**ACCEPTED** Minutes and Proceedings

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Allegheny Intermediate Unit

Local Task Force

475 East Waterfront Drive

Homestead, PA 15120-1144

# **Members Present**

Ms. Amy Allkind

Ms. Jessica Demsky

Ms. Cynthia-Grace Devine-Kepner

Ms. Debra Efkeman

Mrs. Mary Evrard

Mrs. Penny Gardner

Mrs. Janice Geniviva

Ms. Rebecca Hahn, Chairperson

Mrs. Iris Heiser, Co-Chairperson

Ms. Sharon Janosik

Mr. Jeff Kane

Mrs. Pam Kane

Ms. Natalie Krall, Recording Secretary

Mrs. Theresa Lydon

Mr. Edward Wehrer

Mr. Brian Welles

Mrs. Susan Wuenstel

Ms. Valerie Zipay

# **Guests Present**

There was one guest present at this meeting.

Ms. Rebecca Hahn, Chairperson of the Local Task Force on the Right to Education (LTF) called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM on Wednesday, December 7, 2016.

**I. Welcome, Introductions, Excused Members**

Members and guests introduced themselves and their affiliations.

**II. Speakers**

**Mrs. Jeanine Esch and Mrs. Jennifer Pirring – Allegheny Intermediate Unit – Vision, Hearing, and Communication Access Programs**

Mrs. Esch and Mrs. Pirring informed the membership about the Allegheny Intermediate Unit’s Vision, Hearing and Communication Access Program.

Mrs. Esch informed the membership about her programs which includes:

Low Incidence Sensory Impairment Supports Program – This program supports school districts in meeting the needs of students who have vision and/or hearing losses in the least restrictive environment.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program – This program serves deaf and hard of hearing students in 37 schools districts within Allegheny County and currently has 256 students enrolled at this time.

Blind/Visually Support Program - This program serves visually impaired students and also assists them in getting braille displays as assistive technology tools.

Mrs. Pirring informed the membership about her program which includes:

Communication Access Program – This program includes educational interpreters who are highly qualified professionals providing interpreter services for children as well as adults within the educational environment.

Mrs. Pirring is a member of ERCHL (Educational Resources for Children with Hearing Loss) which is an advisory committee for the Pennsylvania Bureau of Special Education.

The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program have assisted students in leading ASL (American Sign Language) lessons to other students. They also have socials (ice cream socials, seasonal parties, and bowling) for children in their program.

If you have any further questions about these programs, please feel free to contact Mrs. Esch at 412-394-4538 or by e-mail at [jeanine.esch@aiu3.net](mailto:jeanine.esch@aiu3.net) or Mrs. Pirring at 412-394-4630 or by e-mail at jennifer.pirring@aiu3.net

**III. Review/Acceptance of the Minutes of November 2, 2016**

The minutes from the November meeting were reviewed. A motion was made to accept the

minutes with changes. Motion was made by Iris Heiser and seconded by Debra Efkeman.

**IV. Treasurer's Report – Ms. Rebecca Hahn**

Ms. Hahn reviewed the December treasurer’s report with the membership. There were no concerns.

**V. Family Empowerment – Ms. Rebecca Hahn**

Ms. Hahn distributed LTF brochures to the membership to pass out to potential new members. She is currently looking into getting domain names for various community based websites she would like to have for the LTF to interact with parents.

**VI. Consumer Concerns**

A concern was brought up by a parent regarding her 18 year old son. She did not get the information to sign up her son for services through the Allegheny Department of Human Services. She was told that Familylinks was supposed to contact her about her son’s services but never contacted her. She would like to change her son’s supports coordination agency at this time and would like to know what agency she could contact in order to do this. Several members of the LTF suggested the parent contact the Allegheny County Bureau of Autism or the Allegheny County Office of Intellectual Disability.

