



Massachusetts Administrators of Special Education

March 2016 Statewide Conference Program

Friday, March 18, 2016

The Hogan Center, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Massachusetts



**Focusing on What's Important During the Special Education Version of "March Madness:"
Fostering Support for Yourself, Students and Staff**

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Leadership and Stress – A Natural Combination: Managing Both Is the Key to Success

Featuring National Speaker **Norm Bossio**

Award winning National Speaker, Trainer, Consultant and Author

Former Massachusetts Teacher, Principal and Superintendent – Expert on Stress Reducing Techniques for Professionals

Norm will explore and discuss the unique frustrations, opportunities and stressors facing Special Education Leaders and School Teams, particularly during the time of the year when mandated/entitlement services need to be reviewed, parent requests and staff needs must be addressed, budget issues abound, and new special education accountabilities need to be implemented. Tips on balancing the multiplicity of these demands, as well as tips on putting these multiple issues into perspective, will be provided. Useful and practical coping mechanisms and strategies will be presented within the context of the demands of balancing personal lives and working in the school environment. A prerequisite for this presentation will be a sense of humor.



PLENARY SESSION

The Massachusetts Office of the Child Advocate: Statewide Efforts for Supporting Massachusetts Children and Families ... A Discussion with the MA OCA Director

This session will focus on:

- ✓ The role of the Office of The Child Advocate ... Mission, Vision, Responsibilities and Mandate
- ✓ What is needed to ensure that children receive appropriate services ... updated considerations
- ✓ Current challenges facing Massachusetts children and their families
- ✓ Highlights of school/agency collaborations to ensure positive outcomes for students and families

**Presenter: Maria Mossaides, Esq., Massachusetts Child Advocate,
Director of the Massachusetts Office of the Child Advocate (MA OCA)**



PLENARY SESSION

Prepare and Prevent, Don't Repair and Repent: Student and School Safety Issues in the Era of New Accountability

When a student presents as a potential risk to themselves or the school community, the Special Education Administrator is often relied upon to determine a decisive course of action. This session will focus on supporting school leaders and teams while keeping ALL safe in the school environment with discussion on:

- ✓ Developing the skills needed to assess threats of potentially harmful behavior and determine the level of concern and action required
- ✓ Successful systems for organizing resources to manage situations involving unsafe students
- ✓ Promoting and creating a sense of safety among students, teachers and parents
- ✓ Strategies and techniques for reducing the number of disciplinary exclusions for students who can be safely maintained in the school environment including de-escalation techniques and appropriate use and non-use of physical restraint and when to seek additional community resources for extreme unsafe situations
- ✓ Discussion of examples using assessments to make sound decisions - including case studies illustrating defensible and non-defensible findings
- ✓ Best practices and skill building for Teams in ensuring student safety, assessing and responding to risk
- ✓ Challenges to the new accountability mandates and best practice to ensure school accountability

Presenters: Paige Tobin, Esq., Murphy, Lamere & Murphy, PC, Special Education Counsel to School Districts, Expert in Special Education ... Dr. Jeff Turley, Child Psychiatrist, Consultant to School Districts, Educational Collaboratives, and State Agencies ... Vincent Cerce, M.Ed., CAGS, Department Head of Therapeutic Support, Brockton Public Schools, 25 years experience in the public school and private psychiatric hospital settings working with students experiencing psychiatric crisis and engaging in high risk behaviors

7:45am- Registration
9:00am Conference
1:45pm-Conference
Closes
Conference is a
FULL BREAKFAST
8:00 AM TO 8:55 AM
PROGRAM BEGINS
PROMPTLY AT 9:00 AM

Space Is Limited-
Register Early.
Registration Will Close
March 10, 2016!

REMINDER: Registrations received after March 10, 2016 may not be honored/accepted.