

ACCEPTED Minutes and Proceedings
Wednesday, May 6, 2020
Allegheny Intermediate Unit
Local Task Force
475 East Waterfront Drive
Homestead, PA 15120-1144

Members Present

Mrs. Emily Born
Mr. Regis Charlton
Ms. Cynthia Grace Devine-Kepner
Mrs. Cindy Duch
Mrs. Debra Efke, Chairperson
Mrs. Mary Evrard
Mrs. Penny Gardner
Mrs. Janice Geniviva
Ms. Amy Guthrie
Ms. Sharon Janosik, Co-Chairperson
Ms. Natalie Krall, Recording Secretary
Mrs. Leanna Lawson
Mrs. Theresa Lydon
Ms. Joanna Patterson
Ms. Brian Welles
Mrs. Susan Wuenstel
Ms. Heather Zak

Guests Present

There were five guests present at this meeting.

Mrs. Debra Efke, Chairperson of the Local Task Force on the Right to Education (LTF #3) called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM on May 6, 2020.

I. Welcome, Introductions, Excused Members

Members and guests introduced themselves and their affiliations.

The following members have been excused from this meeting: Sue Moyer

II. Review/Acceptance of the Minutes of March 4, 2020

The minutes from the April meeting were reviewed. A motion was made to accept the minutes with changes. Motion was made by Cindy Duch and seconded by Penny Gardner.

III. Treasurer's Report – Mrs. Debra Efke

Mrs. Efke reviewed the May treasurer's report with the membership.

IV. Consumer Concerns

There was a concern brought up from a Pittsburgh City SD parent regarding her son who is a special education student. The parent reported that Pittsburgh City SD was only providing laptop computers to graduating high school seniors and not to the rest of the students in lower grades. She said her son was only being provided special education packets by the school district. The parent was referred to LTF #2 for assistance with this matter.

Mrs. Duch reported that a lot of parents are currently overwhelmed with e-learning for their children. The Peal Center has assisted a lot of parents with these issues and PDE has assisted with systematic issues (IEP Issues).

VII. Informational Items

A. OID – Mrs. Mary Evrard

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 (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: [Especially helpful resources during COVID-19](#)
And, as always, on the OID webpage:
[Community and service systems](#)
[Free clothing, furniture and basic needs resources](#)
[Opportunities for social, recreation and lifelong learning](#)

- From the OID announcement page:
[RMU Trees Network and Teletherapy Webinar](#)
[The Integrated Supports Star](#)

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](#) (pdf)

[Allegheny County blank star 4-3-2020](#) (docx)

[Join PA Family Network for their calls and Zoom meetings](#)

[Join Self-Advocates United As One for their calls and Zoom meetings](#)

[Waiver Webinars with PA Family Network](#)

[April and May webinars to learn about the PA ABLE Savings Program](#)

- The Pennsylvania Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) has created a [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Updates webpage](#) at www.myodp.org for stakeholders to stay up to date with updates and resources from ODP. There are recorded webinars at this link. If you create an account on www.odp.org you can receive correspondence from ODP that includes updates and invitations to webinars.
- The Autism Services, Education, Resources, and Training Collaborative (ASERT) is a statewide initiative funded by ODP. ASERT has put together some resources for those with autism and those who care for people with autism relating to the current Coronavirus outbreak. While the resources were created especially for this audience, all may find them helpful. Find them [here](#) on the PA Autism.org site. You can also sign up for a weekly emailed update.

B. AIU – Special Education – Mr. Brian Welles

Mr. Welles informed the membership that ESY program through the Allegheny Intermediate Unit will be virtual this summer.

C. – AIU – Training and Consultation Program – Mrs. Leeanna Lawson

Mrs. Lawson informed the membership that the AIU Training and Consultation department is currently involved in the following initiatives:

Remote learning sessions with teachers.

