

Summer Sessions: Part 3 of 3 - Considerations for Your IPRC – Interpersonal Skills

Ed Mahony,
Mahony Advocacy



AutismONTARIO

see the potential voir le potentiel

Housekeeping Details

- The idea of this webinar series was to provide families with some clear instruction around getting the most out of your child's IPRC.
- There will be a list of resources provided to you to help assist you in this process that Ed will reference throughout his workshop
- This webinar is the first of three sessions we encourage all families to participate



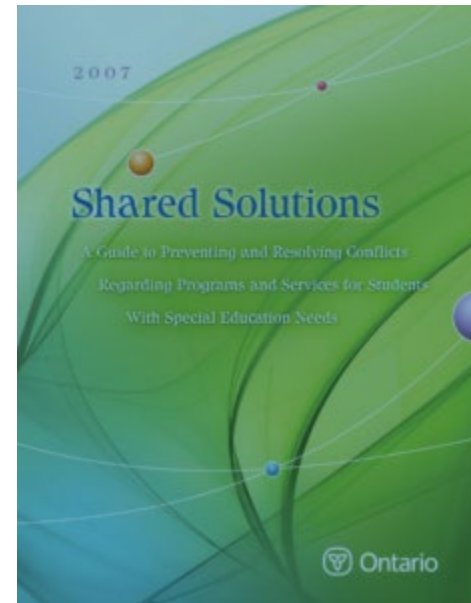
Conversations with Effective Parent Advocates – Lessons Learned

- Through experience I have discovered that successful advocates walk a razor edge between being **friendly** and being overly **adversarial**.
- Parents who are too **friendly** do not tend to push the envelope of what is possible.
- Parents who are overly **adversarial** risk missing the benefits of the “good will” of staff.
- The trick is to achieve balance between the two.



True Collaboration

- Everybody at the table understands everybody's rights and responsibilities
- Equal at the table
- Shared Solutions
- Regulation 181/98



True Collaboration

- Think of your own life:
 - You and your neighbour coexist because of a collection of rules that define your rights and responsibilities
 - You make it to work in your car successfully because of a mass of laws that tell everyone what to do on the road



True Collaboration

- The rules and regulations foster collaboration
- Having a common understanding of the rules in the long term helps create a more productive environment.



Meeting Rules

- Keep your cool
- **Be assertive, not aggressive**
- **Be polite but persistent**
- Know the authority sometimes rests much higher up than with the people at the meeting
- Know that a meeting is often only a link in a longer chain of events



Meeting Rules, Con't...

- Do not be pressured to get things straight in one interaction
- You would not buy a used car that way
- Take notes, write a meeting summary, set timelines
- Collect and organize data, forms, assessments and other information about your child
- Be thorough



Roadblocks

- Obstacles are a fact of life.
- Plan for a roadblock at an IPRC meeting/Plan for roadblocks
- Ways to minimize/respond to roadblocks
- Be sure to do your homework.
- Be realistic in your objectives/get an objective opinion regarding situations.
- Focus on parties that support your thoughts.
- Provide “heads up information” of your intent and line of reasoning
- Present a positive, forward looking yet focussed demeanour.



Roadblocks

- Find positive things to say throughout the meeting
- Focus on what is important
- Accept and validate the information you are hearing
- Active listening



Responding with Positivity

- Watch body language/eye contact/tone/what you say.
 - “I understand you do not feel the school cannot help with this.”
 - “I can see that this is not generally something the school does. It is in the Boards Guide to/ The education act/ The special education plan, etc... I appreciate all the school does for my daughter. I do plan to move forward with my proposal. I thank you for all your efforts...”



Responding with Positivity

- Monitor your emotional state.
- Bring someone with you.
- If you feel you are becoming overwhelmed considering asking for a break.
- Consider having the other person advocate with you.



Resources

- [Shared Solutions](#)
- [Regulation 181/98](#)
- [Autism Ontario](#)



Contact Ed!

www.mahonyadvocacy.com

