# **ACCEPTED** LTF Minutes and Proceedings

Wednesday, May 5, 2022

Allegheny Intermediate Unit

Local Task Force

475 East Waterfront Drive

Homestead, PA 15120-1144

# **Members Present**

Mrs. Emily Born

Mr. Regis Charlton

Mrs. Cindy Duch

Mrs. Debbie Efkeman

Ms. Jean Ericsson

Mrs. Mary Evrard

Mrs. Penny Gardner

Mrs. Debbie Garvic

Ms. Natalie Krall, Recording Secretary

Mrs. Leanna Lawson

Ms. Ursula Lesic

Dr. Sue Mariani

Mrs. Nicole Meier

Ms. Meredith Peterson

Mr. Zack Stranko

Ms. Christina Yauch

Mrs. Heather Zak

# **Guests Present**

There were four guests present at this meeting. The following member and was unable to attend this meeting: Amy Guthrie.

Mrs. Heather Zak, Chairperson of the Local Task Force on the Right to Education (LTF #3) called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM on May 5, 2022.

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

Members and guests introduced themselves and their affiliations.

**II. Review/Acceptance of the Minutes of April 6, 2022**

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

minutes. Motion was made by Debbie Efkeman and seconded by Penny Gardner.

**III. Treasurer’s Report – Mrs. Heather Zak**

Mrs. Zak reviewed the May treasurer’s report with the membership.

**IV. Speaker – Mrs. Nicole Meier – Include Me From the Start**

Mrs. Meier explained her program to the membership. It is a free program to school districts for all services. Include Me From the Start consults with schools to include children enrolled in special education services in regular education classrooms. Trainings are provided free of charge to teaches and paraprofessionals in school districts.

**V. Consumer Concerns**

A concern was brought up regarding a classroom at a school district that was called the AIU Room. The school district was going to close this classroom down but several parents asked the school district not to do this since their children loved spending time in this classroom. Several parents went to the district’s school board meeting and were able to advert the closing of this much loved classroom.

**VI. 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)

Shared through the chat at the meeting:

**STAGES II – A Summer Theater Camp Program for Youth with Disabilities**

[https://www.alleghenycounty.us/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=6442477823](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.alleghenycounty.us%2fWorkArea%2flinkit.aspx%3fLinkIdentifier%3did%26ItemID%3d6442477823&c=E,1,JoC_GhtbAz8X-puGyU-DXbv11j6lcp3SalZIu_QaDcKhfzMaQt-2ZHzETzIRonBqryeFSZ2aDMbpFR-b92JkU1tMGdcoPTkfZesK2rIBEnW8_mwO8UfvnjDj&typo=1)

**The Arc virtual Spring Conference** is being offered on May 20th. below. The speakers will be giving a lot of valuable information.

[https://www.alleghenycounty.us/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=id&ItemID=6442477824](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.alleghenycounty.us%2fWorkArea%2flinkit.aspx%3fLinkIdentifier%3did%26ItemID%3d6442477824&c=E,1,5SvTJZw3yF8LE4ium4diMVKF70P563LpDL2ZOjQfGHcyKjAORcR7btadYmF3merjN1VUfwpGgvZI2qNfpJVXx5iTHnxqVqWkJGYxtPKCNA,,&typo=1)

* Planning a Life of Personal Significance Across the Life Course (focusing on Charting the Lifecourse Framework and Tools),
* The Importance of Future Planning,
* Assistive Technology (AT) – What Is It and How Are these Devices Helpful? and
* Using Medicare and Medicaid: A Primer for Dual Eligibles.

**Planet Fitness’ High School Summer Pass** welcomes high school teens ages 14-19 to work out at any of its more than 2,200 locations throughout the United States for FREE, all summer long. [https://www.planetfitness.com/summerpass/preregistration](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.planetfitness.com%2fsummerpass%2fpreregistration&c=E,1,hDtfHZdSd0QIYAmBCKI6ozErXazHWVU9BxHURjO_GcHPu_5qXp1r4EyBAQuJ2UBP7hhVqkntCPZscE_iGH0_4DL5hu5J7fNjalqNHTMMwNM9Rhkh&typo=1).  Participants must be between the ages of 14-19 to take part in the program.

**Medical Assistance Recipients Can Receive Text Alerts from PA Department of Human Services (PA DHS)**

[https://www.phlp.org/en/news/medicaid-recipients-encourged-to-sign-up-for-text-alerts-from-dhs](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.phlp.org%2fen%2fnews%2fmedicaid-recipients-encourged-to-sign-up-for-text-alerts-from-dhs&c=E,1,Hx-UNhFN5XjytxbG1QgSWNh93Dikh2nHeOCzM0EaURCzzQ0L14uT2DBT-XVbUp69yOOTiSkqC5kDnsUd_MIIq8jtoGKIrR78KxIBfYTP5JcjMZvskilHdf0,&typo=1)

