**ACCEPTED** Minutes and Proceedings

Wednesday, September 7, 2016

Allegheny Intermediate Unit

Local Task Force

475 East Waterfront Drive

Homestead, PA 15120-1144

# **Members Present**

Mrs. Debra Efkeman

Mrs. Mary Evrard

Mrs. Penny Gardner

Mrs. Janice Geniviva

Ms. Amy Guthrie

Ms. Rebecca Hahn, Chairperson

Mrs. Iris Heiser

Mr. Rusty Hewitt

Mr. Jeff Kane

Mrs. Pam Kane

Ms. Natalie Krall, Recording Secretary

Mrs. Theresa Lydon

Mrs. Joanna Patterson

Mrs. Lili Rosenthal

Dr. Nanci Sullivan

Mr. Edward Wehrer

Mrs. Susan Wuenstel

# **Guests Present**

There was one guest present at this meeting.

The following members have been excused from this meeting: Cindy Duch.

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 September 7, 2016.

1. **Welcome, Introductions, Excused Members**

Members and guests introduced themselves and their affiliations.

**II. Speaker**

**Diane Cashman – Director of Employment, DHS/ODEP (Department of Human Services/Office of Disability Employment Policy)**

Ms. Cashman explained the following information to the membership that her program is offering at this time:

* Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program.
* Executive Order 2016-03 – Establishing “Employment First” policy and increasing competitive integrated employment for Pennsylvanians with a disability.
* Services for people with intellectual disabilities.
* Services for people with autism spectrum disorders.
* Governor Wolf signs a bill to help individuals with disabilities save for future expenses.
* Everyday Lives Conference – It will be held on September 14-16, 2016 at the Hershey Lodge.

If you have any questions, you can reach Ms. Cashman by e-mail at dcashman@pa.gov

**III. Review/Acceptance of the Minutes of April 6, 2016**

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

minutes with changes. Motion was made by Marilyn Shirwarski and seconded by Debra Efkeman.

**IV.Treasurer’s Report – Mrs. Theresa Lydon**

Mrs. Lydon reviewed the June treasurer’s report with the membership. There were no concerns.

**V. Consumer Concerns**

A parent brought up a concern about an IEP goal for observational behavior. The goal runs from May 2016 to June 2017 but there is no measurement piece on the IEP. Several members suggested that the parent point this out to the school district to have them revise this IEP goal.

A parent brought up a concern about the school district superintendent signing a NOREP three days before the meeting and dating it that day instead of the day of the meeting. The parent said that the superintendent should date the NOREP the day of the meeting but the school district stated that it doesn’t matter at this time. Keith Focht will check at the State Level regarding the policy on the NOREP date.

**VI. Informational Items**

1. **MH – Members of the Allegheny County Mental Health Children’s Team – Ms. Amy Hardy**

Ms. Hardy was not in attendance at this meeting.

1. **OID – Office of Intellectual Disability – Mrs. Marilyn Shiwarski**

Mrs. Shiwarski informed the membership of the following items:

The Allegheny County Office of Human Services is currently offering musical fund money for children up to age 21 with an IEP. This money can be used for summer camps, equestrian activities, college visits and other outside activities. If you are interested in applying for money from this fund, please contact your Department of Human Services Service Coordinator.

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) and the Office of Intellectual Disability will be giving joint presentations to school districts on PETS (Pre-Employment Training Services).

Mary Figlar from the Office of Intellectual Disability recently got married and is now Mary Evrad. Her new e-mail address is [mevrad@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:mevrad@alleghenycounty.us)

1. **AIU – Allegheny Intermediate Unit – Dr. Richard Dowell**

Dr. Dowell informed the membership of the following items:

* Sunrise School has received a Gateway to the Arts grant of $1,000.00 from the Monroeville Arts Council to have residence artists in their music and art classes.
* Stephanie Davis who is a teacher for the Allegheny Intermediate Unit’s Blind/Visually Impaired Support Program presented with blind and visually impaired student Ava Pacheco on the Unified English Braille Code at the Delaware Vision Conference in Harrisburg, PA.
* Michelle Burgess from the Mighty Penguins Program presented to OT/PT staff members at their staff meeting. The Mighty Penguins Program sponsors sled hockey teams for children with disabilities and is funded by the Penguins Foundation.

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

Mr. Wehrer was not in attendance at this meeting.

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

Ms. Guthrie was not in attendance at this meeting.

**F. State Task Force (STF) Meeting Update – Mrs. Susan Wuenstel**

Mrs. Wuenstel informed the membership of the following items that were covered at the

State Task Force meeting:

The Special Education Advisory Panel will be expanding to the Pittsburgh area and their

meetings will be held at PATTAN.

Keith Focht from the State Task Force wanted ideas on topics that can be covered at the

2016-2017 State Task Force conference.

Marty Rist is retiring from PATTAN.

Imagine Charter School in Penn Hills, PA is interested in taking part in the LTF Parent

Satisfaction Survey in the fall of 2016.

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

Mrs. Efkeman informed the membership that the Scott E. Folmer Awards Banquet was a success and thanked everyone that was involved for their assistance with this program.

**VII. Committee Update**

1. **Parent Assistance Line – Mrs. Cindy Duch**

Mrs. Duch informed the membership that she received one call to the Parent Assistance Line in April from a parent who has a child attending a Charter School that currently has an IEP. The parent is concerned about psychological services at the school. Ms. Duch asked the parent to send her a copy of her child’s IEP and she is currently reviewing it at this time.

Mrs. Duch informed the membership that she received one call in May from a parent from the Sto-Rox School District that is having issues with their child’s IEP and the school district. Mrs. Duch recommended the Allegheny County Mental Health Children’s Team and gave the parent Joanna Patterson’s contact information.

1. **LTF Team – Mrs. Debra Efkeman**

Mrs. Efkeman informed the membership that the LTF Team will start again at the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year.

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

Mrs. Geniviva informed the membership that Cyclical Monitoring is done for the 2015-2016 school year.

1. **Old Business**

There was no old business discussed at this meeting.

1. **New Business**

The LTF Nomination Committee has recommended Rebecca Hahn as chair for the Local Task Force for the 2016-2017 school year.

Motion to nominate was made by Debra Efkeman and seconded by Janice Geniviva.

Motion was discussed.

Motion to accept Rebecca Hahn as Chairperson for the Local Task Force for the 2016-2017

school year was unanimous.

The Local Task Force Co-Chairperson position is currently vacant.

**Membership Rounder**

Debra Efkeman and the entire LTF membership thanked Susan Wuenstel and Theresa Lydon

for serving as Chair and Co-Chair of the LTF #3 for the past three years. Everyone

expressed their appreciation to them.

Everyone wished each other a wonderful summer.

**XI. Adjournment**

A motion was made for adjournment.

Motion was made by Iris Heiser and seconded by Penny Gardner.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.