# **APPROVED** Minutes and Proceedings

Wednesday, November 6, 2019

Allegheny Intermediate Unit

Local Task Force

475 East Waterfront Drive

Homestead, PA 15120-1144

# **Members Present**

Mrs. Emily Born

Ms. Cynthia Grace Devine-Kepner

Mrs. Cindy Duch

Mrs. Debra Efkeman

Mrs. Mary Evrard

Mrs. Penny Gardner

Mrs. Janice Geniviva

Ms. Amy Guthrie

Ms. Sharon Janosik, Co-Chairperson

Ms. Natalie Krall, Recording Secretary

Mrs. Leanna Lawson

Mrs. Theresa Lydon

Ms. Michelle Walker

Mrs. Susan Wuenstel

# **Guests Present**

There were two guests 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 November 6, 2019

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

Members and guests introduced themselves and their affiliations.

The following members have been excused from this meeting: Regis Charlton, Marci Katona, Susan Moyer, and Brian Welles.

**II. Speaker – Nancy Potter, Esquire – McAndrews Law Offices**

Ms. Potter informed the membership about school use of security and police officers with children with an IEP. She stated that IEP’s for special education children should include specifications so that students are not given citations and referred to their local magistrate. These specifications include:

* Schools will provide training to their school resource officer on each individual student so that they can become familiar with their needs and can employ a behavioral plan to calm down the student.
* Parents can add in their child’s IEP that they will not see a school resource officer if they get into trouble for the same behavioral issue a few times (2-4 times). If the child exceeds this limit, they will be referred to the school resource officer.

Ms. Potter represents clients for educational civil rights and special education cases. She can be reached at [npotter@mcandrewslaw.com](mailto:npotter@mcandrewslaw.com) if you have any questions.

**III. Review/Acceptance of the Minutes of October 2, 2019**

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

minutes with changes. Motion was made by Cindy Duch and seconded by Susan Wuenstel.

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

Ms. Janosik reviewed the NovemberTreasurer’s Report with the membership.

**V. Consumer Concerns**

A concern was brought up regarding county agency HAB support and the fact that they do not share their session notes with families of the students. It was suggested to the parent by Mary Evrard from the Office of Intellectual Disability that the parent contact the agency to request the session notes. If the notes are not provided to the parent by the agency, Mary asked that the parent let her know so that the conversation can continue at this time.

**VI. Informational Items**

1. **OID – Mrs. Mary Evrard**

The following fliers and brochures were shared:

* OID brochures
* OID Key Communicator flier
* Participant Direct Services and the Supports Broker Service
* BAS name change to BSASP
* ODP online orientation training
* 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
* 2019 Transition and Employment Fair at Baldwin High School
* Preparing to Transition event
* Disability and Mental Health Summit save the date

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

Mr. Welles was not in attendance at this meeting.

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

Mrs. Lawson shared the ACLU Police and Pennsylvania schools report with the membership. She will send a link to the report to all members and will be distributing a copy of the report to all school district superintendents at their AIU monthly meeting.

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

Ms. Moyer was not in attendance at this meeting.

**E. LTF/STF Update – Mrs. Debra Efkeman/Ms. Sharon Janosik**

Mrs. Efkeman informed the membership of the following items:

* The LTF #3 website has been updated so please check it out at [www.ltf3.org](http://www.ltf3.org)
* The LTF #3 magnets have been ordered and will be distributed to parents at various functions as well as to all LTF members at our December meeting.
* The December LTF meeting will not be serving a light dinner. All members have been asked to bring in a food item or treat for our Christmas meeting on December 4, 2019
* She shared the following information with the membership including the McAndrews Law Firm Newslette and an article about a Belfast Employer Began Hiring People with Intellectual Disabilities and It Has Paid Off.

Ms. Janosik informed the membership that the November State Task Force Meeting covered bullying in schools and she will send a meeting link to all members via e-mail who wish to watch the meeting. The next State Task Force Meeting will be held on January 8, 2020 Tier II/Tier III PBC Behavioral support.

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

Mrs. Born informed the membership that Allegheny County MH Children’s Team is still administering mobile therapy to Allegheny county school districts.

