**ACCEPTED** Minutes and Proceedings

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Allegheny Intermediate Unit

Local Task Force

475 East Waterfront Drive

Homestead, PA 15120-1144

# **Members Present**

Ms. Amy Allkind

Ms. Debra Efkeman

Mrs. Mary Evrard

Mrs. Penny Gardner

Mrs. Janice Geniviva

Ms. Rebecca Hahn, Chairperson

Mrs. Iris Heiser, Co-Chairperson

Ms. Natalie Krall, Recording Secretary

Ms. Joanna Patterson

Mr. Edward Wehrer

Mr. Brian Welles

Ms. Emily Welte

Ms. Judy Winschel

# **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.

The following members have been excused from this meeting: Theresa Lydon and Susan Wunestel.

**II. Speaker**

**Mr. John Valantassis – Attorney – Ruder Law**

Mr. Valantassis informed the membership about a special education legal case that is taking place quite often. The case involves parents who would like to obtain tuition reimbursement from their home school district to place their child in private school placement due to issues they may be having with their child’s education in that district. Mr. Valantassis explained to the membership the parental and school district’s rights in these cases and what they both must prove to be successful in this type of case. He also explained recent court cases that have taken place regarding this issue as well as their outcomes.

**III. Review/Acceptance of the Minutes of December 7, 2016**

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

minutes with changes. Motion was made by Debra Efkeman and seconded by Cindy Duch.

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

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

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

Ms. Hahn informed the membership about some more ideas she has to recruit new members to the LTF:

1. Partner with a school district parent program who can market the LTF to their members and contacts.
2. Cindy Duch suggested she partner with the University of Pittsburgh LEND Program and Duquesne University who can market the LTF meetings to parents.

**VI. Consumer Concerns**

There were no concerns discussed at this meeting.

**VII. Informational Items**

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

Mrs. Evrard informed the membership of the following items:

* Handouts and links to information about the PA Intellectual Disability Waiver Proposed
  + Changes found on the PA DHS (Department of Human Services) website [www.dhs.pa.gov/provider/developmentalprograms/2017waiverrenewals/](http://www.dhs.pa.gov/provider/developmentalprograms/2017waiverrenewals/)
* December 2016 ODPNews which can be found on the *MyODP* website.
* OID Supports Coordination Fact Sheet and Organization list:
  + Fact Sheet found, along with others on the Allegheny County DHS website, the OID page here: [www.alleghenycounty.us/Human-Services/Resources/Publications/Resource-Guides/OID-Fact-Sheets.aspx](http://www.alleghenycounty.us/Human-Services/Resources/Publications/Resource-Guides/OID-Fact-Sheets.aspx)
  + List found on AC DHS website, OID page here: <http://www.alleghenycounty.us/Human-Services/Programs-Services/Disabilities/Intellectual-Disability.aspx>

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

Mr. Welles informed the membership the PRIDE Program has received the required amount of students to begin at Pathfinder School on January 23, 2017. There are students from Allegheny County and surrounding counties enrolled in the program.

**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 thru 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 about the following events:

COPAA (Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates Inc.) Conference – March 2-5, 2017 at

The Fairmont Hotel in Dallas, TX.

Transition Coordinating Council Meeting – January 9, 2017 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM at the

Allegheny Intermediate Unit Central Office.

School Bulling Webinar on January 11, 2017 at 3:00 PM on the following website:

<http://ow.ly/8P5y306FRVS>

State Task Force Meeting on January 17, 2017 at PATTAN Pittsburgh. The gate code is

#42601.

Representative Dan Miller Disability and Mental Health Summit – March 22-24, 2017 at the

Beth El Congregation in Mt. Lebanon, PA.

**H. Allegheny County Mental Health Children’s Team – Ms. Joanna Patterson and Ms.**

**Emily Welte**

Ms. Patterson and Ms. Welte informed the membership that the Allegheny County Mental Health Children’s Team are approved to present at the NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Health Illness) Conference that is taking place on March 31, 2017 at the Pittsburgh Airport Marriott.

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

Ms. Guthrie informed the membership that Achieva will be sponsoring a workshop on Person Centered Thinking on January 25, 2017.

**VIII. Committee Update**

1. **Parent Assistance Line – Ms. Amy Guthrie**

Ms. Guthrie informed the membership that she received one call to the Parent Assistant Line in December 2016 from a parent from West Mifflin School District. The parent had questions about her child’s 504 plan. Ms. Guthrie assisted the parent by providing her resources.

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

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

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**

There was no old business discussed at this meeting.

1. **New Business**

There was no new business discussed at this meeting.

1. **Membership Rounder**

Everyone wished each other a Happy New Year.

Cindy Duch informed the membership that the PEAL Center will be holding their Inclusion

Conference in conjunction with the Dan Miller Summit on March 22, 2016 at Beth El

Congregation.

Cindy Duch also informed the membership that Governor Wolfe appointed her to the Rehab

Advisory Council of Pennsylvania.

**XI. Adjournment**

A motion was made for adjournment.

Motion was made by Cindy Duch and seconded by Penny Gardner.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.