

**Minutes of the Pittsburgh/Allegheny County LICC
March 19, 2024**

Microsoft TEAMS Meeting

In Attendance

Beverly Bummer, PPS EI; Elizabeth Strickland, PPS EI; Becky Czekaj-Dangler, Early Learning Resources Center; Jennifer Mason, AFIT; Ashley Harland, Trying Together; Mary Evrard; Lauren Stuparitz, parent; Tara Korn; Christina Stephenson, Vonna May-Miller, Athena Wardy, Djuna Gulliver, Fumie, Scott, Betsy Gamza, James Garner, parent; Jayla, Jen Owen, Verna Johnson, Kris Putzlocker, Linda Murphy, Charlene, parent; Theresa, Natalie Dougherty, Raven Hilliard, parent; Andrea Rose Sachdeva, Sheri Schell, and Lisa Jones, ACHD.

Welcome and Introductions

Tara Korn welcomed everyone. Tara reviewed the LICC Mission Statement.

Tara Korn accepted the minutes for January 23, 2024, and Elizabeth Strickland seconded the motion.

Committee Updates

Child Find Committee

Kris Putzlocker reported. Heather Mackey, AIU/PEI Service Coordinator-continuing to send flyers to pediatricians office

Family/Professional Involvement

No report.

Inclusion Committee

Kris Putzlocker reported. Inclusion Committee-Marsha Androsik, AIU/PEI Service Coordinator-no updates

Issues and Public Policy

No report.

Training Committee

Elizabeth Strickland reported. Our Training Committee is looking for a presenter for our May meeting. If you have suggestions for our May presentation or for presenters for our next year of meetings, please contact Elizabeth Strickland at mstrickland1@pghschools.org

Transition Committee

Vonna May-Miller submitted.

Our group met on Thursday, February 22, 2024, to complete our annual review of the Transition Interagency Agreement. Revisions were made and approved. We are now in the process of obtaining the needed signatures.

Also discussed:

2024-2025 Transition Planning Meeting dates.

Collaborating to make sure all agencies are presenting the same information to families regarding eligibility criteria for Preschool Early Intervention Services as well as Least Restrictive Environment (LRE). Shared and reviewed “Supporting Families through the Transition Process from Infant/Toddler Early Intervention to Preschool Early Intervention.”

Department Updates

A. Allegheny County Department of Health

No report.

B. Allegheny County Department of Human Services

Tara Korn reported. Office of Behavioral Health – currently construction occurring in our office location. We are scheduled to return into our offices next week. We are currently working in other office locations.

- **Office of Behavioral Health**

No Report.

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

Tara Korn Reported.

- Reported by Stacey Trocheck. Currently we are down 13 Service Coordinators, we are hiring, part time and full time positions.
- We continue to move forward with FGRBI and therapist receiving endorsement.

- **CYF**

Tara Korn Reported. Currently are searching for a new Deputy Director. The position remains vacant at this time.

C. Pittsburgh Public Schools

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

Elizabeth Strickland reported for PPS Early Intervention.

We are working to make sure that families know we offer services during the summer; notices have gone out and choices forms will be going out soon. We are also working on getting the OCDEL Family Survey out and trying to increase the response rate. Other efforts are being made to make families aware that we can connect them with non-EI funded supports.

D. AIU

- **Preschool Early Intervention(PEI)/Head Start**

AIU/Preschool Early Intervention Program

Reported by Kris Putzlocker.

1. AIU/PEI program- We just wrapped up Kindergarten Transition Meetings throughout the month of February, and we are supporting the transition process for roughly 1125 students from PEI to Kindergarten.
2. We continue to have several vacancies for speech therapists, special education teachers and paraprofessionals that we are working to fill. We will be participating in a couple of job fairs coming up with colleges and universities in the region as well as our own AIU Job Fair.

- **AIU/Head Start**

No report.

E. COTRAIC

- **Head Start/Early Head Start**

No report.

F. OCD Early Head Start

No report.

G. SICC

Tara Korn reported. EI Coordinator, Tara Korn will be attending a SICC retreat, in Harrisburg on May 2, 2024. Currently, have been asked what individuals would like to see on the SICC agenda. Tara will share experience/updates after the retreat.

EITA

No report.

Early Learning Resources Center

Becky Czekaj-Dengler reported.

There is currently not a waiting list for childcare subsidy at this time so it is a good time for families to apply. The Federal Poverty Income Guidelines (FPIG) are

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updated each April which means that more families may be eligible for the child care subsidy under 200% FPIG. The ELRC Wood Street location continues to be a Diaper and Formula Bank. The Allegheny County Child Care Tool has been updated with summer camp and summer care options. Please see the link below.

<https://www.alleghenychildcare.org/>

The ELRC Region 5 Website provides a wealth of resources, information, and educational opportunities for families and child care providers in Allegheny County.

Trying Together

Reported by Ashley Harland.

As we enter spring, Trying Together is preparing for the state budget season. Across the upcoming months, we will be meeting with state legislators and advocating for investments in early learning, child care, home visiting, and early intervention. You can sign up for policy and advocacy updates here: <https://tryingtogether.org/advocacy/get-public-policy-updates/>

Trying Together is also looking for families to share their experiences with early childhood suspension and expulsion. If you know a family who has been asked to leave an early care and education program or who has needed to switch programs, they're encouraged to take the following survey: <https://tryingtogether.org/suspension-and-expulsion-in-early-childhood/>

New Business

Tara Korn adjourned the meeting. Elizabeth Strickland seconded the motion.

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

Upcoming Meetings Dates:

Tuesday, May 21, 2024