# **ACCEPTED** Minutes and Proceedings

Wednesday, October 2, 2019

Allegheny Intermediate Unit

Local Task Force

475 East Waterfront Drive

Homestead, PA 15120-1144

# **Members Present**

Mr. Regis Charlton

Ms. Cynthia Grace Devine-Kepner

Mrs. Mary Evrard

Mrs. Penny Gardner

Ms. Amy Guthrie

Ms. Kelly Hast

Ms. Sharon Janosik, Co-Chairperson

Ms. Marci Katona

Ms. Ruth Ann Koss

Ms. Natalie Krall, Recording Secretary

Ms. Leanna Lawson

Ms. Heidi Sasson

# **Guests Present**

There were no guests present at this meeting.

Ms. Sharon Janosik, Chairperson of the Local Task Force on the Right to Education (LTF #3) called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM on October 2, 2019.

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

Members and guests introduced themselves and their affiliations.

The following members have been excused from this meeting: Cindy Duch, Debra Efkeman, Janice Geniviva, Teresa Lydon, and Susan Wuenstel.

**II. Speaker – Review of Local Task Force #3 Outreach Activities and Communications and Vote for Approval – Mrs. Penny Gardner**

Mrs. Gardner shared promotional items with the LTF that are being considered for distribution at various community and school fairs. Possible promotional items favored by the LTF included letter openers, chip clips, and a magnet. The business card magnet was the most favored promotional item. Debra Efkeman will check on the final price of the item and will report it to the LTF before this item is ordered for distribution.

Mrs. Gardner reported that Debra Efkeman has drafted a letter from the LTF to Teresa Miller from the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services in response to the closing of Polk and White Haven Centers.

A motion was made to accept the letter and have it sent to Teresa Miller on behalf of the LTF.

Motion was made by Penny Gardner and seconded by Cynthia Grace Devine-Kepner.

Mrs. Gardner reported that Debra Efkeman has drafted a letter from the LTF to PADDC (Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council), Temple University, and DRP (Disability Rights Pennsylvania) for their listening tour. The LTF has written this letter to these organizations to examine the rights of students with behavioral support needs and how they would deal with coordinated trainings for families as their sons and daughters are in the final years of secondary transition.

A motion was made to accept the letter and have it sent to the PADDC, Temple University, and DRP on behalf of the LTF.

Motion was made by Sharon Janosik and seconded by Regis Charlton.

**III. Review/Acceptance of the Minutes of September 4, 2019**

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

minutes with changes. Motion was made by Cynthia Grace Devine-Kepner and seconded by Sharon Janosik.

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

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

**V. Consumer Concerns**

A concern was brought up regarding a student with Asperger’s Syndrome who finished attending CCAC and transferred to a new college in Pittsburgh, PA. The student received a letter from OVR regarding his case and forgot to call them and his OVR case was ultimately closed. Marci Katona from OVR offered to talk with this student and his family to remedy this issue.

A concern was brought up regarding a child who has fetal alcohol syndrome and currently does not have any special supports in school. It was suggested that the parent of this child contact PA Family Network at 1-800-947-4941 who provides supports on a case by case basis.

**VI. Informational Items**

1. **OID – Mrs. Mary Evrard**

The following fliers and brochures were shared:

* Office of Intellectual Disability (OID) brochures
* Community of Practice for Supporting Families LifeCourse Tools workshop schedule and info flier
* Overview of Communication Apps and Medical Insurance Funding for iPad-based Speech Devices learning opportunity
* OVR Order of Selection brochure
* Disability and MH Summit (Dan Miller)

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

Mr. Welles was not in attendance at this meeting.

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

Ms. Lawson informed the membership that the AIU Training and Consultation Department is currently offering the following services/trainings to school districts:

* Education benefit review for schools in cyclical monitored.
* Executive Functional Skills Training
* Special Education Teachers – PASA unpacking the standards alternate eligible content for students the trainings.
* Differential Designed Instruction to Universal Design for Learning Training

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 the State Task Force focused on inclusive practices at the September meeting. She will send out a link to the presentation via e-mail to all members.

