**ACCEPTED** Minutes and Proceedings

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Allegheny Intermediate Unit

Local Task Force

475 East Waterfront Drive

Homestead, PA 15120-1144

# **Members Present**

Ms. Amy Allkind

Ms. Jessica Demsky

Ms. Debra Efkeman

Mrs. Mary Evrard

Mrs. Janice Geniviva

Ms. Cynthia Grace Devine-Kepner

Ms. Amy Guthrie

Ms. Rebecca Hahn, Chairperson

Ms. Amy Hardy

Mrs. Iris Heiser, Co-Chairperson

Mr. Rusty Hewitt

Ms. Sharon Janosik

Ms. Natalie Krall, Recording Secretary

Mr. Jeff Kane

Mrs. Pam Kane

Mrs. Theresa Lydon

Dr. Nanci Sullivan

Mr. Edward Wehrer

Mr. Brian Welles

Ms. Valerie Zipay

# **Guests Present**

There was one guest present at this meeting.

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 Wednesday, March 1, 2017.

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

Members and guests introduced themselves and their affiliations.

The following members have been excused from this meeting: Cindy Duch, Judy Winschel and Susan Wuenstel.

**II. Speaker**

**State Representative Dan Miller**

Representative Miller informed the membership about the 4thAnnual Disability and Mental Health Summit which is taking place on March 22-24, 2017 at Beth El Congregation located at 1900 Cochran Road – Pittsburgh, PA 15220.

The summit will include:

Informative Sessions – All Days

Support Services Resource Fair – March 22-23, 2017

Employment and Transition Fair – March 24, 2017

Representative Miller informed the membership that he would like to introduce the following bills to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives:

* Depression screening for all students in Pennsylvania starting at 14 years of age.
* Better training and better payments for paraprofessionals in all school districts.

**III. Review/Acceptance of the Minutes of February 1, 2017**

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

minutes with changes. Motion was made by Amy Hardy and seconded by Janice Genviva.

**IV. Treasurer's Report – Ms. Rebecca Hahn**

Ms. Hahn reviewed the March treasurer’s report with the membership. There were no concerns.

**V. Consumer Concerns**

There was a concern brought up regarding advocacy for special education students in school districts. Several members of the LTF suggested parents attend school district committee meetings as well as school board meetings to advocate for their child’s needs.

**VI. Informational Items**

**A. OID – Office of Intellectual Disability – Mrs. Mary Evrard**

Mrs. Evrard informed the membership of the following items:

* Key Communicator information is now available on the AC Department of Human Services (DHS) Office of Intellectual Disability OID webpage and on the AC DHS Facebook page.
* January Office of Developmental Program (ODP) News (can be accessed on the *MyODP*website). Copy provided for binder.
* Access information on the *MyODP*website and at [www.dhs.pa.gov/provider/developmentalprograms/2017waiverrenewals/index.htm](https://webmail.aiu3.net/owa/redir.aspx?C=yUD1luewyESWNKZmHJJSfxTMZyiHc9QIC4SAsbDWyxepM1pc_NRswoOEfVv7lGgSMWZOx5iJXGo.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.dhs.pa.gov%2fprovider%2fdevelopmentalprograms%2f2017waiverrenewals%2findex.htm) about the next ODP Public Comment Period regarding waiver changes. Copies of announcement provided.
* Northern Area Transition Fair (NATF) will take place Thursday, March 30, 2017 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at the Beattie Career Center.  The fair is open to students and parents of transition age. Google *Northern Area Transition Fair*to find flier on the Hampton Township School District website. Flier provided for binder.
* Project Prom (flier provided) and Project Prom for Gentleman information. Find details on the AC DHS website at [www.alleghenycounty.us/projectprom](https://webmail.aiu3.net/owa/redir.aspx?C=yUD1luewyESWNKZmHJJSfxTMZyiHc9QIC4SAsbDWyxepM1pc_NRswoOEfVv7lGgSMWZOx5iJXGo.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.alleghenycounty.us%2fprojectprom).
* Gateway High School Transition Night to be help April 5, 2017. Flier provided for binder.
* Southwestern PA 2nd Annual Special Needs Fair and Expo to be held April 29, 2017. Google it to find info on their Facebook page. Flier provided for binder.