***The following are some distribution lists that may be helpful in receiving information and resources directly:***

*ODS webpage link,*[*www.alleghenycounty.us/Human-Services/Programs-Services/Disabilities/Key-Communicators.aspx*](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=http%3a%2f%2fwww.alleghenycounty.us%2fHuman-Services%2fPrograms-Services%2fDisabilities%2fKey-Communicators.aspx&c=E,1,ZbMT3NlbT5w5iXMMzLfwAoXblBL_ndSSqTM1ZKeBdcWuFZsgSslMJv5equufcEvWDuAeQLmpzYddumuefk2_wUT_RzN-mfOzLSLReL5cau7nZdZbhTnZItA,&typo=1)*to information about:*

* + *Who is ODS and ODP?*
  + *Recent ODP waiver cap changes*
  + *Distribution lists for receiving updates directly from ODP*

Allegheny County Office of Development Supports (ODS) & PA Office of Developmental Programs (ODP)

**The Allegheny County of Human Services Office of Developmental Services (ODS)** is the Administrative Entity (AE) in Allegheny County for the Intellectual Disability and Autism (ID/A) service system in the county. Part of what ODS provides is registration into and oversight of this system.  
We can also offer information and resources to people with disabilities and those supporting them.  
To join the ODS Key Communicator email distribution list and receive information and resources directly, send your request via [this contact form](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.alleghenycounty.us%2fHuman-Services%2fAbout%2fContact%2fContact-Form%2fODS-Outreach-Training.aspx&c=E,1,d2Fxw4SheNFHPtU8UarscP9DrOJpLG9mHnBmf9UnJMJTJlcJSD2JK8l5JrHxmroQaVIB50rYSbVAoSI5CpRembYqJuXJal6WmlqlcJ1Dop1vhfFmF0En2Opi&typo=1). You can also use [this contact form](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.alleghenycounty.us%2fHuman-Services%2fAbout%2fContact%2fContact-Form%2fODS-Outreach-Training.aspx&c=E,1,kYF_Z9ufZvJ4MwmPl_n4OvpcB0J1yq1vvSyyiqEXrouH6ceXqd4AmNArlgqsz-BlA5vAiChK-9HMTtVma5aga0zSWxrTa3XpNnM2qtUpuMSZGS1rjuvPCwkrYyM,&typo=1) to ask questions of ODS.

 The Community Living and Person Family Directed Support (P/FDS or PFD) waivers have new annual budget caps. [Details about](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.alleghenycounty.us%2fWorkArea%2flinkit.aspx%3fLinkIdentifier%3did%26ItemID%3d6442477089&c=E,1,-9vGGoZ7ANvz8YY4RtUB6mhgrBqFBEpGABMkLVMumsn9WO0fOBVKEoc3ncqpgOQMNxDninqclQo45CijPV6YHbtmokZP4gHJ2q4WzUVe0Vqc1wH4EIuq88zq&typo=1)[**2022 caps and other waiver information**](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.alleghenycounty.us%2fWorkArea%2flinkit.aspx%3fLinkIdentifier%3did%26ItemID%3d6442477089&c=E,1,ttDdkF-_MFwBm-jq_XmAf6bRXAyYhcrsvnKz7CZFhVsYGuJf3-8WJE-hCkH-pyg_bZjeWHoZWbdZbNPHNh8_GSMgdLzFL2bSStW0pmT4UsrOWT7qDr5me6r9L2n_&typo=1)[provided here.](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.alleghenycounty.us%2fWorkArea%2flinkit.aspx%3fLinkIdentifier%3did%26ItemID%3d6442477089&c=E,1,oD-B-onZYbydUX2RbDDJe-I1CAEdcYNq1Glh6j0jvyLSLcQB20nj_XAoqLaDkBJAADOXA81DpZXinNlVFYZPbZ4Tzh_cdfymv0DOz9re&typo=1)

**The PA Department of Human Services Office of Developmental Programs (ODP)** oversees the Intellectual Disability and Autism service system in PA. Learn more about ODP at MyODP at [www.myodp.org/](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=http%3a%2f%2fwww.myodp.org%2f&c=E,1,sO0oop9Khr8F1cBItlxNH_Y-iGtuDeEaK68ytxNyFbS6Jwi65ADcncXqUBYz9Yyb5d4zDSLd2P5WnV1gWxnaWDprYjuO9BHok-bdYqgEnJNLXZC1&typo=1). From the home screen of MyODP click on Communications to learn about and sign up for regular communications directly from ODP. You can reach ODP for general information and to express concerns at 1-888-565-9435 or on [this feedback form](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fexpressforms.pa.gov%2fapps%2fpa%2fDHS%2fFeed-back&c=E,1,SmQ5dOIE8Mcgk8ykMtfuxSs8HBJj9AVzXDxZBy-jJCXlRP_cQcNip-zuNEJjpvNmFDbW0ytLCRDp2jaBYzA4vY61jwBeOaWAln6UCZsuourWRZYg_Q,,&typo=1).

