

Draft
STATE TASK FORCE ON THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION

February 25, 2008
MEETING MINUTES

Members in Attendance:

Ms. Amy DeLuca, PDE, Bureau of Special Education, (724-736-4463), amdeluca@state.pa.us
 Ms. Wendy Dixon, Office of Developmental Programs, (717-783-2376), wedixon@state.pa.us
 Mr. Ken Oakes, The Arc of Pennsylvania (215-951-6909), kwoui@aol.com

STF Members Absent:

Mr. Abass Kamara, Governor's Office representative, (717-787-2500)

Audience Members

Anita Walters, LTF IU#1	Amy Buzinski, LTF IU #23
Debbie Efke, LTF IU #3	Camille Desnoyers, LTF IU #23
Judy Campbell, Chair, LTF IU #4	Jill Houseal, LTF IU #23
Pat Sassone, LTF IU #4	Karen Salomon, LTF IU #23
Shirl Meyer, Arc of Mercer Cty	Betsy Snyder, Co-Chair, LTF IU #23
Leslie Powell, Arc of Mercer Cty	Pat Brady, Montgomery Arc of PA
Joyce Vallimont, LTF IU #5	Mike Owens, Montgomery Arc of PA
Paul Vallimont, Chair, LTF IU #5	Tracy Plunkett, LTF IU #24
Kacey Fischer, LTF IU #6	Jill Hesling, LTF IU #24
Barbara Kelly, LTF IU #6	Portia Tome, LTF IU #24
Cindy Fetchero, LTF IU #7	Carol Csaniz, LTF IU #25
Judy Zetts, Chair, LTF IU #9	Sandy Wadsworth, LTF IU #25
Elvei Newbern, LTF IU #11	Diane Perry, LTF IU #25
Carol Lipsitz, LTF IU #12	Ruth Payne, LTF IU #25
Carol Eshleman, Co-Chair, LTF IU #13	Tom Frost, LTF IU #25
Kelly Weiss, LTF IU #13	Margie Austin, LTF IU #26
Jennifer King, Co-Chair, LTF IU #15	Cathy Rocca-Meier, Co-Chair, LTF IU #26
Katherine Gingerich, Arc of Dauphin & Lebanon Cty	Joanne Eggleston, LTF IU #26
Kathy Zepka, Arc of Dauphin & Lebanon Cty	Oni McMullen, Chair, LTF IU #26
Rita Cheskiewicz, Vice-Chair, LTF IU #18	Barb Telthorster, IU LTF #28, Arc of Indiana
Deborah Ludden, LTF IU #18	Amiris DiPuglio, PaTTAN-HGB
Roxanna Stahr, Chair, LTF IU #18	Linda Cartwright, PaTTAN-KOP
Kathy Stocki, LTF IU #19	Jacqui DiDomenico, PaTTAN -KOP
Jane Erdo, Vice-Chair, LTF IU #20	Pam Klipa, Arc of PA
Mary Ann Gostony, LTF #20	Marty Rist, PaTTAN-PGH
Joe Hurd, Chair, LTF IU #20	Tyann Neal, BSE
Pam Twining, LTF IU #20	John Tommasini, PDE/BSE

Ms. DeLuca called the February 25, 2008 STF meeting to order and welcomed all State and Local Task Force participants. The meeting was held during the PDE conference at Hershey, PA.

Old Business Update:

January 16, 2008 Minutes: Ms. DeLuca made a motion for the approval of the January 16, 2008 minutes. They were seconded and approved.

New Business Update:

IU 28 will be a host site for the May STF meetings. It was decided at the Pizza Social on Tuesday, February 26, at the PDE conference that they would use some of the time to break into small groups to network and discuss Best Practices and the IUs role with LTFs. If you have any changes for the website with regards to Chair and Co-Chair information please send it to Amy. The next meeting will be May 21st and Amy will be attending at the Harrisburg office.

Governor's Office Update:

There wasn't a report, as there wasn't anyone present from the office.

Bureau of Special Education Update:

Mr. John Tommasini, Director of BSE reported:

He and the staff of BSE have been a huge partner with the LTFs. He thanked everyone for their continued support and hard work and thrilled to see a large turn-out there for the STF meeting and the PDE conference. He has been part of the STF for many years and likes working with the parents.

He passed out two new pieces of literature from PDE. Resolution Meetings: A Guide for Parents and Educators and Pennsylvania Special Education Data Facts 2006-2007. Both publications are helpful information specific to parents. He encouraged everyone to have questions ready to ask Dr. Villa, presenter at the STF dinner. Dr. Villa was going to have a short presentation and leave about 30 minutes open for questions and answers.

Ms. DeLuca reported:

She recommended that LTFs have their chairs or co-chairs selected for the new school year by June 30. Of course, there will be exceptions to this, but for the most part all LTFs are to have this done before the new school year begins. In the past it had been the end of September.

Public Comment:

Joe Hurd, LTF IU #20: suggested we vote in our May meeting about LTFs holding their elections for office by June 30.

Carol Eshleman, LTF IU #13: Get a team to volunteer to help with developing a mentoring program.

Amy DeLuca: Wants to update the STF handbook and needs all LTFs who have bylaws and addendums to send them to her. Once that is done she will consult with some people about revisions.

Anita Walters LTF IU #1: LTF IU #1 has a handbook and does training and would be willing to share that info with other LTFs.

LTF IU #25: Has a handbook on monitoring that other LTFs may view.

Carol Eshleman: Suggested that we set up local Yahoo groups and to have a link from the LTF page to their LTF website on the STF site.

Mike Owens: Where do parents go with problems?

Amy DeLuca: Explained the complaint process and mediation for parents, and the BSE advisors assigned to each IU; SPOC- Single point of contact. Many LTFs didn't know their SPOC. So Amy told the LTFs that they would have those at the STF dinner.

Kathy Stocki, LTF IU #19: Suggested a conference for just LTFs and those participating in the STF sometime during the

school year.

Amy DeLuca: We will check into that possibility of meeting somewhere for an overnight with meetings scheduled over two days. It would be helpful in getting people together and sharing information and ideas. We could accomplish more on various STF projects such as a Mentoring program and revising the handbook.

Office of Developmental Programs (ODP - formerly OMR) Update:

Ms. Wendy Dixon reported:

The ODP Budget for Fiscal Year 2008-2009: **Autism Intervention and Services received funding;** to serve 600 adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) through the Adult Community Autism Program (ACAP) and the new Autism Waiver; to serve 64 people with ASD under the OBRA Waiver; to serve individuals with ASD during crisis or situations calling for acute intervention; to provide on-going training and clinical support **Community MR Services received funding;** to annualize services to 3,248 individuals being served under the FY 2007-2008 initiative; to serve 482 additional individuals in the Consolidated Waiver; to serve 80 individuals who are “aging-out” of EPSDT services into the Consolidated Waiver; to serve 1,256 additional individuals in the Person/Family Directed Supports Waiver (PFDS), including 750 Special Education graduates and 506 for Day and Support Services ; to increase the PFDS cap to 26,000.

*ASD and ACAP don't have federal approval yet. We're planning to start enrolling folks in ACAP in May using state-only dollars (pending federal approval). We're planning to officially submit the waiver to CMS hopefully in March.

Arc of PA Update:

Mr. Ken Oakes reported: He asked that LTFs turn in the Arc surveys asap. They need those to determine what kind of support the IUs and Arc give them. Arc has been meeting with some of the IUs about Inclusion and LRE issues to see how they can help LTFs. He was looking forward to working on Best Practices and Role Definition for the IUs at the Pizza Social.

Public Comment:

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

