# **APPROVED** LTF Minutes and Proceedings

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

Allegheny Intermediate Unit

Local Task Force

475 East Waterfront Drive

Homestead, PA 15120-1144

# **Members Present**

Mrs. Emily Born

Mr. Regis Charlton

Ms. Jean Ericsson

Mrs. Mary Evrard

Mrs. Penny Gardner

Ms. Amy Guthrie

Mr. Clint Hauser

Ms. Christa Jones

Ms. Natalie Krall, Recording Secretary

Mrs. Leanna Lawson

Ms. Ursula Lesic

Ms. Meredith Peterson

Ms. April Tucker

Ms. Christina Yauch

# **Guests Present**

There were seven guests present at this meeting. The following members were unable to attend this meeting: Cindy Duch, Debra Efkeman, Brian Welles, and Heather Zak.

Mrs. Penny Gardner, Member of the Local Task Force on the Right to Education (LTF #3) called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM on April 6, 2022.

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

Members and guests introduced themselves and their affiliations.

**II. Review/Acceptance of the Minutes of March 2, 2022**

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

minutes. Motion was made by Christina Yauch and seconded by Mary Evrard.

**III. Treasurer’s Report – Mrs. Penny Gardner**

Mrs. Gardner reviewed the April treasurer’s report with the membership.

**IV. Consumer Concerns**

North Allegheny School District parents met with administrators from the district and it was admitted that the school district has some systemic issues at their schools. The North Allegheny SD superintendent will now be involved with the resolution of these systematic issues.

Several parents from the Highlands School District are having issues with the way the school district is treating their children who currently are in the special education program at the district. Leanna Lawson from the Allegheny Intermediate Unit will speak with Highlands School District administrators regarding these issues.

**V. Informational Items**

1. **ODS – Mrs. Mary Evrard**

Mrs. Evrard shared the following items with the membership:

* If you have any questions about supports and services for individuals with an intellectual disability and / or autism.

If you need information for individuals with disabilities or resources for basic needs.

[mevrard@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:mevrard@alleghenycounty.us)  412-253-1251

* Visit the ODS webpage here: [https://www.alleghenycounty.us/Human-Services/Programs-Services/Disabilities/Intellectual-Disability-Autism.aspx](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flinkprotect.cudasvc.com%2Furl%3Fa%3Dhttps%253a%252f%252fwww.alleghenycounty.us%252fHuman-Services%252fPrograms-Services%252fDisabilities%252fIntellectual-Disability-Autism.aspx%26c%3DE%2C1%2Cc5iHEHpOLUcqj1iNXePxfsbZtMJsWJL4TmFE6AA7-BWqREQLk_Zq4MJCSTOoqJY_QP8gLHprG9ltg0--Ohg6RbkYCiXjn8YR6GjowJJPo-A%2C%26typo%3D1&data=04%7C01%7CMary.Evrard%40AlleghenyCounty.US%7C04cd756d9d3f423f3ff208d9e71914c1%7Ce0273d12e4cb4eb19f708bba16fb968d%7C0%7C0%7C637794917184147120%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=gcYNwl3nJ0gH0owQV%2BfdGIcEhSEEkR508CkyxftEeCo%3D&reserved=0)

Learn about *Timely and helpful information and resources* here [https://www.alleghenycounty.us/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=6442456626](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flinkprotect.cudasvc.com%2Furl%3Fa%3Dhttps%253a%252f%252fwww.alleghenycounty.us%252fWorkArea%252flinkit.aspx%253fLinkIdentifier%253did%2526ItemID%253d6442456626%26c%3DE%2C1%2ConqYG31Z3yhT7Y6KPFc8Ni6YHdaS3mZQUNEP8hf0iulRUYGUthqnLFtM7-GPOrXCovdRAUCMUmVHTr20AK3pBh2ItigNtAKGfxF0V5UMJK8%2C%26typo%3D1&data=04%7C01%7CMary.Evrard%40AlleghenyCounty.US%7C04cd756d9d3f423f3ff208d9e71914c1%7Ce0273d12e4cb4eb19f708bba16fb968d%7C0%7C0%7C637794917184147120%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=UL7jAJ2EzW1i8dDj%2FEhnKntoMJxMgqVbvU4GkfRxbgI%3D&reserved=0)

