# **ACCEPTED** Minutes and Proceedings

Wednesday, February 5, 2020

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. Debra Efkeman, Chairperson

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

Mr. Brian Welles

Ms. Heather Zak

# **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 February 5, 2020.

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

Members and guests introduced themselves and their affiliations.

The following members have been excused from this meeting: Regis Charlton, Cindy Duch, Leanna Lawson, Michelle Walker, and Susan Wuenstel.

**II. Review/Acceptance of the Minutes of January 8, 2020**

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

minutes with changes. Motion was made by Janice Geniviva and seconded by Sharon Janosik.

**III. Treasurer’s Report – Mrs. Debra Efkeman**

Mrs. Efkeman reviewed the February treasurer’s report with the membership.

**IV. Consumer Concerns**

There were no consumer concerns brought up at this meeting.

**VI. Informational Items**

1. **OID – Mrs. Mary Evrard**

For more information on any of the following and about supports for students with intellectual disability and/or autism reach Mary at [mevrard@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:mevrard@alleghenycounty.us)

      or 412-253-1251.

* OID brochure

* News from ODP
* The Chapter 6100 regulations and revised versions of Chapters 2380, 2390, 6400, and 6500 became fully effective on February 1, 2020. Webinar for stakeholders on February 19th.
* What the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation’s Announcement Regarding the Order of Selection Waiting List Means for Office of Developmental Programs’ (ODP) Services, ODP Announcement 20-008

* General resources
* 2020 Income and Resource Limits for Medicaid and Other Health Programs from PA Health Law Project
* LifeCourse tools overview

* Learning opportunities
* Safety in your community Feb 13th
* ODP waivers Feb 29th
* The ABCs of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC), An Introduction to AAC in person training and webinars
* Dan Miller Disability and Mental Health Summit March 3rd
* Transition event March 21st about waivers and financial planning
* Bridges for Transition  - from pediatric to adult healthcare March 28th
* Autism event April 23rd

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

Mr. Welles informed the membership of the following items:

Representatives from the AIU Special Education and Pupil Services division will be attending the Dan Miller Summit and will have a resource table.

PAIU will be sponsoring “Ask Day” with Pennsylvania Senators on March 23, 2020. Representatives will meet with state senators to ask for their votes on additional funding for mental health services and early intervention services for our children. If you have any additional ideas for special education funding, please feel free to contact him.

He is in the process of organizing the ESY programs for the AIU Center Schools (Pathfinder, Sunrise, and Mon Valley).

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

Mrs. 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 – Mrs. Debra Efkeman and Ms. Sharon Janosik**

Ms. Janosik informed the membership that the State Task Force Meeting will take place on March 18, 2020 and the topic will be Executive Functioning. Please contact her if you would like to attend this meeting for the gate code.

Ms. Janosik also informed the membership that the PDE Conference is coming up and the LTF can send a parent representative. Please let her know if you would like to attend as our parent representative.

Ms. Janosik also reminded the membership that the Dan Miller Summit will be taking place on March 3, 2020 and the LTF will be having a table there. Please contact her if you are able to volunteer at the LTF table.

Mrs. Efkeman passed around a sample LTF Bookmark that will be distributed to prospective LTF members. She asked for everyone’s input on the bookmark.

Mrs. Efkeman also informed the membership that the AIU Training and Consultation Team’s information on their trainings is now on the LTF website.

1. **MH Update – Allegheny County MH Children’s Team – Mrs. Emily Born and Ms. Joanna Patterson**

Mrs. Born and Ms. Patterson informed the membership that the Allegheny County Mental Health Children’s Team is making up a dashboard to track how many students from each school district is using their services. The dashboard is only tracking students from school districts who participate in their data share program.

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

Ms. Guthrie informed the membership of the following information:

State level advocacy against the moratorium on the closure of the two state centers.

Fair Housing Accountability Act

Achieva Family Trust – February 14, 2020 – They will be presenting on planning for the

future with the use of life insurance benefits and third party special needs trusts.

Disability Policy Seminar – March 23, 2020 thru March 25, 2020

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

Ms. Katona informed the membership that the OVR – Order of Selection has begun releasing individuals from the waiting list on February 3, 2020. Individuals determined eligible under the most significant disability category with an application date prior to July 1, 2019 were released from the waiting list, allowing them to receive OVR services.  There were 843 customers on the OVR wait list which includes 400 students and 443 adults.  There were 324 customers in Allegheny County released from the OVR wait list which includes 189 students and 135 adults.  OVR will contact all 324 individuals within 10 days to develop an individualized plan for employment and determine services.

Ms. Katona also informed the membership about the status of the following OVR programs:

PETS counselors continue to meet with students to provide or arrange for PETS services.

ERC coordinators are actively working on their summer programs.

Summer Work Programs – OVR business services staff are currently working on workplace tours of different working environments such as County Meadows Retirement Community, PNC Bank, and Fed-Ex.

 Dan Miller Summit – OVR will be having a table there and also will be presenting an adult and youth session.

Joey Travolta Camp – OVR, in partnership with Evolve Arts for Autism will continue to support OVR referred students to participate in the Camp.

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

Mr. Charlton was not in attendance at this meeting.

**VII. Committee Update**

1. **Parent Assistance Line**

There were no calls for the month of January.

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

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

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

Please contact Ms. Geniviva if there is any information about any school districts being monitored at this time and she will pass this information along to the state.

1. **Parent Satisfaction Survey – Mrs. Debra Efkeman**

Mrs. Efkeman informed the membership that Hampton Township School District has agreed to participate in the parent satisfaction survey with parents in their district and the survey window is now open.

North Allegheny School District was also asked to participate in the parent satisfaction survey but has declined at this time. They may be interested in participating in the future.

**VIII. Old Business**

Brian Welles informed the membership that the Alle-C Bistro did not have the time or the resources available to cater the LTF meetings at this time.

**IX. New Business**

Ms. Devine-Kepner informed the membership that they should consider passing along information to the PAIU for their visit to state senators to ask for special education funding.

Mrs. Efkeman informed the membership that minutes and handouts for all upcoming LTF meetings will be posted to the LTF website before each meeting.

**X. Membership Rounder**

Mrs. Efkeman informed the membership that Tom Wolf is proposing more money for people with disabilities and public education in his upcoming budget.

**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 8:15 PM.