

**Minutes of the Pittsburgh/Allegheny County LICC
January 17, 2023**

Virtual TEAMS Meeting

In Attendance

Beverly Bummer, PPS EI; Emily Madigan, PPS EI; Elizabeth Strickland, PPS EI; Regina Wagner, PPS EI, Amanda Harris, AFIT; Brandi Binakonsky, EITA; Monet Olivis, Allegheny County Dept. of Health; Erma Conn, UPMC Theiss; Christina Stephenson, UPMC for You; Tara Korn, OBH/Allegheny County; Shannon McDonald; Jennifer Mason, AFIT; Kristina Putzlocker, AIU; Christina Harris, ECCS, Sadia Batool; ECCS; Sherlyn Harrison, PPS Early Childhood; Mary Evard; Stacey Trocheck, AFIT; Becky Czekaj-Dengler, Early Learning Resource Center; Sharon Richards, ACHIEVA; Liz Oskin, ACHIEVA; Tracey Larson; Nicole Zilli, Parent to Parent; and Monet Olivis, Allegheny County Dept of Health.

Welcome and Introductions

Emily Madigan welcomed everyone. Emily reviewed the LICC Mission Statement.

Emily Madigan accepted the minutes for October 18, 2022, and Tara Korn seconded the motion.

Committee Updates

Child Find Committee

Regina Wagner reported.

No update since the last Child Find meeting.

Family/Professional Involvement

Carol Averso reported.

You may use a library card to get into different events around the city, including Pirates events. Check it out at Radpass.org

1/18/2023

Inclusion Committee

No report.

Issues and Public Policy

No report.

Training Committee

Elizabeth Strickland reported.

Our next presentation will be with the same presenters from this morning, Saudia Batool and Christina Harris. Also the Training Committee would like to share information on the NAMI Keystone Pennsylvania's annual Child, Adolescent, and Transition Age Youth Mental Health Conference will be held on February 23, 2023 and registration is open until January 23, 2023. Some sessions that might be of interest are on supporting young children who are grieving, the impact of poverty and ACES on mental health, and being respectfully curious cross culturally. There is a grant and fees have been reduced. CEUs are available.

<https://www.namikeystonepa.org/education/conferences/camhcon2023/#:~:text=The%20conference%20will%20take%20place,Act%2048%20Credits%20are%20available>

Transition Committee

Vonna May-Miller submitted.

Transition Sub-Committee met on October 24, 2022.

The following was discussed:

Site Visit procedures were discussed for both AIU and PPS classrooms. These procedures were updated as a result of COVID protocols and classrooms opening again.

Transition Planning Meetings continue to go. Alliance is working on a new program to allow SCs to more easily schedule these meetings. At the time of the Sub-Committee Meeting, 4 SCs were piloting the program and currently 12 are. Groups of 10-15 will be added until all SCs are using this program.

Staffing shortages across all agencies was discussed.

Discussed review of Transition Interagency Agreement, prior to PPS verification to be held week of January 10, 2023, however, decided this was not needed.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2023, at 9:00 AM via Zoom.

Department Updates

A. Allegheny County Department of Health

Monet Olivis reported.

Director Dr. Bogen has been named by Governor-elect Josh Shapiro as the Pennsylvania Secretary of Health. We are very proud of Dr. Bogen and know she will do an outstanding job at the State level, and we are all so grateful of her service at Allegheny County. Patrick Dowd, is the acting Allegheny County Health Department director.

Office of Family and Child Health is still looking for a Program Manager, 2 Nurse Family Partnership Nurses, Public Health Representative.

B. Allegheny County Department of Human Services

- **Office of Behavioral Health**

Tara Korn reported.

The position as Deputy Director for the Office of Behavioral Health, remains vacant. There is a current search for a new deputy director and as we initiate that search, Jewel Denne, Assistant Deputy for the Bureau of Mental Health (jewel.denne@alleghenycounty.us), Maisha Howze, Assistant Deputy for the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services (Maisha.howze@alleghenycounty.us) and Sue Martone, Assistant Deputy for Operations (Suzanne.martone@alleghenycounty.us) will continue to lead the work of their respective bureaus.