* And access a *Community and service systems* resource list here [https://www.alleghenycounty.us/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=6442467069](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flinkprotect.cudasvc.com%2Furl%3Fa%3Dhttps%253a%252f%252fwww.alleghenycounty.us%252fWorkArea%252flinkit.aspx%253fLinkIdentifier%253did%2526ItemID%253d6442467069%26c%3DE%2C1%2CdldUM2uZSFJFOqs1WexlBcrPvzkubsEtQoGCXNKpCvIWEALSwXb773AxJVy3gWm8HzAYzLcF33eT5Ofx8RrrfIk6PYaWBS66rUl6QEGBWJyGmZhJGep5QQ%2C%2C%26typo%3D1&data=04%7C01%7CMary.Evrard%40AlleghenyCounty.US%7C04cd756d9d3f423f3ff208d9e71914c1%7Ce0273d12e4cb4eb19f708bba16fb968d%7C0%7C0%7C637794917184147120%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=G%2Fgr%2BakwCGNueg%2B6sUKTbN%2Fc4Xm4LPE0rM%2B94LrIylw%3D&reserved=0)

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

Mr. Welles was not in attendance at this meeting.

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

Mrs. Lawson informed the membership that her program is currently sending information to school districts to assess their training needs for next school year.

Mrs. Lawson also informed the membership that all AIU schools are now in person and will continue to be in person for the ESY program.

1. **Superintendent Update – Dr. Sue Mariani**

Dr. Mariani was not in attendance at this meeting.

1. **LTF/STF Update**

There was no LTF/STF update provided at this meeting.

1. **MH Update – Allegheny County MH Children’s Team – Mrs. Emily Born and Mr. Clint Hauser**

Mrs. Born informed the membership that the Allegheny County MH Children’s Team is currently trying to hire new staff members.

She also informed the membership that outside mental health providers for school districts will be picked for the 2022-2023 school year.

Mr. Hauser informed the membership the Allegheny County MH Children’s Team is getting ready to start summer trainings that will take place virtually from 7/5/2022 to 8/5/2022.

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

Ms. Guthrie informed the membership about the following items:

**Achieva/ Arc of Greater Pittsburgh updates for LTF2 & LTF3, April, 2022**

***I. Resources from Achieva*-**<https://www.achieva.info/>

***A. Advocacy***- **Individualized support** to assist families in navigating special education and support systems (e.g., Early Intervention, Intellectual Disability, Mental Health, Autism); 412-995-5000 ext. 486.

***B. Achieva Family Trust*-** information on webinars, long-term planning, and other resources on the [Achieva Family Trust](http://achievafamilytrust.org/) website; to subscribe to the AFT newsletter ***Trust Matters***, see the most recent edition: [Feb 9, 2022](https://mailchi.mp/achieva/trust-matters-jan2022-5234687?e=0429402a66)

1. For information on the Residual grant program:

[http://achievafamilytrust.org/charitable-residual-account/](http://achievafamilytrust.org/charitable-residual-account/ )

2. [Achieva Family Trust webinars](https://www.achieva.info/family-trust/resources?search=1&search_category=7) this link accesses **archived webinars** such as: **“**Future Planning Conference 2021.”

April 7, 10 AM [Decision Making for Adults with Disabilities](https://achieva.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rsh6QHsBSA26PiTgyU3vuA)

***C. Achieva’s Empowered Voices Leadership group for self-advocates*;** itmeets on Thursdays from 6-8pm on zoom. [Achieva.info/ EV Meeting](https://achieva.zoom.us/j/96795009607?pwd=%20WEJPNjR6TUg1bFZqZjBFc3RYRXI0dz09#success)

***D. The Cecil and David Rosenthal Memorial Fund*** can provide grants to help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities live more fully included in their community. [For more information and to apply see this link](https://www.achieva.info/cecilanddavid).

