# **ACCEPTED** Minutes and Proceedings

Wednesday, December 4, 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. Debra Efkeman, Chairperson

Mrs. Mary Evrard

Mrs. Penny Gardner

Mrs. Janice Geniviva

Ms. Amy Guthrie

Mr. Rusty Hewitt

Ms. Marci Katona

Ms. Ruth Ann Koss

Ms. Natalie Krall, Recording Secretary

Mrs. Theresa Lydon

Ms. Sue Moyer

Ms. Lorraine Stanek

Mr. Brian Welles

Mrs. Susan Wuenstel

Ms. Heather Zak

# **Guests Present**

There were one guest present at this meeting.

Mrs. Debra Efkeman, Chairperson of the Local Task Force on the Right to Education (LTF #3) called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM on October 2, 2019.

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

Members and guests introduced themselves and their affiliations.

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

**II. Speaker – Mr. Andrew Hiser – Director of Operations – CannaTech Extracts LLC**

Mr. Hiser presented a new understanding of cannabis to the membership. He informed the membership about the following information about cannabis during his presentation:

* History of cannabis.
* Timeline of cannabis.
* Different variations of cannabis.
* Types of ailments that cannabis can cure at this time.
* Processing cannabis.
* Cannabis myths.

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

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

minutes with changes. Motion was made by Cynthia Grace Devine-Kepner and seconded by Penny Gardner.

**IV. Treasurer’s Report – Mrs. Debra Efkeman**

Mrs. Efkeman reviewed the November treasurer’s report with the membership.

**V. Consumer Concerns**

A concern was brought up regarding Woodland Hills School District. A few parents in the district met with the superintendent to discuss a statement he made regarding children with IEP’s. He stated on a news interview that 25% of the children in the district with IEP’s are causing problems for the staff. The parents asked the superintendent about his statement and he stated that misinterpreted the question and he apologized for making this statement on the news.

**VI. Informational Items**

1. **OID – Mrs. Mary Evrard**

Mrs. Evrard shared the following information with the membership:

* OID brochures
* OID Key Communicator flier
* PA Family Network (in collaboration with AIU, LTF3 and OID) Creating a Vision for A Good Life and Self Advocate United As 1 workshops series.
* PA Family Network ODP Waivers: Supporting Families and Everyday Lives
* Preparing to Transition event
* Disability and Mental Health Summit save the date

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

Mr. Welles informed the membership that each school district has different policies for students that take cannabis products at school.

Mr. Welles also informed the membership that the Alle-C Bistro is up and running and will provide catering for the January LTF meeting.

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

Ms. Lawson was not in attendance at this meeting.

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

Ms. Moyer informed the membership that she is currently working on getting people in her district to participate in the upcoming US census and is currently coming up with different strategies. The US census affects how federal funding is allocated to school districts and other community agencies.

**E. LTF/STF Update – Mrs. Debra Efkeman**

Mrs. Efkeman informed the membership that the LTF magnets have arrived and all members should take some to distribute at community functions.

Mrs. Efkeman also informed the membership that the LTF #3 website is up and running and is continuously updating at [www.ltf3.org](http://www.ltf3.org) during this time. Jeff Kane has been maintaining the website for us. We would like to thank him for his time.

1. **MH Update – Allegheny County MH Children’s Team – Mr. Rusty Hewitt, Ms. Ruth Ann Koss, Ms. Lorraine Stanek**

Mr. Hewitt informed the membership that the Allegheny County MH children’s team is providing grief and crisis training for the SAP providers. The Allegheny County MH children’t team will also be monitoring SAP providers to make sure that they are giving quality service at all times.

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

Ms. Guthrie informed the membership of the following items:

* Achieva Family Trust will be meeting on 1/10/20
* State institutions bill for moratorium has passed so state institution closures are indefinite.

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

Ms. Katona informed the membership that the order of closure with 634 customers on waiting list is staying the same at this time. Over 159 customers are student. There are currently 334 students in school that participate in OVR’s training program and they are getting services. However, there is 807 students getting PET services.

Ms Katona informed the membership that OVR is participating in a Citizens Advisory Meeting on 1/14/2020 and all are welcome to attend.

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

Mr. Charlton informed the membership that the Disability Options Network has moved into their new office at 1240 Frankstown Road – Penn Hills, PA 15235. Their new office phone number is 412-353-3826.

**VII. Committee Update**

1. **Parent Assistance Line**

The no calls to the Parent Assistance Line for the month of November.

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

The Cyclical Monitoring Schedule for the 2019-2020 school year is as follows:

December 9, 2019 – Penn Hills School District

January 13, 2020 – McKeesport School District

January 13, 2020 – Deer Lakes School District

February 10, 2020 – Allegheny Valley School District

February 17, 2020 – West Mifflin School District

February 24, 2020 – Propel Charter School – Northside

March 2, 2020 – West Allegheny School District

March 30, 2020 – Mt. Lebanon School District

April 27, 2020 – Propel Charter School – McKeesport

Please contact Ms. Geniviva if there is any information about any school districts being monitored at this time and she will pass this information along to the state.

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

Ms. Wuenstel informed the membership that Hampton School District has agreed to the do parent satisfaction survey after Christmas. Keith Focht is currently working on the internet survey link to be sent to the parents.

**VIII. Old Business**

There was no old business presented at this meeting.

**IX. New Business**

There was a motion to nominate Heather Zak as a new member of the LTF.

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

Motion was discussed.

Motion was passed unanimously.

**X. Membership Rounder**

Everyone wished each other a wonderful holiday and very happy new year!!

**X. Motion for Adjournment**

A motion was made for adjournment.

Motion was made by Susan Wuenstel and seconded by Cynthia Grace Devine-Kepner.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.