**APPROVED** Minutes and Proceedings

Wednesday, November 2, 2016

Allegheny Intermediate Unit

Local Task Force

475 East Waterfront Drive

Homestead, PA 15120-1144

# **Members Present**

Ms. Jessica Demsky

Mrs. Cindy Duch

Ms. Debra Efkeman

Mrs. Mary Evrard

Mrs. Penny Gardner

Mrs. Janice Geniviva

Ms. Rebecca Hahn, Chairperson

Ms. Amy Hardy

Mrs. Iris Heiser, Co-Chairperson

Ms. Natalie Krall, Recording Secretary

Mrs. Theresa Lydon

Ms. Heidi Sasson

Dr. Nanci Sullivan

Mr. Brian Welles

Mrs. Susan Wuenstel

Ms. Valerie Zipay

# **Guests Present**

There were three guests present at this meeting.

Ms. Rebecca Hahn, Chairperson of the Local Task Force on the Right to Education (LTF) called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM on Wednesday, November 2, 2016.

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

Members and guests introduced themselves and their affiliations.

**II. Speaker**

**Mr. David Conway – Three Rivers Workforce Investment Board – Youth Program Coordinator**

Mr. Conway informed the membership about the Three Rivers Workforce Investment Program which invests in various program opportunities for youth to find and secure employment. Some of these programs include:

Job Shadowing Day – This program is for in-school youth with disabilities. The program exposes, connects and allows youth to experience various types of jobs that they may be interested in working in when they graduate from school.

Youth Services Program – This program is for in-school youth and prepares them for job readiness by placing them in an organization near their home to learn these skills. The participating organizations include: Auberle, Bloomfield/Garfield Corporation, Life’s Work and Oakland Planning and Development.

Learn and Earn Program – This program is for youth ages 14-21 that are residents of Allegheny County and meet income requirements. This program enables youth to work during the summer months at various organizations and gain job readiness skills while earning up to $1,200.00.

If you are interested in finding out more about these programs, please feel free to contact Mr. Conway at 412-932-2944 or by e-mail at dconway@trwib.org

**III. Review/Acceptance of the Minutes of October 5, 2016**

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

minutes with changes. Motion was made by Amy Hardy and seconded by Penny Gardner.

**IV. Treasurer's Report – Ms. Rebecca Hahn**

Ms. Hahn reviewed the November treasurer’s report with the membership. There were no concerns.

**V. Family Empowerment**

The Local Task Force is starting a marketing team to recruit new members to the organization. The team will be meeting via a conference call and reviewing Marketing 101 materials in order to come up with different ideas to recruit new members. If you are a current member and would like to join the LTF marketing team, please contact Rebecca Hahn via e-mail at: advocatingforprogress@gmail.com

**VI. Consumer Concerns**

A parent from the Bethel Park School District brought up a concern about her son who is in 6th grade and has autism. The parent said that her child’s IEP states that he should receive a 1-1 personal care assistant during the school day and he has not been receiving the 1-1 assistance from a personal care aide. Several members of the LTF suggested the parent contact the Special Education Director at the district in writing to ask for an IEP meeting. They told the parent that the IEP needs to state the number of hours the child should receive personal care assistance throughout the school day.

**VII. Informational Items**

**A. OID – Office of Intellectual Disability – Mrs. Mary Evrard**

Mrs. Evrard informed the membership of the following items:

* ACHIEVA Advocacy and Family Supports information sessions.
* AIU 16-17 Parent Education Series: Secondary Transition
* AIU TAC (Training and Consultation) Talks Speaker Series – next one is on Thursday, November 10, 2016 and is focusing on Real Life Applications through Film with filmmaker Dan Habib.
* 6th Annual Transition and Job Fair will be held at Baldwin High School on 11/10/16.
* Allegheny County Department of Human Services Family Caregiver Support Program for Grandparents.
* TCCAC – Transition Coordinating Council of Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh.
* Office of Intellectual Disability (OID) Palm Card.

1. **AIU – Allegheny Intermediate Unit – Dr. Nanci Sullivan**

Dr. Sullivan introduced Brian Welles who is the new Assistant to the Director of Special Education and Pupil Services at the Allegheny Intermediate Unit.

Dr. Sullivan informed the membership of the following items:

The AIU OT/PT Program supervisors presented “Transfer and Lifting Techniques” and “Sensory Processing Dysfunction” trainings to Bethel Park School District paraprofessionals at Independence Middle School.

Dr. Richard Dowell and Victoria Campbell from the Mon Valley School and Kim Robinson from Occupational Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) were selected to present at the 2017 Council for Exceptional Children Conference in Boston, MA. Their presentation will focus on the school’s partnership with OVR and how students are gaining access to more career exploration.