**VII. Informational Items**

**A. OID – Office of Intellectual Disability – Mrs. Mary Evrard**

Mrs. Evrard informed the membership of the following items:

* Dan Miller 4th Annual Children and Youth Disability and Mental Health Summit flyers which is taking place in March 2017.
* ASERT (PA Bureau of Autism Services) November and December newsletters.
* PA Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) Communication regarding waiver Renewals previously sent as email to membership.
* ODP News newsletter – Can be found at the [www.myodp.com](http://www.myodp.com) website

1. **AIU – Allegheny Intermediate Unit – Mr. Brian Welles**

Mr. Welles informed the membership that the AIU (Allegheny Intermediate Unit) and OVR (Office of Vocational Rehabilitation) will be partnering to bring Workplace Improvement Opportunity Act (WIOA) services to school districts and AIU schools. Some current programs include:

Sunrise School is partnering with OVR to provide paid employment for students.

Pathfinder School – PRIDE Program is a community based employment program for school districts and AIU center schools to gain employment skills.

**C. Awards Banquet – Mrs. Debra Efkeman**

Mrs. Efkeman informed the membership that the Scott E. Folmer award nomination form will be available on the [www.ltf3.org](http://www.ltf3.org) website starting on January 15, 2017. The deadline to submit all nomination forms is March 25, 2017.

**D. Superintendent Update – Mr. Edward Wehrer**

Mr. Wehrer did not have any new information to share with the membership.

**E. LTF/STF Update – Ms. Rebecca Hahn/Mrs. Iris Heiser**

Ms. Hahn and Mrs. Heiser informed the membership that they attended the November State

Force Meeting and the main point of discussion was low parent involvement at LTF meetings

in other parts of the state.

**H. Allegheny County Mental Health Children’s Team – Mr. Rusty Hewitt**

Mr. Hewitt introduced two new members of the Allegheny County Mental Health Children’s Team to the membership and they are:

Emily Welte – School Based Liaison

Kelly Spanos – Educational Specialist

Mr. Hewitt also informed the membership the Allegheny County Mental Health Children’s team is starting a five year project to revitalize the Allegheny County Student Assistance Program.

**I. Right to Education – Ms. Amy Guthrie**

Ms. Guthrie shared the following information with the membership:

* ARC National Office – Capital Insider Newsletter
* ACHIEVA Newsletter
* Special Olympics for young athletes ages 2-7 years old starting on January 7, 2017 – February 25, 2017 from 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM.

**VIII. Committee Update**

1. **Parent Assistance Line – Mrs. Susan Wuenstel**

Mrs. Wuenstel informed the membership that she received two calls on the parent assistance line for the month of November.

The first call was from a parent from the New Kensington-Arnold School District who wanted recommendations for inclusive based schools in Allegheny County. Mrs. Wuenstel suggested that the parent the PEAL center for further information.

The second call was from a parent from the Keystone Oaks School District who is noticing that the district is delaying evaluations for OT/PT services, psychological services, and speech/language services. Mrs. Wuenstel gave the Office of Dispute Resolution Services phone number to the parent to call for assistance with this matter.

1. **LTF Team – Mrs. Debra Efkeman**

Mrs. Efkeman did not have any new information to share with the membership.

**C. Cyclical Monitoring – Mrs. Janice Geniviva**

Mrs. Geniviva informed the membership of the schedule for Cyclical Monitoring for the 2016-2017 school year:

12/12/16 - Propel Charter School in Hazelwood

1/23/17 - Duquesne City School District

2/13/17 - Fox Chapel School District

2/13/17 - Quaker Valley School District

3/16/17 - West Jefferson Hills School District

3/20/17 - Keystone Oaks School District

3/27/17 - Hampton Township School District

4/3/17 - Elizabeth Forward School District

5/8/17 - South Allegheny School District

1. **Old Business**

Mrs. Wuenstel informed the membership that the Imagine Penn Hills Charter School for Entrepreneurship will be sending the LTF parent satisfaction surveys to their parents on January 3, 2017.

1. **New Business**

A motion was made to nominate the following people as new members of the Local Task Force:

Amy Allkind

Cynthia-Grace Devine-Kepner

Sharon Janosik

Motion to nominate was made by Rebecca Hahn and seconded by Debra Efkeman.

Motion to accept Amy Allkind, Cynthia-Grace Devine-Kepner, and Sharon Janosik was unanimous.

1. **Membership Rounder**

Everyone wished each other a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Valerie Zipay informed the membership that her son was honored by the Allegheny County

Council.

**XI. Adjournment**

A motion was made for adjournment.

Motion was made by Debra Efkeman and seconded by Penny Gardner.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.