**APPROVED** Minutes and Proceedings

Wednesday, October 5, 2016

Allegheny Intermediate Unit

Local Task Force

475 East Waterfront Drive

Homestead, PA 15120-1144

# **Members Present**

Mrs. Cindy Duch

Mrs. Mary Evrard

Mrs. Penny Gardner

Mrs. Janice Geniviva

Ms. Amy Guthrie

Ms. Rebecca Hahn, Chairperson

Mr. Clint Hauser

Mrs. Iris Heiser, Co-Chairperson

Ms. Natalie Krall, Recording Secretary

Ms. Judy Winschel

# **Guests Present**

There were two guests 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 7:02 PM on October 5, 2016.

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

Members and guests introduced themselves and their affiliations.

The following members have been excused from this meeting: Debra Efkeman, Theresa Lydon, Dr. Nanci Sullivan, and Susan Wuenstel.

**II. Speakers**

**Heidy Frycke and Eileen Cirelli – Allegheny Intermediate Unit – Speech/Language Support Program**

Mrs. Frycke and Mrs. Cirelli informed the membership about the Allegheny Intermediate Unit Speech/Language Department. There are currently 43 speech language pathologists that work for the program in school districts, charter schools, parochial schools, and private schools throughout Allegheny County. There are currently two K-1 language classrooms in Allegheny County that are run by the Allegheny Intermediate Unit Speech/Language Department. These language classrooms are currently housed at Hoover Elementary School in Mt. Lebanon School District and Edgewood Elementary in Woodland Hills School District. There are no more than eight students per classroom and any school district within Allegheny County can refer children to this program. The Allegheny Intermediate Unit Speech/Language Department also provides the following services to school districts:

* Speech/Language Therapy Services
* Small Group Pullout
* Individual Pullout
* Diagnostic Services
* Feeding and Swallowing Dysphagia Services

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

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

minutes with changes. Motion was made by Penny Gardner and seconded by Cindy Duch.

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

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

Ms. Hahn also asked the membership if they would like to use the increase in the LTF budget to increase and build membership with various activities. The LTF membership agreed to this request and will come up with ideas for activities in subsequent LTF meetings.

**V. Consumer Concerns**

There were no consumer concerns discussed at this meeting.

**VI. Informational Items**

1. **MH – Members of the Allegheny County Mental Health Children’s Team – Mr. Clint Hauser**

Mr. Hauser informed the membership that there is a new educational specialist named Kelly Spanos who just joined the Allegheny County Mental Health Children’s Team.

Mr. Hauser also informed the membership that Allegheny County has come up with a new app called Allegheny County Emergency Services (ECES). ACES is an interactive app that enables Allegheny County residents to improve communications, emergency preparedness, and resiliency. The app is available for both IPhone and Android devices and can be downloaded for free from various online app stores.

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

Ms. Evrard informed the membership of the following items:

       ASERT PA Bureau of Autism Services newsletter

* Transition Coordinating Council of Allegheny County brochure. Please contact Erin Grimm at [erin.grimm@aiu3.net](mailto:erin.grimm@aiu3.net) to be added to the Transition Coordinating Council of Allegheny County parent e-mail distribution list.
* AIU3 2016-2017 Parent Education Series: Secondary Transition
* ACHIEVA Advocacy and Family Supports Information Sessions

1. **AIU – Allegheny Intermediate Unit – Dr. Nanci Sullivan**

Dr. Sullivan was not in attendance at this meeting.

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

Mr. Wehrer was not in attendance at this meeting.

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

Ms. Guthrie informed the membership of the following items:

* ASSERT Newsletter
* Disability Rights Network Newsletter
* The ARC is currently fighting organ transplant discrimination for people with disabilities.
* Assistive Technology Expo – It will be held on November 10, 2016 at the Doubletree Hotel in Cranberry and is sponsored by PATTAN.

**F. LTF Update – Ms. Rebecca Hahn**

Ms. Hahn attended the State Task Force meeting and the following information was

presented there:

* OVR (Office of Vocational Rehabilitation) needs staff for the Autism ID program. They are looking for part-time consultants.
* PADES (Pennsylvania Disability Employment and Empowerment Summit) will be holding their conference on October 17-18, 2016 in Erie, PA.
* Executive Order Recommendations for the Employment First Program.

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

Mrs. Efkeman was not in attendance at this meeting.

**VIII. Committee Update**

1. **Parent Assistance Line – Ms. Rebecca Hahn**

Ms. Hahn informed the membership that the Parent Assistance Line received two calls in September 2016 from two grandmothers who had the same issue. One of the grandmothers was from Bethel Park School District and the other was from Propel Charter School in Braddock. Both grandmothers stated that their grandchildren were given unfair disciplinary measures by both schools. Ms. Hahn talked with each grandmother and provided phone numbers to the PEAL Center, Disability Rights Network, and Education Law Center for assistance with this matter. Both grandparents felt that their grandsons were being discriminated against based on African American race and also based on mental health disabilities.

1. **LTF Team – Mrs. Debra Efkeman**

Mrs. Efkeman was not in attendance at this meeting.

**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

1/23/17 - 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**

Rebecca Hahn – LTF Chairperson has recommended Iris Heiser as Co-Chairperson for the Local Task Force for the 2016-2017 school year.

Motion to nominate was made by Rebecca Hahn and seconded by Cindy Duch.

Motion was discussed.

Motion to accept Iris Heiser as Co-Chairperson for the Local Task Force for the 2016-2017

school year was unanimous.

1. **Membership Rounder**

Cindy Duch informed the membership that her son Alex started college this fall and her son Andrew is enjoying his job at Giant Eagle.

**XI. Adjournment**

A motion was made for adjournment.

Motion was made by Janice Geniviva and seconded by Penny Gardner.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.