**ACCEPTED** Minutes and Proceedings

Wednesday, October 3, 2018

Allegheny Intermediate Unit

Local Task Force

475 East Waterfront Drive

Homestead, PA 15120-1144

# **Members Present**

Mrs. Mary Evrard

Mrs. Janice Geniviva

Ms. Amy Guthrie

Mr. Clint Hauser

Mr. Rusty Hewitt

Ms. Sharon Janosik, Co-Chairperson

Ms. Marcie Katona

Ms. Natalie Krall, Recording Secretary

Ms. Leanna Lawson

Mrs. Theresa Lydick

Ms. Michelle Walker

Mr. Brian Welles

Mrs. Susan Wuenstel

# **Guests Present**

There was six 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 7:05 PM on October 3, 2018.

**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, Cindy Duch, and Debra Efkeman.

**II. Guest Speaker – Ms. Alyse Baker**

Information about a newly released, free speech-language app was shared with the Local Task Force at the Allegheny Intermediate Unit at the October 2018 meeting. The “Sentence Mosaics” app is the result of a 2 ½ year collaboration between Alyse O. Baker, CCC-SLP, and members of the Design for America Team at Carnegie-Mellon University. Alyse Baker and two DFA team members, Ellie La and Sabrina Zhai, presented the history of app development and a short demonstration of app use.

The purpose of this app is to assist individuals, who have a variety of language needs, in their formulation of novel, complete, and meaningful spoken sentences which are produced in context with a photograph or illustration and with a language “coach” (speech-language therapist, teacher, parent, tutor, etc.) who can assist in facilitating correct syntax. Students who can profit from the app include regular education students in Language Arts at the elementary level, Tier II Reading or English students at the middle school level, ELL (English Language Learners) students at any level, speech-language students with receptive and expressive language needs at any level, students whose hearing loss has impacted language skills, and Learning Support students who have written language goals. In addition, the program can be of benefit to adults post-CVA (cerebrovascular accident/stroke) with aphasia and adults with dementia for whom familiar pictures can be a key to memory retention.

The following links also will provide more information about the “Sentence Mosaics” app:

- <https://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/news/2018/09/19/app-helps-children-disabled-people-form-proper.html>

- <https://www.cs.cmu.edu/news/education-app-uses-photos-help-people-form-proper-sentences>

- [https://sentence-mosaics.herokuapp.com](https://sentence-mosaics.herokuapp.com/)

- <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/sentence-mosaics/id1288635184?mt=8> (or search for “Sentence Mosaics” in the Apple App Store or via Google)

- email address: SentenceMosaics@gmail.com

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

The minutes from the September 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 October Treasurer’s Report with the membership.

**V. Consumer Concerns**

There was no consumer concerns brought up at this meeting.

**VI. Informational Items**

1. **OID – Mrs. Mary Evrard**

Mrs. Evrard shared several resources for support through a binder of handouts, including:

  Allegheny County Department of Human Services Caregiver Support Program information available at [www.alleghenycounty.us/Human-Services/News-Events/Engagement/Caregiver-Support-Programs.aspx](http://www.alleghenycounty.us/Human-Services/News-Events/Engagement/Caregiver-Support-Programs.aspx) (Caregivers 55 and older caring for a child under 18 or caring for a relative with a disability from 18 – 59)

  **Transition and Employment Fair on November 15th**

The 2018 Annual Transition & Employment Fair is hosted by the Baldwin Whitehall School District along with several other districts from across our region. Please note that this event is open to **everyone** to learn about services, programs and more! Please stop by the OID table, say hello and ask any questions you have. To register visit [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) and search the event.

  ASERT information for autism supports available at [www.paautism.org/](http://www.paautism.org/)

Interested in learning more about supports for individuals with intellectual disability and / or autism and their families?

Want to receive on going helpful communications?

Please reach Mary Evrard at 412-253-1251 or [mevrard@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:mevrard@alleghenycounty.us)

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

Mr. Welles informed the membership about House Bill 1305 which requires secondary transition coordinators receive training through PDE the first six month of their position and every two years.

He also informed the membership about Senate Bill 997 which is a bill that requires Licensed Clinical Social Workers received an Educational Specialist Certificate. This bill would also require that counselor to student ratio in each school district to be 1 to every 250 students. Social worker not exceed 1-250 and school psychologists not exceed 1-500 students.

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

Ms. Lawson informed the membership that Project MAX will be now known as Supporting All Learners.

Ms. Lawson also informed the membership that Janice Feillico will be speaking at the AIU on November 7, 2018. She is the mother of a student in the Intelligent Life Film. The presentation will be open to parents and their children who are attending with a school district representative from their district.

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

Ms. Janosik informed the membership that the next State Task Force Meeting will take place on November 7, 2018 and the topic will be Sexual Abuse in a Disability World. If you are interested in attending, please contact Ms. Janosik for the gate code.

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

Mr. Hauser and Mr. Hewitt did not have any new information to report to the membership at this time.

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

Ms. Guthrie informed the membership of the following items:

* ARC – Able Adjustment Act
* Transition Fair – Baldwin-Whitehall High School – November 15, 2018

Ms. Guthrie also informed the membership about House Bill 1386 which would water down hard fought standards for educators by allowing one special education certificate for all grade levels.

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

Ms. Katona informed the membership about the following items:

* October is National Disability Awareness Month
* OVR – 2nd Annual Work Matters Conference – October 29, 2018 – August Wilson Center

Ms. Katona also informed the membership of the various programs that OVR is offering students this school year.

**VII. Committee Update**

1. **Parent Assistance Line**

Mrs. Debra Efkeman will be reporting on the September Parent Assistance Line phone calls the November LTF meeting.

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

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

11/12/18 – East Allegheny School District

11/12/18 – Riverview School District

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. Susan Wuenstel**

Mrs. Wuenstel informed the membership that she e-mailed Jennifer Johnson from Woodland Hills School District about the parent satisfaction survey and is awaiting her response.

Mrs. Wuenstel would like Sharon Janosik to get input from the State Task Force regarding their experiences with the Parent Satisfaction Survey.

**VIII. Old Business**

Debra Efkeman will be writing a letter to Ann Hinkson-Herman regarding Cyclical Monitoring from the LTF.

Debra Efkeman will be ordering stationary for the LTF.

The LTF will be speaking at the Special Education Liaison meeting on November 27, 2018.

**IX. New Business**

There was no new business discussed at this meeting.

**X. Membership Rounder**

Sharon Janosik informed the membership that the Pittsburgh Center for Autism Advocacy (PCAA) is designing a survey for adults with autism.

Janice Geniviva informed the membership that the Best Buddies Event will take place on Monday, November 5, 2018 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center.

Michelle Walker informed the membership that Autism Connection will be holding a benefit event on October 13, 2018 at J’Verno Studio.

**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 9:00 PM.