***E. Achieva’s Compass newsletter***  [April 1, 2022](https://mailchi.mp/achieva/compass4-1-22?e=e9d019f621)

**F. Achieva’s** [YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/user/ACHIEVAPittsburgh) ***II. Special Education Topics/ Resources***

***A. PaTTAN (PA Training and Technical Assistance Network)*-** [Family Engagement newsletter](https://www.smore.com/7w6yh-family-engagement?ref=email)

[Transition Tidbits](https://www.smore.com/d1cyk-pa-transition-tidbits?ref=email)

[PaTTAN Pod](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLCkBP2csbOssi3rUsfM-yQT1DVGUihxg2)

***B. Transition***

**1.** **Post-secondary initiatives** for students with Intellectual/ Developmental Disabilities (IDD)-

a. [Think College](https://thinkcollege.net/); PA Inclusive Higher Education Consortium <https://pihec.com/>

b. Achieva Post-Secondary College Planning Project [Koosterhous@achieva.info](mailto:Koosterhous@achieva.info); 412-995-5000 ext. 606

c. US DOE OSEP guidance issued 1-26-22: Postsecondary courses can be included in a student’s IEP transition plan. Thus deemed necessary for FAPE, the LEA is responsible for ensuring that the service is provided.

d. **For Pittsburgh Public Schools graduates with IEPs**: [Dr. Kaye Cupples scholarship](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fdocs.google.com%2Fforms%2Fd%2Fe%2F1FAIpQLSfJk8lXFPmRHtVH0pE574fiDo5YEGdxiOix3rdNkHulZEL8VQ%2Fviewform%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR07Y-zLXohKA_x0EzixsMDKOebVSt3h07c-h99hvlhsUzMKSIhdWSJsDeg&h=AT2TIM_hQSQe_2SSdVu2MAtmYiq-0WvgOibpTfF_bjhDtEQfr1s4yfGDodo_Ad4MnCfsjPdK6QsBIvU_zVxIh0S_dUVIgKTY5c_xim9jJipf28Hx1BJW5yyDN7mQUScYzA&__tn__=-UK-R&c%5b0%5d=AT32yy7U8GIxx0tq6a7IbmD6RbDK6vSpUQo9xf3O6S8CeefGlZWTqrH3AwnfsUiU-B8XV5JdS_u4jmenl8o14VnvV8o-4j4kcIqNFvNSCxmBR6BDeljyKBmLJdaaC7aSup0PXRe9Pw_Syt4wqwyDgH2vn7RwOlxCUn1u8ZvXVj2D2g)

**2.**  **PEAL-** <https://www.pealcenter.org/>; [Events](https://www.pealcenter.org/events/2022-04/)

a. [PEAL's Youth Resources for Transition](https://www.pealcenter.org/youth-and-young-adults/); [Youth Development Trainings](https://pealcenter.us16.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ce102732c8968be2cd2e38884&id=743d941c3e&e=5322656350)- Every Other Friday, from 12:00-1:00 pm on Zoom.

[Youth Virtual Coffee Drop Ins](https://www.pealcenter.org/event/youth-virtual-coffee-drop-ins-2/2021-09-02/), every Thursday at 12PM

b. Transition Tuesdays [Archived webinars](https://www.pealcenter.org/transitiontuesdays/#youth_young)

c. [Transition Discoveries](https://www.transitiondiscoveries.org/)

**3.** Person-centered planning- <https://www.lifecoursetools.com/>

**4. Transition Coordinating Council of Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh (TCCAC)** [Register for meetings at this link](https://www.smore.com/jkaz4); **For more information:** Dr. Erin Grimm [erin.grimm@aiu3.net](mailto:erin.grimm@aiu3.net); 412-394-4952

**Meeting dates:** May 10, 2022- 11th Annual Mock Interview

***C. Office of Civil Rights***

[Factsheet- FAPE for students during pandemic under 504](https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/factsheet-504.html?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term) – Students with disabilities may be entitled to Compensatory Services if they did not receive appropriate evaluations or services during the Covid-19 pandemic.