- **AFIT - Early Intervention Birth to 3**

Tara Korn reported.

We are still trying to recruit families of all diverse backgrounds to participate in a still face project/ filming. We are working in collaboration with the Alliance for Infants and Toddlers, Robert Gallen from Pitt and Dr. Tronick (the original creator/ co -director of the 1978 still face experiment. We are looking to film caretaker and child. Families will receive a 50 dollar gift card and books. Please contact the Alliance, at 412-885-6000 and

1/18/2023

ask for Stacey Trocheck if you have any families or yourself if you would be interested in this project.

- **CYF**

No report.

C. Pittsburgh Public Schools

- **Early Intervention, EHS, Head Start/EC Programs**

Emily Madigan reported for PPS Early Intervention.

PPS EI has been following up on the referrals that came in from the 45 day screenings from Head Start programs and Child Find activities. We approached the December 1 with many referrals. We are finding that we have a higher percentage of the referrals qualifying for services, than compared to previous years.

As other groups have mentioned, we are critically low on substitute teaching staff and have faced challenges finding paraprofessionals for several vacancies in the program. Additionally, we are navigating challenges for covering upcoming maternity leaves for both teaching staff and speech therapists.

In other news, we completed the OCDEL audit last week (January 10-12). We expect to get the results from our audit in the next 40 days, or so. It was a learning experience with many valuable takeaways on how to streamline and improve our practices and documenting our paperwork and communications with stakeholders.

D. AIU

- **DART/Head Start**

AIU/Preschool Early Intervention Program-DART

Kris Putzlocker reported.

Lisa LaRue has put in her Retirement notice and a posting will be going up soon- so if anyone has interest and qualifications, please be aware. We are trying to hire early for succession planning so candidate can work with Lisa prior to her exit.

We have 945 students who are currently eligible to transition to K for 2023-24 and we have scheduled meetings with all suburban 42 school districts to occur in January (2) and February (40).

We posted on Class Dojo to recruit for a LICC co-chair.

AIU/Head Start

No report.

E. COTRAIC

- **Head Start/Early Head Start**

No report.

F. OCD Early Head Start

No report.

G. SICC

No report.

EITA

Brandi Binakonsky reported.

These are the resources I referenced today:

- The **4 Stages of Team Development** will help you facilitate optimal performance and understand how the process inspires competence and commitment, together as a team (follow the link and enter the title in the search box to self-enroll).
 - <https://www.eita-pa.org/professional-development/>
- Let's Chat About Literacy Series (February 10th topic is having conversations with kids): <https://tiu11.padlet.org/jholmberg5/LetsChatAbout2022>

Early Learning Resources Center

Becky Czekaj-Dengler reported.

Here is a summary of what I shared at the LICC Meeting today:

ELRC (Early Learning Resource Center):

- We currently do not have a waiting list for child care subsidy. Please refer any families to us who are in need of support in paying for child care. For families whose children are enrolled in Head Start or Pre-K Counts, we can help with paying for wraparound child care hours.
- We continue to support child care providers in Allegheny County. We will be paying out WFSG 2.0 grants that will be paid to staff to promote staff retention. Payments will be distributed between January-March.
- Our Rapid Response Team continues to be available to support child care providers and families when a child is at risk of being suspended or expelled.
- We continue to serve as a liaison between EI and child care providers when child care providers are not permitting EI therapists to provide service in the child care. Please contact me and we can have our Quality Coaches reach out to the child care as well as provide you with the contact information for the Western Region Certification office.

My contact information: becky.elrc5@alleghenycounty.us 412-350-3603

Emily Madigan adjourned the meeting. Erma Conn seconded the motion.

Minutes submitted by Beverly Bummer, Pittsburgh Public Schools, Early Intervention Program.

Upcoming Meetings Dates:

March 14, 2023

May 23, 2023