**APPROVED** Minutes and Proceedings

Wednesday, April 3, 2019

Allegheny Intermediate Unit

Local Task Force

475 East Waterfront Drive

Homestead, PA 15120-1144

# **Members Present**

Mr. Regis Charlton

Ms. Cynthia Grace Devine-Kepner

Mrs. Mary Evrard

Mr. Rusty Hewitt

Ms. Sharon Janosik, Co-Chairperson

Ms. Natalie Krall, Recording Secretary

Ms. Leanna Lawson

Ms. Sue Moyer

Ms. Kelly Spanos

Ms. Michelle Walker

Mr. Brian Welles

# **Guests Present**

There were two guests present at this meeting.

Ms. Sharon Janosik, Co-Chairperson of the Local Task Force on the Right to Education (LTF) called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM on April 3, 2019.

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

Members and guests introduced themselves and their affiliations.

The following member have been excused from this meeting: Debbie Efkeman, Janice Geniviva, Amy Guthrie, Christa Jones, Marci Katona, and Susan Wuenstel.

**II. Guest Speaker – Ms. Chris Gaus – PA Family Network**

Ms. Gaus explained the PA Family Network to the membership and what services they provide for families. The PA Family Network is funded through the PA Office of Developmental Programs. They sponsor various workshops for families including:

* Creating a Vision for a Good Life
* Creating a Vision for Life After High School
* STAR Power
* Creating a Vision for Living Safely in the Community
* Create a Vision – L.E.A.D. the Way to Healthy Relationships and Sexuality

**III. Review/Acceptance of the Minutes of March 6, 2019**

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

minutes with changes. Motion was made by Cynthia Grace Devine-Kepner and seconded by Regis Charlton.

**IV. Treasurer’s Report – Ms. Sharon Janosik**

Ms. Janosik reviewed the April Treasurer’s Report with the membership.

**V. Consumer Concerns**

A concern was brought up from a parent who has a child in a cyber school who needs travel training. Brian Welles said that the parent can have the cyber school reach out to the AIU since they have a travel trainer that can be contracted to cyber schools.

A concern was brought up regarding adult guardianship and if someone can determine if an individual still needs assigned guardianship. The individual currently lives in an assisted living facility. Various members of the LTF suggested that this individual contact their supports coordinator and they must also find out if their current guardian is court appointed or a family appointed guardian. Mary Evrard from the Office of Intellectual Disability offered her support to this individual.

**VI. Informational Items**

1. **OID – Mrs. Mary Evrard**

Mrs. Evrard informed the membership about the following information:

* Updated OID webpage
* OID Eligibility Fact Sheet
* OID Supports Coordination Fact Sheet
* OID Key Communicator flier
* Gateway Family Transition Night flier (April 10)
* 4th Annual Southwestern PA Special Needs Fair and Expo
* Consider Communication ODP learning opportunity
* Miracle League Spring Season begins in May

If you need information about OID or any of the information shared at the meeting please reach Mary at 412-253-1251 or [mevrard@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:mevrard@alleghenycounty.us)

1. **AIU Special Education – Mr. Brian Welles**

Mr. Welles did not have any new information for the membership at this time.

1. **– AIU – Training and Consultation Program – Ms. Leeanna Lawson**

Ms. Lawson informed the membership that the AIU Training and Consultation Department is preparing training for teachers for the new 2019-2020 school year.

1. **Superintendent Updated – Ms. Sue Moyer**

Ms. Moyer informed the membership that the PSSA and Keystone tests are starting up again this month and it is a stressful time for students and teachers.

**E. LTF/STF Update – Ms. Sharon Janosik**

Ms. Janosik attended the PDE Conference and had a great time learning new information at the sessions.

Ms. Janosik attended the State Force Meeting on March 27, 2019 and was informed that the current Pennsylvania State Director of Special Education has retired from their position. The next State Task Force Meeting will be on May 15, 2019.

Ms. Janosik also informed the membership that on April 10, 2019 that US Secretary of Education – Betsy DeVos will be testifying before a committee on education.

1. **MH Update – Allegheny County MH Children’s Team – Mr. Rusty Hewitt and Ms. Kelly Spanos**

Mr. Hewitt and Ms. Spanos informed the membership that the Student Assistance Program (SAP) that identifies a child’s mental health needs in school has proven to be successful. The program identifies mental health issues earlier and children can get connected to a mental health provider to assist them with their needs.

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

Ms. Guthrie was not in attendance at this meeting.

1. **Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) – Ms. Marci Katona**

Ms. Katona was not in attendance at this time.

1. **Disability Options Network – Mr. Regis Charlton**

Mr. Charlton did not have any new information to share with the membership at this time.

**VII. Committee Update**

1. **Parent Assistance Line**

The following phone calls were made to the Parent Assistance Line for the month of March:

A parent in the Elizabeth Forward School District called regarding a 504 plan that her child has had since October and would like assistance. This parent was referred to the Allegheny County Mental Health Children’s Team.

A parent in the the Sto-Rox School District called regarding her 2nd grade child who had an IEP in the past in early intervention but does not have them now since they are in school. The school district informed the parent that the criteria was not met for school aged special education services for her child. This parent was referred to the Allegheny County Mental Health Children’s Team.

1. **Cyclical Monitoring – Ms. Sharon Janosik**

Ms. Janosik informed the membership of the upcoming Cyclical Monitoring schedule:

4/15/19 – Cornell School District

5/6/19 – Propel Charter School – Homestead

1. **Parent Satisfaction Survey – Mrs. Susan Wuenstel**

Mrs. Wuenstel was not in attendance at this meeting but will report the results of the LTF Parent Satisfaction Survey at the May LTF meeting.

**VIII. Old Business**

There was no old business discussed at this meeting.

**IX. New Business**

There was no new business discussed at this meeting.

**X. Membership Rounder**

Michelle Walker announced her pregnancy to the membership and will be due in August.

**X. Motion for Adjournment**

A motion was made for adjournment.

Motion was made by Michelle Walker and seconded by Regis Charlton.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.