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

Ms. Guthrie informed the membership of the following items:

* Achieva Family Trust Training will be on 11/8/19. Disability and Justice Related Issues will be presented by Ruder Law, Autism Connection, and Justice Related Services.
* ARC Newsletter – Census and Congress Updates
* A Slice of Pie – Communcation from the Policy Information Exchange.

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

Ms. Katona was not in attendance but the following information was read by Ms. Sharon Janosik:

* OVR continues to operate on a closed Order of Selection (waiting list for eligible VR customers)
* OVR continues to take referrals for new customers, including student referrals and providing PETS services.
* Under the revised PETS delivery model, OVR is assessing student need for PETS services via review of the School Profile.  To date- Pittsburgh OVR supervisors have shared the profile out to 100+ schools.  Profiles are being returned and OVR is assessing need and coordinating PETS services via internal OVR staff and/or Community Rehabilitation Providers.
* OVR’s WIOA Combined State Plan public meeting is tomorrow, Thursday November 7, 2019.  The meeting will take place statewide and each district office will host.  Pittsburgh OVR is located at 531 Penn Ave Pittsburgh 15222. Call-in option is available as well.  **The OVR public meetings will be held concurrently in each OVR District Office on Thursday, November 7, 2019, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., and then repeated from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.** A list of the OVR District Offices and contact information is provided below. The duplicate sessions are intended to allow more flexibility for public participation. It is not necessary to attend both sessions. For those unable to attend in person, a conference line is available:

**Date:** 11/07/19

**Time:** 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

**Line:** (800) 260-0712

**Access Code:** 472711

**Date:** 11/07/19

**Time:** 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

**Line:** (800) 260-0712

**Access Code:** 472712

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

Mr. Charlton was not in attendance at this meeting.

**II. Committee Update**

1. **Parent Assistance Line**

The following calls were made to the Parent Assistance Line for the month of October:

A parent from the West Jefferson Hills School District called and needed an emergency advocate for an IEP meeting. Ms. Janosik provided the parent with a list of advocates.

A parent from the West Mifflin School District called and needed an advocate for her two children in the district. One child is a senior in high school and needs a re-evaluation for special education and her other child is an 8th grader who is not receiving the services stated in her IEP. Ms. Janosik provided the parent with a list of advocates.

A parent from the South Allegheny School District called and needed support because the school district had an IEP meeting without inviting the parent. The parent is trying to retain an attorney at this time. Ms. Janosik provided the parent with support and information.

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

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

November 11, 2019 – Penn Hills Charter School

December 2, 2019 - Chartiers Valley School District

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

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

Mrs. Wuenstel informed the membership that she is currently in contact with Sharon Smith – Special Education Director – Hampton School District to request if the parent satisfaction survey should be sent before or after the holidays.

**VIII. Old Business**

There was no old business presented at this meeting.

**IX. New Business**

Ms. Janosik informed the membership that she signed up for a vendor table at the Dan Miller Summit and there is no charge. There must be a person at the table from 8:00 AM – 7:00 PM and she asked for volunteers. Please contact her if you are interested in volunteering.

**X. Membership Rounder**

Cynthia Grace Devine-Kepner informed the membership that the Pennsylvania State PTA Conference is advocating for ASL to be taught to all elementary school students. They also are advocating to prohibit school funding for firearms.

Andrew Duch informed the membership that he passed his driver’s test and is now driving.

Theresa Lydon informed the membership that UPMC has formed a new Employee Resource Group that is focusing on education, resources, and working toward creating a universal workplace for employees of all abilities. UPMC representatives attended a presentation by Ernst & Young showcasing their Neuro Diversity Program.

Debra Efkeman informed the membership to congratulate Theresa Lydon (Keystone Oaks School Board) and Tricia Webb (Hampton School Board) on their new nominations.

Sharon Janosik informed the membership that Pittsburgh Autism Advocacy is working with all Carnegie museums to have sensory friendly events.

**X. Motion for Adjournment**

A motion was made for adjournment.

Motion was made by Cindy Duch and Janice Genviva.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.