1. **AIU – Allegheny Intermediate Unit – Mr. Brian Welles**

Mr. Welles informed the membership that the AIU will be represented at the Representative Dan Miller Disability and Mental Health Summit. There will be a table representing early childhood education and special education.

Mr. Welles also informed the membership that Susan McDougal from ODR (Office of Dispute Rehabilitation) will be speaking at the March Special Education Liaisons Meeting on the Interworkings of ODR.Mr. Welles also informed the membership that Pennsylvania has been chosen as an explanary state of dispute resolution.

Mr. Welles also informed the membership that the AIU will be sponsoring a conference on Autism – Through Their Eyes on March 2, 2017 from 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM.

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

Mrs. Efkeman informed the membership that the Scott E. Folmer award nomination form is currently on the [www.ltf3.org](http://www.ltf3.org) website and has currently received the following nominations:

3 Student

4 Staff

1 District/Program

The Scott E. Folmer Awards Banquet will be held on May 3, 2017 at Steel Valley High

School.

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

Mr. Wehrer will talk about nominations for the Scott E. Folmer Awards Banquet to the

school district superintendents.

**E. LTF/STF Update – Ms. Rebecca Hahn/Mrs. Iris Heiser**

Ms. Hahn and Mrs. Heiser informed the membership about the following events:

The LTF is currently looking for volunteers for the Representative Dan Miller Mental Health

and Disability Summit to sit at the LTF table on March 22-23, 2017. Please contact Rebecca

Hahn if you are interested in volunteering.

COPAA Conference – March 2-5, 2017 – Dallas, TX

PDE Conference – March 8-10, 2017

State Task Force Meeting – March 15, 2017 – PATTAN Pittsburgh

NAMI Conference – March 31, 2017 – Pittsburgh Airport Marriott

**H. Allegheny County Mental Health Children’s Team – Ms. Amy Hardy and Mr.**

**Rusty Hewitt**

Ms. Hardy and Mr. Hewitt informed the membership that the Allegheny County Mental Health Children’s Team is currently signing letters of agreements with school districts for mental health student assistance programs. The due date for these letters is March 17, 2017.

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

Ms. Guthrie informed the membership of the following events:

* Achieva will be sponsoring a webinar on Family Trust on 3/10/17 from 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM.
* Healthy Transition Parent Workshop – 4/8/17 – Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh
* Special Needs Fair and Expo – 4/29/17 – 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM – Pathfinder School

**VII. Committee Update**

1. **Parent Assistance Line – Mrs. Janice Geniviva**

Mrs. Geniviva informed the membership of the following calls received to the Parent Assistance Line in February 2017:

A parent from the West Mifflin School District called regarding her daughter who has behavioral issues at school. Mrs. Geniviva recommended that the parent contact the PEAL Center.

A parent from the Steel Valley School District called regarding her son who has autism. Mrs. Geniviva recommended that the parent contact the PEAL Center.

A parent from the Penn Hills Charter School for Entrepreneurship called regarding her daughter who has behavioral issues at school. Mrs. Geniviva recommended that the parent contact the PEAL Center.

A parent from the South Park School District called regarding her son who has problems in math class. Mrs. Geniviva left a message for the parent and has not received a return phone call.

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

Mrs. Geniviva informed the membership of the schedule for Cyclical Monitoring for the 2016-2017 school year:

3/16/17 - West Jefferson Hills School District

3/20/17 - Keystone Oaks School District

3/27/17 - Hampton Township School District

4/3/17 - Elizabeth Forward School District

5/8/17 - South Allegheny School District

1. **Old Business**

There was no old business discussed at this meeting.

1. **New Business**

A motion was made to nominate Tricia Webb as a new member of the LTF.

Motion was made by Janice Geniviva and seconded by Rebecca Hahn.

Motion was discussed.

Motion was passed unanimously.

1. **Membership Rounder**

Amy Guthrie informed the membership that the following disability movies have just been

released:

Kelly’s Hollywood

Life Animated

Bottom Dollars

Intelligent Lives

Jeff and Pam Kane informed the membership that their daughter will be performing at a Best

Buddies Concert on April 20, 2017 in Duquesne University.

**XI. Adjournment**

A motion was made for adjournment.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.