**APPROVED** Minutes and Proceedings

Wednesday, January 2, 2019

Allegheny Intermediate Unit

Local Task Force

475 East Waterfront Drive

Homestead, PA 15120-1144

# **Members Present**

Mr. Regis Charlton

Mrs. Cindy Duch

Mrs. Debra Efkeman, Chairperson

Mrs. Mary Evrard

Mrs. Penny Gardner

Mrs. Janice Geniviva

Ms. Amy Guthrie

Mr. Rusty Hewitt

Ms. Sharon Janosik, Co-Chairperson

Ms. Marci Katona

Ms. Natalie Krall, Recording Secretary

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 7:10 PM on January 2, 2019.

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

Members and guests introduced themselves and their affiliations.

The following member have been excused from this meeting: Amy Allkind, Cynthia Grace Devine-Kepner, Leeanna Lawson, and Susan Wuenstel.

**II. Guest Speaker – Mrs. Eileen Cirelli – Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) Speech and Language Program - Supervisor**

Mrs. Cirelli informed the membership about the AIU Speech and Language Program Classroom at Hoover Elementary in the Mt. Lebanon School District. She informed the membership about the following specifics of the program about the common characteristics of the AIU Speech/Language Classroom and the enrollment criteria for the Speech/Language Classroom. Mrs. Cirelli is currently in the process of opening another Speech/Language Classroom would appreciate the assistance of the LTF to spread the word about the classroom since their main form of recruitment is by word of mouth.

**III. Review/Acceptance of the Minutes of December 5, 2018**

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

minutes with changes. Motion was made by Penny Gardner and seconded by Rusty Hewitt.

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

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

**V. Consumer Concerns**

A parent from the Highlands School District brought up a concern regarding her three children who attend the district. The parent has experienced a lot of problems with the district and all three of her children have IEPs currently with the district. Several members of the LTF reached out to assist the parent and provide her resources that can assist her with issues with the district.

**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:

* ASERT brochures  ( [www.paautism.org/](http://www.paautism.org/))
* From the ASERT newsletter: “A quick and easy guide for your toolbox to help you understand why behaviors are happening and what you can do to help”  \*
* ASERT: Common Abbreviations: Autism Services and Special Education
* ASERT story board/information. “Going to the Doctor”, designed for individuals with autism, yet useful for all
* CCAC and OVR Promoting Academic Success (PAS) Academic and Personal Development Program for Students with Learning Differences
* Latest ASERT newsletter
* Office of Intellectual Disability (OID) and Key Communicator flier
* Some Communicator Announcements examples
* Dan Miller Disability and Mental Health Summit March 13 through 15
* Latest ODP newsletter ([www.myodp.org](http://www.myodp.org/))

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

Mr. Welles informed the membership about Safe to Say Program. It is a hotline people can call to report issues with school districts and the reports will be given to school administrators within each school district. All school district administrators as well as law enforcement will be provided training for this program. There will be a training at the AIU on 1/9/19 and the Safe to Say Program hotline will be live on 1/14/19.

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 was not in attendance at this meeting.

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

Ms. Janosik informed the membership that she will be providing an update on the systematic issue concerning students being let go early to get their school bus home.

Ms. Janosik also informed the membership that the topic for the next State Task Force Meeting will be How to Write a Transition Plan and Ronnie Russell will be presenting.

1. **MH Update – Allegheny County MH Children’s Team – Mr. Rusty Hewitt**

Mr. Hewitt informed the membership that MH Children’s team will be evaluating outside providers that currently offer student assistance services to school districts.

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

Ms. Guthrie informed the membership of the following items:

* Affordable Care Act Updates
* ACHIEVA Family Trust Meeting Schedule

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

Ms. Katona informed the membership of the following information:

* PASS – CCAC Program to introduce individuals to OVR at all five CCAC Campuses.
* OVR has submitted a proposal to present at the Down Syndrome Conference.
* OVR – They are currently providing Connections training to the following school districts for their transition programs: Baldwin School District, Clairton School District, North Hills School District, and South Allegheny School District.
* OVR main focus for 2019 is to provide paid work experience and job shadowing to their students.

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

Mr. Charlton introduced himself to the LTF and informed them about the Three Rivers Center for Independent Living. They currently serve 79 consumers at this time and try to focus and currently focus on five services including: Advocacy, Training, Information and Referral, Peer Support, and Transition.

**VII. Committee Update**

1. **Parent Assistance Line**

Amy Allkind had the Parent Assistance Line for the month of December and had one phone call from a Dart parent who wanted her son bused to another daycare center. Mrs. Allkind provided the parent with resources.

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. Debra Efkeman**

Mrs. Efkeman informed the membership that Woodland Hills School District will be doing the Parent Satisfaction Survey with special education student parents in their district.

**VIII. Old Business**

Debra Efkeman informed the membership that she will be sending out the letter regarding Cyclical Monitoring to Ann Hinkson-Hermann tomorrow.

**IX. New Business**

There was no new business discussed.

**X. Membership Rounder**

Cindy Duch recently got appointed to the Employment First Oversight Commission by Governor Wolf.

One of the Access drivers who drives Penny Gardner’s son, Bryan, told her that Bryan opened her eyes and changed her opinion of people with disabilities. Driving him home she has listened to him talking and realized that he is a smart individual.

Everyone wished each other 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 9:55 PM.