[**MyODP News Online**](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.myodp.org%2fmod%2fbook%2fview.php%3fid%3d25106&c=E,1,jwbx_5L7A3wrZmdU6M2drgl5QPt3oAbjpm5y6wMw99-wkZCv_NV0_NoaSai4vqQh2BtzeLP1D8CLSif_FV4xNhf4m2tkCkySClBkTemf0PcyMABiPccwAom5_jI,&typo=1)  
This resource has been created by The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) to keep stakeholders informed as to relevant news and information as it happens. MyODP News Online is available also in a Weekly Digest that is sent each Friday and contains all of the week’s posted news.

**The ASERT Resource Center publishes a monthly newsletter** that provides up-to-date information about events, projects and trainings, as well as other initiatives by ASERT and the Office of Developmental Programs. [Learn more and sign up here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fpaautism.org%2fStay-Connected%2f&c=E,1,pHysczKZisGn2_a8Bw5uoC3MmFkTE91MIwtecOD3YkDxbpnw0bD6qZkrvUDtChQ17Mh1cXWWG5eP_GtRuXctewaQlRXygDqFKqdNGLwhiFL-pw,,&typo=1)  
To join ASERT's Support Professional Email List [click here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fpaautism.us6.list-manage.com%2fsubscribe%3fu%3dc7e2ae9218%26id%3dece13c83b1&c=E,1,VXkn71aULKWWC2LPTRx_LlbJH6YAO8edxv3Sq_Z4hViorokmqnIQ5AKp915t9TuYSL58T4O9DUlYhCFU-UAoR4nfyfma8i6xdaHRg7Qs1I9o0DhHM6gqW-D8&typo=1)

**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.

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

Dr. Mariani informed the membership that she attended a conference in San Diego, CA and she was able to explain about the successful changes she made to Duquesne City SD.

1. **LTF/STF Update – Mrs. Heather Zak**

Mrs. Zak informed the membership that the next State Task Force Meeting will be held on May 11, 2022.

1. **MH Update – Allegheny County MH Children’s Team – Mrs. Emily Born**

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

Mrs. Born also informed the membership that school districts are picking their outside providers for student assistance programs.

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, May, 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: [April 13, 2022](https://www.achieva.info/family-trust/blog/trust-matters)

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.”

***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 28, 2022](https://mailchi.mp/achieva/compass4-28-2022?e=0429402a66)

**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: 412-995-5000 ext. 486

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

**5. Representative Dan Miller Disability Summit**- <http://www.disabilitysummit.com/>

Resource Fair and final sessions to be held on May 26, 2022, at Beth El Congregation.

***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 <https://us8.campaign-archive.com/?u=4d3151ca1b38a632a9445b3d9&id=28883ad52d> [April 28, 2022](https://mailchi.mp/fdf019f5f1f6/the-arc-of-pas-in-touch-8633548?e=dcd71f5f92)

**1. Workshops**: Advocacy and Policy Conference, June 6 & 7, 2022

[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/>

**Includicon**: June 21-23

**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
* **HB 85-** Would provide for students with disabilities at institutions of higher education.

**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)

[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)

ABLE Age Adjustment Act- (S.331/ HR. 1219) This would change the eligibility requirement for when the individual acquired their disability from age 26 to age 46.

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.

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 is currently looking for a transition coordinator.

Mr. Charlton informed the membership the Dan Miller Disability Summit is going on now until May 26, 2022. They are holding all sessions online along with a resource fair. If you would like to attend, please visit the following website: [www.diablitysummit.com/sessions](http://www.diablitysummit.com/sessions)

Mr. Charlton also informed the membership that his organization (Center for Independent Living) is looking for diverse board members to be on their board of directors. Please contact him if you are interested in these positions.

1. **Arc of PA – Mrs. Nicole Meier**

Mrs. Meier did not have any new information to share with the membership.

**VII. Committee Update**

1. **Parent Assistance Line**

A parent from the Carlynton School District called about their child and has not returned our call yet for more information.

1. **Cyclical Monitoring – Mrs. Heather Zak**

Mrs. Zak informed the membership that Cyclical Monitoring is finished for this school year.

**VIII. Old Business**

There was no old business discussed at this meeting.

**IX. New Business**

The LTF Nomination Committee will be choosing a new chair and co-chair for the upcoming

2022-2023 school year.

It was proposed to have a hybrid LTF meeting schedule for the new school year. Further

information will be discussed at the June LTF meeting.

A motion was made to nominate Zack Stranko as a member of LTF #3.

Motion was made by Cindy Duch and seconded by Penny Gardner

Motion was discussed.

Motion passed unanimously.

**X. Membership Rounder**

Everyone wished each other A Happy Mother’s Day.

Jean Ericsson informed the membership that the Allegheny Family Network is having a Mental Health Appreciation Event at Rock Bottom in the Waterfront this upcoming Monday, May 8, 2022.

**XI. Motion for Adjournment**

A motion was made for adjournment.

Motion was made by Penny Gardner and seconded by Heather Zak.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.