# **ACCEPTED** Minutes and Proceedings

Wednesday, September 4, 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. Debra Efkeman, Co-Chairperson

Mrs. Mary Evrard

Mrs. Penny Gardner

Mrs. Janice Geniviva

Ms. Amy Guthrie

Mr. Clint Hauser

Mr. Rusty Hewitt

Ms. Sharon Janosik, Co-Chairperson

Ms. Ruth Ann Koss

Ms. Natalie Krall, Recording Secretary

Mrs. Theresa Lydon

Mr. Brian Welles

Mrs. Susan Wuenstel

# **Guests Present**

There were no 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 September 4, 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, Janice Geniviva, Marci Katona, Leanna Lawson, Sue Moyer, and Michelle Walker.

**II. Speaker – Mrs. Debra Efkeman for Ms. Marci Katona (OVR – Office of Vocational Rehabilitiation)**

Mrs. Debra Efkeman went over the OVR presentation for Ms. Marci Katona. Ms. Efkeman informed the membership of the changes at OVR since July 1, 2019 when the order of selection was implemented. OVR is currently serving clients that already have been signed up with their programs. However, they must put new clients that are signing up for their services on a waiting list and will accept them in the order that they have applied to the program. In the meantime, OVR is providing clients on the waiting list with referrals to other employment assistance agencies until they can be accepted by OVR for services.

**III. Review/Acceptance of the Minutes of June 5, 2019**

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

minutes with changes. Motion was made by Penny Gardner and seconded by Rusty Hewitt.

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

Ms. Efkeman reviewed the September Treasurer’s Report with the membership.

**V. Consumer Concerns**

There were no consumer concerns discussed at this meeting.

**VI. Informational Items**

1. **OID – Mrs. Mary Evrard**

Mrs. Evrard informed the membership about the following information:

* OID brochures
* Community of Practice for Supporting Families LifeCourse Tools workshops
* DHS Announced Three Year Plan to Close Two State Centers, Transition Residents to Community Living. Announcement and hearing /public comment information.
* We Count: Pennsylvanians with Disabilities and the Right to Vote
* Pa Lifesharing Coalition and ODP Annual Lifesharing Conference
* ODP Technology Innovation Conference 2019
* PADDC, DRN, Temple Public Forums\*
* OVR Order of Selection brochure
* Senior Fair\*
* LGBTQ+ resource Fair\*
* Disability and MH Summit (Dan Miller) \*
* A Day to Remember
* Special Olympics Young Athletes
* Transition Coordinating Council of AC/Pgh 2019 dates\*
* Hockey Opportunities

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

Mr. Welles answered a question about by the membership at the June LTF meeting. The membership wanted to know how many AIU center based students attend vo-tech schools and here are the numbers:

Sunrise School – 5 Students

Pathfinder Students – O Students – 17 Students attend the PRIDE Program

Mon Valley School – 11 Students

Mr. Welles informed the membership that Marci Katona from OVR will be speaking at the Special Education Liaisons Meeting on September 16, 2019 to discuss the changes with OVR to them. The AIU will also be presenting a webinar on September 17, 2019 that is a training for educators from OVR that discusses transition strategies that go into effect on October 1, 2019.

Mr. Welles informed the membership that the AIU Bistro is slated to open on October 15, 2019.

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

Ms. Lawson was not in attendance at this meeting.

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 will be holding a webinar on September 10, 2019 to present the History of the LTF. She will send a link via e-mail to all LTF members.

Ms. Janosik also informed the membership that the State Task Force will be holding their first meeting on September 25, 2019 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM at PATTAN. The Gate Code is 18759. The State Task Force meeting schedule for the school year includes:

November 2019 – Students with IEP’s and School Police

January 2020 – Emotional Support

March 2020 – Executive Function

May 2020 – Bullying

Ms. Janosik also informed the membership that she would like to have Zoom Meetings at all LTF #3 meetings so parents that can’t attend the LTF meetings in person can participate via a webinar.

1. **MH Update – Allegheny County MH Children’s Team – Mr. Clint Hauser and Ms. Ruth Ann Koss**

Mr. Hauser and Ms. Koss informed the membership that all wraparound services must be under license for certification and supervision of staff by the state office of mental health and substance abuse services. These changes will be implemented on January 1, 2020.

Ms. Koss informed the membership that the Office of Behavioral Health has been awarded a transition grant and it will be used for adult mental health services starting in October 2019 so that they can get the help they need at this time.

Ms. Koss also informed the membership that Allegheny MH Children’s Team has provided training to over 150 CYF employees and mental health providers over the summer.

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

Ms. Guthrie informed the membership of the following items:

* ACHIEVA is supporting the closure of 2 State Centers.
* Reel Abilities Film Festival and Art Gallery – South Side Works Movie Theater
* Educational Voters of PA – Governor Wolf put out information about accountability in Charter Schools.
* FMLA – Can now be used for IEP meetings.
* Section 504 Training will be held at ACHIEVA on September 13, 2019.

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

Ms. Katona was not in attendance at this meeting.

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

Mr. Charlton informed the membership that his office was in a fire over the summer and his office is temporarily at PA Autism Connection. If you need to get into contact with him, he reached at 412-353-3826

**VII. Committee Update**

1. **Parent Assistance Line**

The following calls were made to the Parent Assistance Line for the months of June – August:

A parent from the Woodland Hills School District called about the Discovery Program. When a callback was made to the parent, she had already received help from a teacher in the program.

An Allegheny County Public Defender called about finding an advocate. A voicemail was left for him but he has not called back yet.

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 – Mrs. Debra Efkeman/Mrs. Susan Wuenstel**

Mrs. Efkeman and Mrs. Wuenstel are going to decide if they would like to do the LTF Parent Satisfaction Survey for the 2019-2020 school year. They would like to make a list of school districts that they would like to ask to participate.

**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**

Theresa Lydon shared that there is a Support Group for parents and caregivers the first

Tuesday of each month from 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM in the lobby at the Children’s Institute of

Pittsburgh.

Sharon Janocik informed the membership that she attended Person Center Training and Peal

Leadership training over the summer. She has also been invited to be a member of the State

Special Education Advisory Panel.

Sharon Janocik also informed the membership that the Dan Miller Disability Summit is

looking for speakers. Speakers can submit proposals until the end of September.

Debra Efkeman informed the membership that Open Up Pittsburgh is sponsoring a triathlon

on September 8, 2019 from 12:00 PM – 2:30 PM. They sponsor events throughout Pittsburgh

for people with disabilities and their website is info.openuppittsburgh.com

Michelle Walker gave birth to a son named Malik Anthony on September 1, 2019. He was

7 lbs, 8 ounces, 21 inches long.

Cynthia Devine-Kepner informed the membership that State PTA Conference is currently

looking for a Vice-President and Secretary.

**X. Motion for Adjournment**

A motion was made for adjournment.

Motion was made by Theresa Lydon and seconded by Sharon Janosik.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.