**ACCEPTED** Minutes and Proceedings

Wednesday, December 5, 2018

Allegheny Intermediate Unit

Local Task Force

475 East Waterfront Drive

Homestead, PA 15120-1144

# **Members Present**

Mrs. Amy Allkind

Mrs. Emily Born

Mrs. Cindy Duch

Mrs. Debra Efkeman

Mrs. Mary Evrard

Mrs. Penny Gardner

Ms. Jeanette Geary

Mrs. Janice Geniviva

Ms. Amy Guthrie

Ms. Sharon Janosik, Co-Chairperson

Ms. Natalie Krall, Recording Secretary

Ms. Leanna Lawson

Ms. Sue Moyer

Ms. Michelle Walker

Mr. Brian Welles

Mrs. Susan Wuenstel

# **Guests Present**

There were no 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 7:10 PM on December 5, 2018.

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

Members and guests introduced themselves and their affiliations.

The following member have been excused from this meeting: Cynthia Grace Devine-Kepner and Marci Katona.

**II. Guest Speaker – Jessica Benham and Cori Frazer – Pittsburgh Center for Autistic Advocacy**

Jessica Benham and Cori Frazer informed the membership about their organization Pittsburgh Center for Autistic Advocacy and the programs they have for autistic adults. The organization’s main purposes include:

* Building Autistic Community
* Educating Service Providers
* Empowering Autistic Leaders
* Advocating for Supportive Policy

Jessica Benham and Cori Frazier also informed the membership that they currently have the following programs for autistic adults including social skills programs at coffee shops and bars, voter registration drives, and job training programs. They encourage everyone to follow them on Facebook or Twitter as well as sign up for the newsletter for information on upcoming events.

**III. Review/Acceptance of the Minutes of November 7, 2018**

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

minutes with changes. Motion was made by Debra Efkeman and seconded by Sharon Janosik.

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

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

**V. Consumer Concerns**

There was no consumer concerns brought up at this meeting.

**VI. Informational Items**

1. **OID – Mrs. Mary Evrard**

Mrs. Evrard informed the membership about the following information:

Want to receive on going helpful communications from Allegheny County Office of Intellectual Disability (OID)?

Interested in learning more about supports for individuals with intellectual disability and / or autism and their families?

Have questions about the information listed below?

Please reach Mary Evrard at 412-253-1251 or [mevrard@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:mevrard@alleghenycounty.us)

Mrs. Evrard shared resources for support through a binder of handouts. Information included:

    \*Extra copies are available.

  CCAC and OVR Promoting Academic Success (PAS) Academic and Personal Development Program for Students with Learning Differences

  Latest ASERT newsletter

  PEAL newsletter

  ODP Supporting People Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing Special Training Series

  ASERT *Be Safe* resources

  Allegheny County Department of Human Services (DHS) brochure

  Office of Intellectual Disability (OID) and Key Communicator flier \*

  Some Communicator Announcements examples

  Dan Miller Disability and Mental Health Summit March 13 through 15 \*

  Down Syndrome Center of Pittsburgh Parent Support Group Kick-Off Meeting, Dec 10

  Latest ODP newsletter

  The Community of Practice: Supporting Families across the Lifespan through the LifeCourse Framework flier

  PA DHS 11/14/18 Health Alert…Maintaining Skin Integrity and Preventing Pressure Injuries

  Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services contact flier \*

  Where to Call Directory of Mental Health & Drug and Alcohol Services

  ACHIEVA Family Trust speaker series through April 2019

  Speaking Up family groups December 2018-June 2019

  LIHEAP – heating assistance – 2018-19 brochure

  PA Community on Transition webinar series, November 29th, December 5th, February 6th, April 10th

  Pittsburgh Ballet Theater Adaptive Dance 2018-19

  National Down Syndrome Congress Convention – June in Pittsburgh

  PYI (Pennsylvania Youth Initiative) Teamwork Youth Leadership brochure

  OVR 101 and OVR Save the Dates – Pittsburgh Office, PETS (Pre-Employment and Transition Services) Programming 2018-19 School Year

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

Mr. Welles informed the membership that the AIU started a Spotlight on Special Education Blog feature on their website that covers student and staff highlights from the AIU schools and programs.

