# **ACCEPTED** Minutes and Proceedings

Wednesday, June 3, 2020

Allegheny Intermediate Unit

Local Task Force

475 East Waterfront Drive

Homestead, PA 15120-1144

# **Members Present**

Mr. Regis Charlton

Ms. Cynthia Grace Devine-Kepner

Ms. Megan DeFries

Mrs. Cindy Duch

Mrs. Debra Efkeman, Chairperson

Mrs. Mary Evrard

Mrs. Penny Gardner

Mrs. Janice Geniviva

Ms. Kelly Hast

Ms. Sharon Janosik, Co-Chairperson

Ms. Marci Katona

Ms. Natalie Krall, Recording Secretary

Ms. Ursula Lesic

Mrs. Theresa Lydon

Ms. Sue Moyer

Ms. Joanna Patterson

Ms. Brian Welles

Mrs. Susan Wuenstel

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 June 3, 2020.

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

Members and guests introduced themselves and their affiliations.

The following members have been excused from this meeting: Amy Guthrie and Leanna Lawson.

**II. Review/Acceptance of the Minutes of May 6, 2020**

The minutes from the May 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 June treasurer’s report with the membership.

**IV. Consumer Concerns**

There was a concern brought up concern from a parent who has a graduating senior this year. She wanted to know if waivers were automatically guaranteed for everyone. Mary Evrard said that the parent can contact her for clarification on waivers.

There was another concern from a parent regarding her 18 year old son who was assigned a workplace working experience at a municipality through OVR. She said it had been cancelled and wanted to know if there were any other opportunities available for her son. Marci Katona informed the parent that some of the municipalities cancelled their work experience program while others are still having their work experience program this summer. She informed the parent that they can contact her for assistance to try to find another program for their son.

**VII. Informational Items**

1. **OID – Mrs. Mary Evrard**

Mrs. Evrard shared the following items with the membership:

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Mrs. Evrard shared the following items with the membership:

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)   (Access all the information below through the LTF 3 webpage or directly at <https://www.alleghenycounty.us/Human-Services/Programs-Services/Disabilities/Intellectual-Disability-Autism.aspx> and <https://www.alleghenycounty.us/Human-Services/Programs-Services/Disabilities/Key-Communicators.aspx>)

* New on the OID webpage: link to resource list <https://www.alleghenycounty.us/Human-Services/Programs-Services/Disabilities/Intellectual-Disability-Autism.aspx>

And, as always, on the OID webpage:

* [Community and service systems](https://www.alleghenycounty.us/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=6442467069)
* [Free clothing, furniture and basic needs resources](https://www.alleghenycounty.us/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=6442467071)
* [Opportunities for social, recreation and lifelong learning](https://www.alleghenycounty.us/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=6442467072)
* From the OID announcement page: <https://www.alleghenycounty.us/Human-Services/Programs-Services/Disabilities/Key-Communicators.aspx>

The items listed below provide timely and helpful information to support persons with developmental disabilities, a diagnosis of intellectual disability and with autism as well as their families and caregivers.

* [Join PA Family Network for their calls and Zoom meetings](https://www.alleghenycounty.us/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=6442470609)
* [Join Self-Advocates United As One for their calls and Zoom meetings](https://www.alleghenycounty.us/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=6442471486)
* [Managing Stress During a Pandemic June 16](https://www.alleghenycounty.us/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=6442471487)
* [Preparing for Transition and Encouraging Independence June 22](https://www.alleghenycounty.us/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=6442471488)
* [Autism Connection of PA workshops](https://www.alleghenycounty.us/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=6442471485)
* [Waiver Webinars with PA Family Network](https://www.alleghenycounty.us/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=6442470663)
* [The ABC's of Augmentative and Alternative Communication throughout 2020](https://www.alleghenycounty.us/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=6442470286) *(Includes webinars available through June)*
* [The Integrated Supports Star](https://www.alleghenycounty.us/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=6442471017)

Use this Charting the LifeCourse tool, as a way to brainstorm and share support strategies throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Find information about a webinar, examples, an Allegheny County Star and a blank star.

* [Allegheny County COVID-19 star 4-3-2020](https://www.alleghenycounty.us/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=6442470990) (pdf)
* [Allegheny County blank star 4-3-2020](https://www.alleghenycounty.us/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=6442470991) (docx)

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

Mr. Welles informed the membership that the PA Department of Education has sent guidance to all school districts and intermediate units on opening up during COVID-19.

He informed the membership that the yellow/green phases of opening have precautions in them that schools need to take to open up. School districts have to have a plan in place to re-open and the plan has to be approved by their school board and posted to their website after it is approved.

Mr. Welles also informed the membership that all of the AIU Center Schools will have virtual ESY this summer. School districts having their own ESY programs can contact the AIU if they are in need of instructors and the AIU can assist them.

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

Mrs. Lawson was not in attendance at this meeting.

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

Ms. Moyer wanted to give credit to all of the teachers, parents, and administrators for all of their hard work in providing virtual learning to all of the children in our county.

