<u>Attendance</u>: Kathy, Ruth, Jacqui, Jonas, Michael, Jim, ALT joined by cell phone

- Proposed Timeline Review Changes: Writing and Reviewing Report – ok – ALT will check with SDE Commissioner.
  - **November 17: 9:30 am**
    - Review common themes in comments across the 10 categorical themes.
    - Brainstorm recommendations for how we might address.

Discussion:

The group commented on individual review of the transcripts and survey open-ended responses:

Strengths exist in programs and training across the State – many opportunities for training listed in the survey open-ended text boxes and listing of experts serving districts in consulting capacities. There was a suggestion to include a section highlighting some of the strengths of the State. The Act requires section on building capacity and this could be noted with a recommendation to investigate further (or task to an organization if the recommendation is to build a central service center). There's a lot of awareness out there and resources available in some regions; however, it seems that there are issues on implementing some of the training after training has been received or experienced.

Plans for outreach to the nonacademic school personnel might include Step by step actions for families such as introducing the family members and sharing concerns due to the nature of the disability.

Look at the disabilities curriculum of police enforcement and other agencies and those who serve on the periphery – is this a priority area? Best practice training should include providing awareness to broader community. This could be a recommendation for a central service center.

Culture, sensitivity, attitude, school climate, meaningful participation, equity (resource allocation), access – are we addressing within the current categories? These were apparent in the survey comments.

<u>Higher education</u> and <u>funding</u> may be a separate section. These two areas may not fit with the themes and recommendation strategies, but need to be included. These two areas may stand on their own as separate sections in the report.

Transitions from programs and grade levels – middle to high and high to workforce or field may need to be highlighted more.

Teaching skills to children and youth with ASD/DD about relationships – friendships, love interests, boundaries – critical for future growth and development. We need to include these in our guidance somewhere but unclear which category best reflects…it goes beyond social skills.

Trainee Priority
Paraprofessional – Top cited group
Paraprofessionals – seem to be central to needs of school personnel.
Community-based staff including police, emergency responders

Reviewed comments:
Michael = looked at quotes for social skills and provided a list of hand outs. Collapse 7 and 1. Keep 1, 2, 3, 5, 7. No one was able to open the Education Connection notes – we were able to fix this. Kathy = reviewed her notes on items. Jacqui noted the frequency of comments related to functional behavior assessment. Ruth took group suggestions and will rework the categorical themes and send for final approval by the group later this week.

Initial Study Group Recommendations
- Look at current initiatives in the legislation such as the bullying and see where we can recommend addressing the needs of children and youth with ASD/DD
- New certification regulations/profession al development CEU – X hours allocated to working with low incidence disabilities,
- Paraprofessional training requirements reviewed and revised
- Focus on policies and practices that can be changed at the SDE/B23 levels
- State data/registry to include subgroups of ASD and coding for developmental disabilities.
- regional expert teams by RESC Alliance
- Center of Excellence (partnership/advisory panel)
- Regions specialize in certain areas – districts could call up a Center with their need and match them with expertise across the state.

Meet Next Week: In Middletown November 24th

We hope to have additional analyses to review at our next meeting. We will work on developing our recommendations using the following approach:

Need Themes	Key Findings	Recommended Actions
Theme 1	Highlights from data sources that describe need.	Proposed solutions about what we do based on root causes.

We will also share outlines for our writing sections for group feedback.