



# Massachusetts Administrators for Special Education

October 2016 Statewide Conference Program

Monday, October 31, 2016

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



## Starting the New School Year Strong and Informed: What Special Education Administrators and School Teams Need To Know

### KEYNOTE ADDRESS

#### Building a School Special Education Team That Really Works

Featuring State & National Speaker, Professional Leadership Skill Coach, **Rita Shiano**

Leadership/Team Building Consultant, Author, Strategic Intervention Coach, Contributor to the Huffington Post and Psychology Today, Adjunct Professor Bay Path University, Member of the National Speakers Association

Most successful school managers are only as successful as the team they lead. To build a successful school team you don't need to break out the pom-poms. The right amount of support, guidance, encouragement, and positive team spirit can take a professional school team to new levels of effectiveness and credibility.

#### Session Focus-Strategies and Techniques for:

- ✓ Creating an Effective School Based Team
- ✓ Leading-Facilitating-Motivating Staff
- ✓ Differentiating Team Roles (Boss-Teacher-Leader- Friend)
- ✓ Reengaging Difficult Team Members Back to the Team
- ✓ Maximizing the Most of Team Participants and the Team Process.



### PLENARY SESSION

#### “Keeping Our Kids Safe: Suggested Best Practices for Dealing with Bullying/Cyberbullying and Social Media from the Lens of a District Attorney”

Bullying remains one of the largest problems in schools. Additionally, cyberbullying has become more rampant and has contributed to the suicides of multiple children. The Internet has unleashed meanness to a degree unseen before.

#### Session Focus:

- ✓ How to Identify “At Risk” Youth and Ensure That They Are Receiving Appropriate Supports and Services
- ✓ What Constitutes a Threat
- ✓ The Do’s and Don’ts of Social Media
- ✓ The School Role Specific to Cyberbullying
- ✓ Collaboration/Communication with Law Enforcement and Other State Agencies

Presenter: **Jonathan Blodgett**, District Attorney, Essex County



### PLENARY SESSION

#### DESE Team Presentation

#### “The PQA Transition: What Will It Mean to Special Education Administrators, School District Teams, Families and Private Schools: Strengthening Partnerships and Student, Schools and Family Outcomes?”

#### Session Focus:

- ✓ The Focus of the Three New ESE Offices: Office of Approved Special Education Schools, Office of the Public School Monitoring, and the Problem Resolution System Office
- ✓ How these New Offices Will Improve Assistance to School Districts and Parents/Families, the Initial Steps and Strategic Plan
- ✓ How the Transition will Promote Cooperation and Collaboration with School Districts and Other Child Serving Agencies
- ✓ Opportunities for Schools and Districts to Collaborate With the New ESE Offices (formerly PQA)

Presenters: **Russell Johnston, PhD.**, Senior Associate Commissioner for Accountability, Partnerships, & Technical Assistance; **Vani Rastogi-Kelly**, Director, Office of Public School Monitoring; **Barry Barnett**, Director, Problem Resolution System Office



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### BREAKOUT SESSIONS

#### ***“When OCR Comes Knocking: A Legal Perspective”***

#### ***“The Ins and Outs of Effectively Responding to OCR Complaints and Related Important Civil Rights School Administrative Issues”***

The session will focus on what you should know about OCR’s recent Investigation and Compliance Review Process.

##### **Session focus:**

- ✓ Strategies and Techniques for Responding to OCR Complaints
- ✓ Highlights of Recent OCR Decisions on Special Education (IEP), Sections 504, District Website Access, Title IX, Title II, Title VI and Other Civil Rights Issues with Case Specific Examples
- ✓ Proactive Recommendations to Assist You In Navigating Successful Outcomes

**Presenter: Paige Tobin, Esq., Counsel to Massachusetts Public School Districts and ASE, Murphy, Lamere, and Murphy, P.C.**



#### ***“BSEA Updates: Focusing on School Districts’ Planning, Preparation and Strategies for Successful BSEA Proceedings”***

Massachusetts is unique in having a Bureau of Special Education Appeals.

##### **Session focus:**

- ✓ BSEA Updates
- ✓ Preparing for Due Process Hearings, Mediations and Settlement Conferences
- ✓ How to Assess a Case
- ✓ The Do’s and Don’ts of School Participation in BSEA Proceedings.

**Presenter: Reece Erlichman, Director, MA Bureau of Special Education Appeals (or Designee)**



#### ***“What’s Happening at DESE in the Special Education Planning and Policy Development Office: What School Districts Should Know to Increase Effective Special Education Practices”***

News, updates and panel discussion with the ESE Special Education Planning and Policy Development office about systems to support positive outcomes for students with disabilities.

##### **Session Focus:**

- ✓ The IEP Improvement Project
- ✓ The Low-Income Education Access Project (LEAP)
- ✓ PBIS Through Pyramid Strategies
- ✓ The State Systemic Improvement Plan
- ✓ Professional Development Priorities for the Upcoming School Year

**Presenter: Terri Williams Valentine, Esq., Director, with Andréa (AJ) Coté, Susan Fischer, Holly-Anne Neal, and Lauren Viviani of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s Office of Special Education Planning and Policy Development**

### **REMINDER**

***Registrations received after Monday, October 17, 2016  
may not be honored/accepted.***