***D. OSERS***- US Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services:

[Mar 24 letter to Educators and Parents regarding new CDC recommendations](https://www2.ed.gov/documents/coronavirus/letter-to-educators-and-parents-regarding-new-cdc-recommendations-03-24-2022.pdf?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=)

*If students are at higher risk of hospitalization and or death from COVID, that IEP or 504-plan team needs to ensure that they are able to receive FAPE safely.  In addition, schools are obligated to make necessary modifications/accommodations to do that without segregating students with disabilities.  One option might be, on a case-by-case basis, expecting others who interact with them to wear masks.  Another might be to have smaller groups of nondisabled peers for instruction so they can be included in at atmosphere with fewer risks*.

***III. Legislative/ systems advocacy-***

**A.** [**The Arc Pennsylvania**](https://thearcpa.org/)**;** *In Touch* newsletter [March 31, 2022](https://mailchi.mp/455e44fd6e9f/the-arc-of-pas-in-touch-7224258?e=dcd71f5f92)

**1. Workshops**:

[PA Family Network](https://www.visionforequality.org/events/) range from: Transition, Waiver, Person-Centered Planning

[Positive Behavioral Supports](https://www.myodp.org/mod/book/view.php?id=25106&chapterid=930)**, from ODP**

**2. Include me** education resources: <https://includemepa.org/e-learning/>

**3. Arc Discovery Employment Transitions (ADEPT):** <https://includemepa.org/what-we-do/adept/>

**4. Policy Information Exchange newsletter:** *A Slice of PIE,* [Vol.22, Issue 4, Dec 2021](https://www.paddc.org/slice-of-pie/vol-22-issue-4-2021/) from the PA Developmental Disabilities Council,with information on the state budget, current legislation, and other topics.

* **The Disability Inclusive Curriculum Bill**- Listed as **HB 726** in honor of the date of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), it would establish a pilot program to provide instruction to students on political, economic and social contributions of individuals with disabilities. The Special Education Sub-Committee will hold a hearing on February 10, 2022. This hearing is the next step in the process of getting this legislation passed.
* [Senate Bill 924](https://thearcpa.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4d3151ca1b38a632a9445b3d9&id=86e83bc7c0&e=dcd71f5f92), which was introduced by Senator Michele Brooks, would halt the announced closure of Polk and White Haven State Center for at least 5 years. Institutes a task force to review the impact of the planned closure to the residents, staff, and local economy. A closure can only move forward once a majority vote of the task force approves the closure. The bill was voted out of the Senate by a vote of 32-18. It will now go to the House for consideration.
* **The Charter School Reform Act of 2021 (HB 272)-** Fixing Pennsylvania’s Charter School Law to protect kids and taxpayers
* **Crisis Standards of Care (HB 1927)-** introduced by Representative Jessica Benham, requiring the Department of Health to develop triage guidelines and procedures that actively address unfair decisional bias in our health care systems, to ensure equal access to critical care.

**B. PA School funding:**

**1. PA Schools Work** <https://paschoolswork.org/resources/webinars/>

**2. Advocacy tools**- [School district data](https://paschoolswork.org/school-district-data/); [Advocacy Toolkit](https://mcusercontent.com/0a17ee9f29e887a408e1a3de5/files/4a74c95e-0444-44bd-a81f-a72ffb25bb3b/Advocacy_Training_Toolkit_Winter_2021_FINAL_2_.pdf)

**C. Office of Developmental Programs:**

1. Autism and Intellectual Disabilities in PA: <https://aidinpa.org/>;

2. ASERT: <https://paautism.org/resources/>;

**3.** [My ODP Podcast](https://www.myodp.org/mod/data/view.php?id=28133) covers topics relevant to supporting individuals with disabilities. The current topic is self-determination.