Ms. Moyer also informed the membership that Duquesne City SD is having a cautionary opening in the fall since the COVID-19 situation is changing from day to day.

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

Mrs. Efkeman and Ms. Janosik informed the membership that State Task Force meeting held in May focused on the following items:

* Three Phases of Learning due to COVID-19: Phase 1, Phase 2, and Phase 3.
* Equity Grants are getting extra funding from the state.
* ESY will be held virtually this summer around the state.
* Regression instruction will be provided to some students.
* School districts can not penalize parents for declining ESY services for their children this summer.

1. **MH Update – Allegheny County MH Children’s Team – Ms. Kelly Hast**

Ms. Hast informed the membership that the Allegheny County MH Children’s Team will be offering virtual trainings to providers on the following information: ESY, IEP, Discipline Protections, and Medical Marijuana. The trainings will take place from July 6, 2020 to August 7, 2020 from 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM.

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

Ms. Guthrie informed the membership of the following items:

* Center for Parent Information and Resources- Virtual IEP meeting tip sheets:

<https://www.parentcenterhub.org/virtual-iep-meeting-tip-sheets/>

* Representative Dan Miller has introduced two bills: a. Increasing Eligibility for Extended School Year due to COVID-19, to automatically make all students with an IEP eligible for ESY this summer, and b. Special Education Eligibility Extension to offer a six-month extension of eligibility for school services to all students who were 20 or 21 before the COVID-19 state of emergency was declared. Achieva will be following the development of this legislation.
* National legislation: The US House passed the fourth coronavirus package, which includes funding for home and community-based services under Medicaid, expands eligibility for economic impact payments to adult dependents, and paid leave eligibility for family caregivers of adults with disabilities. The Arc is asking for constituents to contact their Senators to pass this legislation. Here is a link to do so:

<https://disabilityadvocacynetwork.org/app/make-a-call?0&engagementId=506895&_ga=2.62614948.904103746.1591120532-829595979.1554472097>

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

Ms. Katona informed the membership of the following items:

* AHEDD benefits counseling – They can be reached at 1-866-902-4333.
* Summer Programs – Virtual Pre-Employment Program
* My Work Program – Community based services on hold.
* Early Reach Coordinators – They are launching their academy compressed in five days for one hour per day. It will be held from 6/15/2020 – 6/19/2020 and 7/20/2020 – 7/24/2020 for grades 9-10. They will be using the Skype for Business Program for the June academy and Canvas Platfrom from Penn State University for the July academy.
* Bender Leadership Academy will be held virtually Monday-Thursday from 6/15/2020-7/16/2020 for two hours live each day.
* Order of Selection – There is currently 927 clients on the OVR waitlist. It consists of 550 youth and 377 adults at this time.

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

Mr. Charlton informed the membership that his office is open now and seeing clients in person.

He also informed the membership that he would like to increase his staff due to the CARES grant his office has received from the government. He would like the LTF to spread the word for him.

1. **SEAP Program – Ms. Sharon Janosik**

Ms. Janosik informed the membership that SEEP held a stakeholder meeting recently and talked around their Pathways to Graduation program for special education children. They would like to increase high school graduation rates and success for special education students by starting this program with them in middle school.

The SEEP Program will be holding their next virtual stakeholder meeting on 6/24/2020 and will be covering:

* EI Transition to School Age
* COVID-19 information on website.
* Students with significant needs have trouble with remote learning.
* Dyslexia Project

**VIII. Committee Update**

1. **Parent Assistance Line**

There was no phone calls made to the parent assistance line in the month of May.

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

Mrs. Geniviva informed the membership that Cyclical Monitoring is finished for the 2019-2020 school year. She will provide the new Cyclical Monitoring schedule to the membership at the September LTF meeting.

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

Mrs. Wuenstel informed the membership that she and Debra Efkeman will be meeting with Sharon Smith virtually to review the results of the Parent Satisfaction Survey this summer.

**VIII. Old Business**

There was no old business covered at this meeting.

**IX. New Business**

A motion was made to nominate Megan DeFries and Ursula Lesic as new members of LTF #3.

Motion was made by Penny Gardner and seconded by Cindy Duch.

Motion was discussed.

Motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made to nominate Heather Zak and Cindy Duch as co-chairs for LTF #3 for the 2020-2021 school year.

Motion was made by Penny Gardner and seconded by Sharon Janosik.

Motion was discussed.

Motion was passed unanimously.

**X. Membership Rounder**

Debra Efkeman thanked the membership for their support throughout her years as co-chair for the LTF.

Sharon Janosik thanked the membership for their support throughout her years as co-chair for the LTF.

Heather Zak informed the membership that she is happy to co-chair the LTF for the new 2020-2021 school year.

Brian Welles informed the membership that there is currently 10-15 school districts in Pennsylvania with Unified Sports Programs.

Everyone wished each other a wonderful summer.

**XI. Motion for Adjournment**

A motion was made for adjournment.

Motion was made by Debra Efkeman and seconded by Sharon Janosik.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.