President's Commission on Excellence in Special Education
Assessment and Identification Task Force

April 16, 2002
Court Room at Borough Hall
209 Joralemon Street
Brooklyn, NY

Updated April 3, 2002

7:30 a.m.   *Registration for Public Comment Period*

8:00 a.m.   *Welcome by Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz*

8:05 a.m.   *Introductions and Overview - Chairman Jack Fletcher*

8:10 a.m.   *Minority Overidentification and Misidentification Panel*
The panel will review the ongoing problems of minority overidentification and misidentification in public schools. Witnesses to include:
1) **Harold Levy, Chancellor, New York City Schools, who will testify about the experience of the system's 1998 OCR agreement and their subsequent reduction in over referrals of minority students to special education.**

8:45 a.m.   *Task Force Q&A on Minority Overidentification and Misidentification*

9:30 a.m.   *Categorization: The Relationship Between Referrals, Categories, and Special Education Programs*
The panel will discuss the validity of IDEA categories, the links and disconnects between categories selected and appropriate services, the effect of categories on the incidence and type of referrals of students (i.e., externalized behaviors leading to referrals), and the impact of categories on the existence of early intervention services, including risk factor identification and early intervention.
1) **Dr. Frank Gresham, University of California at Riverside**
2) **Dr. James E. Ysseldyke, University of Minnesota**
3) **Dr. Gwendolyn Cartledge, Professor of Special Education at the Ohio State University.**

9:50 a.m.   *Task Force Q&A for Categorization Panel*

10:30 a.m.   *Break*

10:45 a.m.   *ADD and ADHD Identification Panel*
The panel will discuss ADD and ADHD issues, including causes for these disabilities, what constitutes an appropriate evaluation, and why ADD and ADHD has increased 319% over the past few years under the IDEA's OHI category. These experts will also discuss how to best treat ADD and ADHD in the context

of standard educational settings and make specific recommendations for policy change to better serve children with these conditions.
1) **Dr. Howard Abikoff of New York University School of Medicine Child Study Center**

11:20 a.m.   *Task Force Q&A on ADD and ADHD Identification*

12:00 p.m.   *Break*

1:00 p.m.   *Economic Incentives for Identification Patterns Panel*
The panel will discuss the link between funding and identification.
1) **Dr. Julie Berry Cullen, University of Michigan will testify on how funding formulas affect identification patterns.**

1:30 p.m.   *Task Force Q&A on Economic Incentives for Identification Patterns Panel*

2:10 p.m.   *Identification Practices and Education Teacher Training of Students with Severe Behavior Disorders*
The panel will review the tools and personnel training provided to general and special education teachers for effectively identifying and assessing children with severe behavior disorders, and recommendations for improving the professional competence of both regular and special educators to identify and serve children with behavior problems.
1) **Dr. Joseph H. Wehby of Vanderbilt University**

2:35 p.m.   *Task Force Q&A on Identification Practices and Teacher Training of Students with Severe Behavior Disorders*

2:55 p.m.   *The Connecticut Alternative to addressing issues about ADD and ADHD*
Connecticut State Representative Lenny T. Winkler, an emergency room nurse, will discuss the recent enactment of legislation in Connecticut, which clarifies that parents, not school districts, will have the final say on whether their children take Ritalin and other related medications to control behavior.
1) **Rep. Lenny T. Winkler**

3:25 p.m.   *Task Force Q&A with Representative Winkler*

3:45 p.m.   *Break*

4:00 p.m.   *Public Comment Period*

5:00 p.m.   *Task Force Comments on Public Comments*

5:20 p.m.   *Adjourn*