[AID in PA](https://aidinpa.org/) – a resource collection for Pennsylvanians in the Autism and Intellectual Disability communities.

**D. The Arc of the US:**

[Virtual Program Library](https://programlibrary.thearc.org/browse?utm_source=cc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=cfp)

[Review of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson's Disability and Civil Rights Record](https://thearc.org/blog/a-review-of-judge-ketanji-brown-jacksons-disability-and-civil-rights-record/?utm_source=cc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=disability-docket)

[The Arc of the US Advocacy priorities](https://thearc.org/covid19recovery/?utm_source=mc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=fusion): **The Build Back Better Act**- Invest in Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS)- expand access and create more and better direct care jobs [Share your story about why Home and Community-Based Services matter](https://p2a.co/zc2H8lN?p2asource=fb-091021&fbclid=IwAR0oHO0pG-0Ssts2TnjhVuhuLx_VPXODhsOL_L-8dYAZ3HxQGtL9-Bb3jWE)

Arc update on BBB- negotiations are behind closed doors; need to keep the pressure up.

HR 6783- Autism Family Caregivers Act of 2022- would provide caregiver skills training to family members who care for children with autism spectrum disorder or other developmental disabilities.

[Action Center](https://p2a.co/lRPDZ5C) – toolkit for advocacy- factsheets, social media, sample letters to the editor.- Congressional districts are changing. Civic action center to register to vote, info on getting out the vote.

Midterm elections- 2022- nonpartisan non-political role to help people have the resources to exercise their right to vote.

**E.** [**Western PA Disability History and Action Consortium**](https://www.wpdhac.org/): *Using Disability History to Ensure Disability Rights*

**F. FISA Foundation Race + Disability series**: [Disability Inclusion & Access](https://fisafoundation.org/disability-inclusion-pgh/race-disability-upcoming-programs/), free virtual programs in April.

G. **PA Governor and Senate Candidate Forums**: <https://www.familycareact.com/candidate-forums>

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 explained his organization to the membership and what they do for individuals with disabilities. He can be reached by phone at 724-652-5121, Ext: 403 if you would like his assistance with services.

1. **Arc of PA – Mrs. Nicole Meier**

Mrs. Meier was not in attendance at this meeting.

**VII. Committee Update**

1. **Parent Assistance Line**

There were three phone calls to the Parent Assistance Line for the month of March 2022 and the details are as follows:

A parent from the Plum Borough School District called regarding an advocate for their son. It was suggested that the parent contact the Allegheny County MH Children’s Team for assistance with this matter.

A parent from the Highlands School District called regarding issues with the school district. A return phone call was not received back from this parent yet.

A parent from the Gateway School District called regarding getting an advocate for their child. The parent was referred to Amy Guthrie from Achieva.

1. **Cyclical Monitoring – Mrs. Penny Gardner**

Mrs. Gardner informed the membership that cyclical monitoring will take place on:

Shaler Area SD - 4/4/2022

South Fayette SD – 4/11/2022

**VIII. Old Business**

There was no old business discussed at this meeting.

**IX. New Business**

A motion was made to nominate Meredith Peterson as new members of the LTF.

Motion was made by Penny Gardner and seconded by Jean Ericsson.

Motion was discussed.

Motion passed unanimously.

**X. Membership Rounder**

Isaac Tarbell informed the membership that the Bethel Park School District is holding a sensory friendly movie night showing of Encanto on 4/22/2022.

Penny Garner informed the membership that her son Bryan was given praise at work for being a great employee at his job.

Everyone wished each other a Happy Easter!

**XI. Motion for Adjournment**

A motion was made for adjournment.

Motion was made by Mary Evrard and seconded by Amy Guthrie.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.