**APPROVED** Minutes and Proceedings

Wednesday, March 6, 2019

Allegheny Intermediate Unit

Local Task Force

475 East Waterfront Drive

Homestead, PA 15120-1144

# **Members Present**

Mrs. Emily Born

Mr. Regis Charlton

Ms. Cynthia Grace Devine-Kepner

Mrs. Mary Evrard

Mrs. Penny Gardner

Mrs. Janice Geniviva

Ms. Amy Guthrie

Ms. Sharon Janosik, Co-Chairperson

Ms.Christa Jones

Ms. Marci Katona

Ms. Natalie Krall, Recording Secretary

Ms. Leanna Lawson

Ms. Cindy Rosentreter

Mr. Brian Welles

Mrs. Susan Wuenstel

# **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 March 6, 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, Cindy Duch, Debra Efkeman, Sue Moyer, and Michelle Walker.

**II. Guest Speakers – Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) – Ms. Marci Katona and Ms. Cindy Rosentreter**

Ms. Katona and Ms. Rosentreter informed the membership about OVR and stated that their purpose is to assist Pennsylvania residents with disabilities to secure and maintain employment and independence. OVR currently has 21 district offices in Pennsylvania. OVR currently provides the following services to individuals that utilize them for services:

Diagnosis

Training

Assistive Technology

Vocational Evaluation

Restoration Support Services

Counseling and Guidance

Placement Assistance

PETS (Pre-Employment Transition Services)

Ms. Katona and Ms. Rosentreter also explained the following roles of OVR to the membership including:

Early Reach Coordinator

Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

Rehabilitation Counselor for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (RCDHH)

Business Services Representative

Business Services Counselor

If anyone has any questions for Ms. Katona or Ms. Rosentreter regarding OVR, please feel free to e-mail them at [RA-LI-OVRPETS@pa.gov](mailto:RA-LI-OVRPETS@pa.gov) or you may contact them by phone at 412-392-5928.

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

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

minutes with changes. Motion was made by Janice Geniviva and seconded by Penny Gardner.

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

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

**V. Consumer Concerns**

A concern was brought up regarding obtaining a support coordinator for an adult with disabilities. A few members of the LTF suggested that the parent visit the Allegheny County Office of Intellectual Disability website for assistance with this matter.

Several parents from the Highlands School District expressed their concerns about the district and the Education Law Center is helping the parents at this time. The parents were also advised that they could file a grievance with the State of Pennsylvania regarding individual complaints.

**VI. Informational Items**

1. **OID – Mrs. Mary Evrard**

Mrs. Evrard informed the membership about the following information:

* Office of Intellectual Disability (OID) and Key Communicator flier
* Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services contact flier
* Allegheny County Department of Human Services (DHS) brochure
* Fatal Four training
* ASERT info sheet: Applying for Medicaid for a Child with a Disability
* Northern Area Transition Fair, March 21st
* Project Prom
* ASERT: Common Abbreviations: Autism Services and Special Education
* Southwestern PA Special Needs Fair and Expo, April 27th
* ASERT brochures
* ACCESS Real Time Fact Sheet

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

Mr. Welles informed the membership that the 4th Annual Physical Disabilities Conference will be taking place on April 27, 2019 at Pathfinder School.

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

Ms. Lawson did not have any new information to share with the membership this month.

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 attending the PDE Conference representing LTF #3 and will be meeting with other LTF’s from the state of Pennsylvania.

She also informed the membership the Making Inclusive Education a Reality presentation at the AIU sponsored by the Peal Center went well and over 35 people attended the event.

Ms. Janosik informed the membership that the Dan Miller Disability and Mental Health Summit will be taking place on March 13-15, 2019 at Beth El Congregation.

She also informed the membership that State Task Force Meeting will be taking place on March 27, 2019 at 10:00 AM and Peer Monitoring Training training will be taking place on May 20, 2019.

1. **MH Update – Allegheny County MH Children’s Team – Mrs. Emily Born**

Mrs. Born informed the membership that the MH Children’s Team is meeting with all outside providers that provide mental health services to school districts in Allegheny County.

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

Ms. Guthrie informed the membership of the following items:

* ARC Legislative Issues at National Level – Use of seclusion and restraints.
* ARC State Level Newsletter
* ACHIEVA Family Trust – It will be held on March 8, 2019 and the topic is PA Budget and Employment First updates.
* National Down’s Syndrome Day – March 21, 2019

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

Ms. Katona and several staff members of OVR will be attending the Dan Miller Summit and would like volunteers to testify about their experiences with OVR to the Legislative Panel that will be meeting there. If you are interested, please contact Ms. Katona via e-mail at

[RA-LI-OVRPETS@pa.gov](mailto:RA-LI-OVRPETS@pa.gov) or by phone at 412-392-5928.

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

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

**VII. Committee Update**

1. **Parent Assistance Line**

The February Parent Assistance Line phone calls will be reported at the April LTF meeting.

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

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

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. Wuenstel informed the membership that the Woodland Hills School District has approximately 10% (90 out of 900) parent surveys returned. There were about 20 families requesting contact from the LTF #3 from the district. The resulting report from PATTAN and State Task Force will be available in the next few weeks and will be shared at the April LTF meeting.

**VIII. Old Business**

The LTF #3 website ([www.ltf3.org](http://www.ltf3.org)) is currently being updated by Jeff Kane.

**IX. New Business**

A motion was made to nominate Maria Spence as a new member to LTF #3.

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

Motion was discussed.

Motion was passed unanimously.

**X. Membership Rounder**

Christa Jones informed the membership that the Allegheny Family Network will be

Sponsoring a Mental Health Summit on May 10, 2019 from 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM at the

Marriott City Center Hotel.

Cynthia Grace Devine-Kepner informed the membership that the National PTA will be on

Capital Hill on March 13, 2019. Eight legislative visits will be made during this trip to

Washington DC and she will be happy to express concerns or questions that anyone has for

them if you let her know in advance.

Cynthia Grace Devine-Kepner informed LTF #3 that they have received a $1,000 Facebook

grant.

Penny Gardner informed the membership that she will be attending the PITCON Conference

in Philadelphia, PA and will be raising money for the PEAL Center through various activities.

Brian Welles informed the membership that the AIU Pupil Services Department will have a

Informational table at the Dan Miller Summit.

**X. Motion for Adjournment**

A motion was made for adjournment.

Motion was made by Penny Gardner and Sharon Janosik.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:15 PM.