Mr. Welles also informed the membership that students from the AIU center based schools (Pathfinder, Mon Valley, and Sunrise) will have the opportunity to take vocational courses in computer science due to grants from the Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation and Code.org.

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

Ms. Lawson informed the membership that the TAC (Training and Consultation Program) will be partnering with school districts to help them use the technology they already have in their school districts for their students. This program will help school districts save money so they do not have to purchase additional technology equipment for their students.

Ms. Lawson also informed the membership that the Transform Education Director will be training special education directors and teachers on STEM this spring.

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

Ms. Moyer informed the membership that the Safe to Say program will be launched in January by the state of Pennsylvania and will enable anyone to anonymously report safety concerns to a call center which will then inform schools and authorities as needed.

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

Ms. Janosik informed the membership that the State Task Force is currently addressing a systematic statewide problem of students leaving school early to catch their school buses home. The BSE Advisor/Western Coordinator is currently investigating this issue.

Ms. Janosik also informed the membership that the State Task Force will be sponsoring Peer Monitoring Training this upcoming summer.

1. **MH Update – Allegheny County MH Children’s Team – Mrs. Emily Born and Ms. Jeanette Geary**

Mrs. Born and Ms. Geary informed the membership that the Allegheny County Mental Health Children’s Team will be meeting with their school based outpatient mental health providers quarterly. They would like to talk about their progress and how the programs are running in their assigned school districts.

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

Ms. Guthrie informed the membership of the following items:

* Cecil and David Rosenthal have had a fund established in their honor to help ACHIEVA community members.
* ACHIEVA Family Trust Trainings
* Disability Dockett – ARC – Litigation Changes
* Down Syndrom Support Group – 12/10/18 from 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM at UPMC Children’s Hospital

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

Ms. Katona was not in attendance at this meeting.

**VII. Committee Update**

1. **Parent Assistance Line**

Mrs. Janice Geniviva had the Parent Assistance Line for the month of November and had one phone call from the LTF #13 chairperson. She wanted to know how to get more parent involvement in their LTF. Mrs. Geniviva gave Sharon Janosik’s contact information to the chairperson so she could contact her for some helpful tips.

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

Mrs. Geniviva informed the membership of the upcoming Cyclical Monitoring schedule:

1/14/19 – Plum Borough School District

1/14/19 – Upper St. Clair School District

2/18/19 – Highlands School District

2/25/19 – Wilkinsburg School District

3/4/19 – Propel Charter School – Braddock Hills

3/11/19 – Avonworth School District

4/15/19 – Cornell School District

5/6/19 – Propel Charter School - Homestead

1. **Parent Satisfaction Survey – Mrs. Susan Wuenstel/Mrs. Debra Efkeman**

Mrs. Wuenstel and Mrs. Efkeman talked with Keith Focht from the State Task Force on specifics of the parent satisfaction survey before it is sent to the parents of children who attend Woodland Hills School District.

**VIII. Old Business**

Debra Efkeman talked about the letter that she has written on behalf of the LTF to Ann Hinkson-Herrman regarding Cyclical Monitoring in the state of Pennsylvania.

The reason for this letter is because the Cyclical Monitoring process is being studied to make possible changes. On site visits could be less frequent and levels of monitoring would be based on the district level or risk. The LTF hopes that this letter encourages Ann Hinkson-Herrman to keep Cyclical Monitoring and include parents in particular LTF’s as part of the process.

A motion was made to accept the letter and send to Ann Hinkson-Herrman with changes. Motion was made by Penny Gardner and seconded by Amy Guthrie.

Motion passed unanimously.

**IX. New Business**

The next LTF meeting will be on January 2, 2019 and will feature Eileen Cirelli from the Allegheny Intermediate Unit/Speech Language Program.

Ann Hinkson-Herrman will be at IU #1 next week to speak regarding state special education intiatives.

**X. Membership Rounder**

Brian Welles informed the membership that the AIU is part of the Safe to Say program.

Everyone wished each other a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**X. Motion for Adjournment**

A motion was made for adjournment.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.