Literacy Training

Math Sessions

Virtual Training

Office Hours for Transition Services

D. Superintendent Updated – Ms. Sue Moyer

Ms. Moyer was not in attendance at this meeting but she wanted to inform the membership that all school districts in Allegheny County had to put a continuity of education statement on their websites.

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

Mrs. Efke and Ms. Janosik informed the membership that State Task Force meeting will be held on May 13, 2020 in a virtual meeting. Carol Clancy will be speaking at this meeting and information will be presented on bullying.

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

Mrs. Born and Ms. Patterson informed the membership that their Student Assistance Program will have new providers for the new school year that have been chosen by the school districts that are operating in at this time.

Mrs. Born and Ms. Patterson also informed the membership that the Allegheny County MH Children’s Team will be holding their annual Leadership Academy and it will be conducted virtually over the summer.

G. Right to Education – Ms. Amy Guthrie

Ms. Guthrie informed the membership that the ARC is advocating for a congressional program for COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for direct support employees as well as sick pay for caregivers who give support to disabled individuals.

Ms. Guthrie also informed the membership that the Achieva Family Trust will be holding a virtual meeting on 5/19/2020 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

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

Ms. Katona was not in attendance at this meeting but shared the following information with the membership: A quick update I can provide to you is that we received another group of individuals (640 in Pittsburgh/Allegheny County) that have been released from the waiting list who can now receive services. We started reaching out to them to establish services. I don’t have the Student/Adult break down as of yet but can provide that at a later date. I also wanted to invite anyone to attend next week’s virtual TCC meeting. OVR will be presenting on Monday, May 11, 2020 from 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM.

I. Disability Options Network – Mr. Regis Charlton

Mr. Charlton informed the membership that his office and they are taking phone calls and assisting their clients. His organization is delivering food and medicine to people’s homes that can’t get out due to COVID-19. They are also providing wellness checks to their clients at this time.

Mr. Charlton also informed the membership that Disability Options Network has received a CARES Grant and will be able to hire three new support coordinators to use in their three locations.

VIII. Committee Update

A. Parent Assistance Line

A phone call was received in April from a parent who was moving from the Woodland Hills SD to the South Hills area and wanted to know if any of the schools there had an ABA Program. It was suggested that the parent contact the special education of the schools in that area to see which ones offered an ABA program for their students.

B. Cyclical Monitoring – Mrs. Janice Geniviva

Mrs. Geniviva informed the membership that Mt. Lebanon SD will be monitored virtually later this month.

C. Parent Satisfaction Survey – Mrs. Susan Wuenstel

Mrs. Wuenstel informed the membership that the Parent Satisfaction Survey conducted in Hampton Area SD received over 22 responses. A few parents wanted to be contacted regarding LTF meetings and events so Sharon Janosik will add them to the LTF e-mail distribution list.

VIII. Old Business

There was no old business covered at this meeting.

IX. New Business

Debra Efkekan informed the membership that she is taking up a collection for Jeff Kane for a \$100 gift card for all of his assistance in maintaining the LTF website. If you would like to contribute, please give her the money at the September LTF meeting.

Debra Efkekan informed the membership that LTF Elections will be taking place at our June 2020 meeting. The LTF elections committee of Cindy Duch, Debra Efkekan, and Penny Gardner will be choosing the final candidates.

X. Membership Rounder

Debra Efkekan shared that it was her daughter Kate's 13th anniversary working for Giant Eagle today.

Sharon Janosik shared information on Families to the MAX virtual meeting on 5/7/2020 at 7:00 PM and will be held every Tuesday and Thursday for the rest of the school year. It will be held as a Zoom meeting at the following website: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81529359225>

Mary Evrard shared that her daughter is due on 5/18/2020 and she will be a new grandmother soon.

Leanna Lawson shared that she will be giving her dissertation during our June meeting so this is her last meeting for the school year. She wished everyone a nice summer.

Cindy Duch's son is graduating from college this month.

XI. Motion for Adjournment

A motion was made for adjournment.

Motion was made by Janice Geniviva and seconded by Penny Gardner.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.