Mary Crummie an elementary life skills teacher from Sunrise School recently received the Paul Ross Award for Excellence in Education and Community Engagement from the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. Ms. Crummie has been a volunteer with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra for over 20 years. She is an active member of the Accessibility Committee and the Educational Committee of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. Ms. Crummie also has organized field trips for the students of Sunrise School to Heinz Hall to see the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.

The West Mifflin Varsity Soccer Team held a soccer clinic on October 28, 2016 for the students at Mon Valley School. Members of the team will practice drills, teach soccer skills and show strategies and plays to the students at Mon Valley.

Disability Mentoring Day took place on October 19, 2016 throughout Allegheny County with 23 school districts participating. The program matched businesses with students from local schools and school districts to help them gain job skills. Students from Mon Valley were at Dean Honda in Pleasant Hills, PA and students from Sunrise were at Giant Eagle. The Allegheny Intermediate Unit coordinated this program along with Bender Consulting Inc. Also, approximately 29 businesses and a total of total of 32 schools/districts participated in Disability Mentoring Day which included 25 Allegheny County School Districts and 7 Specialized and Approved Private Schools.

The Pennsylvania Association of Intermediate Units (PAIU) is currently focusing their attention on opioid addicted newborns. It is a new epidemic that they would like to work with the Bureau of Early Intervention Services to reach out to the medical community to prevent this from happening.

**C. Awards Banquet – Mrs. Debra Efkeman**

Mrs. Efkeman explained the Scott E. Folmer Awards Banquet to the membership. It will be held on Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at Steel Valley High School.

**D. Superintendent Update – Mr. Edward Wehrer**

Mr. Wehrer was not in attendance at this meeting.

**E. LTF Update – Ms. Rebecca Hahn**

Ms. Hahn informed the membership of the following events:

Allegheny Intermediate Unit Transition Coordinating Council will be holding a meeting the

AIU Central Office on November 7, 2016 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

ACHIEVA will be presenting a program called A Home of Your Own at New Horizon

School on November 8, 2016 from 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM.

Transition Job Fair will be taking place at Baldwin High School on November 10, 2016 from

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM.

PEAL Center will be holding their Inclusion Awards Dinner on November 11, 2016 at the

LeMont Restaurant at 7:30 PM.

PATTAN Assistive Technology Expo will be taking place at the Doubletree Hotel in

Cranberry, PA on November 10, 2016.

State Task Force Meeting will be taking place at PATTAN on January 17, 2017 from

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

**H. Allegheny County Mental Health Children’s Team – Ms. Amy Hardy**

Ms. Hardy informed the membership that the Allegheny County Mental Health Children’s Team has two new staff members. They are Emily Welte – School Based Liaison and Kelly Spanos – Educational Specialist.

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

Ms. Guthrie was not in attendance at this meeting.

**VIII. Committee Update**

1. **Parent Assistance Line – Ms. Rebecca Hahn**

Ms. Hahn informed the membership that the Parent Assistance Line did not have any calls for the month of October.

1. **LTF Team – Mrs. Debra Efkeman**

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

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

Mrs. Geniviva informed the membership of the schedule for Cyclical Monitoring for the 2016-2017 school year:

12/12/16 - Propel Charter School in Hazelwood

1/23/17 - Duquesne City School District

2/13/17 - Fox Chapel School District

2/13/17 - Quaker Valley School District

3/16/17 - West Jefferson Hills School District

3/20/17 - Keystone Oaks School District

3/27/17 - Hampton Township School District

4/3/17 - Elizabeth Forward School District

5/8/17 - South Allegheny School District

1. **Old Business**

Susan Wuenstel informed the membership that the Penn Hills Charter School for Entrepreneurship would like to participate in the LTF Parent Satisfaction Survey but was concerned about the confidentiality of the survey results. Ms. Wuenstel contacted Keith Focht from the State Task Force regarding this issue and is waiting to hear back from him.

1. **New Business**

There was no new business discussed at this meeting.

1. **Membership Rounder**

Penny Gardner informed the membership that she was asked to speak at Spectrum Charter School on transition by Erin Grimm from the Allegheny Intermediate Unit.

Penny Gardner also informed the membership that her son will be playing with the Pine-Creek Community Band on November 17, 2016 at Ross Park Mall and December 4, 2016 at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall.

Valerie Zipay informed the membership that her son was Homecoming King this year at Mt. Lebanon High School.

**XI. Adjournment**

A motion was made for adjournment.

Motion was made by Janice Geniviva and seconded by Debra Efkeman.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.