Ms. Janosik informed the membership that Leeanna Lawson and Mary Evrard are working in conjunction with PA Family Network to present Community of Practice for Supporting Families LifeCourse tools workshops.

Ms. Janosik asked for permission from the membership for Representative Dan Miller to use the LTF #3 logo as a supporter of his annual disability summit.

A motion was made to allow Representative Miller to use the LTF #3 logo as a supporter of the disability summit.

Motion was made by Sharon Janosik and seconded by Regis Charlton.

1. **MH Update – Allegheny County MH Children’s Team – Ms. Kelly Hast, Ms. Ruth Ann Koss, Ms. Heidi Sasson**

Ms. Koss informed the membership that the Early Learning Resource Center for Region #5 in Allegheny County is now located at the Human Services Building on Wood Street in Pittsburgh.

Ms. Koss also informed the membership that Allegheny County has received a $3.5 million grant to assist transition aged youth who are homeless.

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

Ms. Guthrie informed the membership of the following items:

* Achieva Family Trust Trainings will be meeting on 10/11/19 and 11/8/19.
* President Trump signs short-term spending bill.
* Senate passes Autism Care Act.

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

Ms. Katona informed the membership about the OVR Order of Selection Closure.  It will be reviewed quarterly and she has no new updates at this time.

Ms. Katona informed the membership that OVR currently has 391 cases on the wait list. She stated that students can apply at any time to get on the wait list for OVR services. She also stated that students can apply to the OVR program at any time to be assessed for eligibility. If determined eligible for OVR, students would be placed on the waiting list. OVR is working to ensure that students on the waiting list will get pre-employment services. Removed students can placed the waiting list can still get PETS.

Ms. Katona also informed the membership of the following items:

* PETS (Pre-Employment Transition Services) Model for OVR is currently working with 100 schools and all schools must complete a profile before October 1, 2019, they are expected to complete a school profile so OVR can assess the need for PETS.
* OVR will be contributing to a report for Governor Wolfe from the employment first committee. Employment First Oversight Committee Report has been published at https://www.govenor.pa.gov/newsroom/employment-first-commission-announces-recommendations-to-help-people-with-disabilities-find-competitive-fulfilling-jobs/
* Citizens Advisory Council will be meeting on 11/12/19 at the Human Service Building.
* OVR will be holding an event with the AIU Deaf and Hard of Hearing program on 11/7/19.

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

Mr. Charlton informed the membership that the Disability Options Network will be attending the Right to Vote event on 10/10/19 from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM at the Heinz History Center.

**II. Committee Update**

1. **Parent Assistance Line**

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

A parent from the West Mifflin School District called regarding her child who is a senior in high school who had IEP testing in June and July with the district. The parent would like an advocate. Consult Line and the Peal Center were suggested to the parent as potential places for an advocate.

1. **Cyclical Monitoring**

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

October 28, 2019 - Propel Charter School – East

November 4, 2019 – Pine-Richland SD

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 – Ms. Sharon Janosik**

Ms. Janosik informed the membership that Hampton School District has agreed to do the LTF parent satisfaction survey.

**VIII. Old Business**

There was no old business presented at this meeting.

**IX. New Business**

There was no new business presented at this meeting.

**X. Membership Rounder**

Sharon Janosik informed the membership that she has been appointed to the Pennsylvania State Special Education Advisory Panel. She will be serving on the Inclusion and Least Restrictive Environment Committee. She has also finished the C2P2 program with Temple University.

Cynthia Grace Devine-Kepner informed the membership that the State Family Engagement Center has been promised funding of $15 million by the Department of Education. When funding was dispersed $1 million was shorted from this amount since the Department of Education made an error in funding this center. Ms. Devine-Kepner asks the LTF for their advocacy in getting this money back to the State Family Engagement Center by talking to their senators.

**X. Motion for Adjournment**

A motion was made for adjournment.

Motion was made by Sharon Janosik and seconded by Regis Charlton.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.