therapy
Reddy-Care Physical and Occupational Therapy

Rita Levey OTR/L

RITA LEVEY, MS, OTR/L
Director of Occupational Therapy
Reddy-Care Physical and Occupational Therapy

Jason Mohabir

JASON MOHABIR, MS,CCC-SLP
Speech Language Pathologist
YAI Premiere Healthcare


Dated this 20thDay of May, 2020

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final statement of panelist2

Final Audit Report


2020-05-20

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 Signed document emailed to Gershon Ney (neycenters@yahoo.com), Vinod Somareddy (vinod@reddycare.net), Mary Beth Sivak (mary.sivak@yai.org), Rita Levey (rlevey@reddycare.net), and 2 more

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