

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

**Virtual Zoom Meeting**

**In Attendance**

Elizabeth Strickland, PPS EI; Becky Czekaj-Dangler, Early Learning Resources Center; Jennifer Mason, AFIT; Shannon McDonald, UPMC Dental; Stacey Trocheck, AFIT; Beverly Bummer, PPS EI; Ashley Harland, Trying Together; Katie Scherer, COTRAIC; Stevonna Wallace; S. Tieglitzae; Brooke T; Alanna Kanawalsky; Hollea Gangloff – AIU/PEI; Michelle Grese; Lauren, Parent; Sabino Quirino; Mary Evard; Nikki Herman; Vonna May-Miller; Julia Salisbury; Kandis Mason; and Shahanna Begay

**Welcome and Introductions**

Stacey Trocheck welcomed everyone. Stacey reviewed the LICC Mission Statement.

Stacey Trocheck accepted the minutes for May 23, 2023, and Vonna May-Miller, seconded the motion.

**Committee Updates**

**Child Find Committee**

Hollea Gangloff reported.

They are working to make sure pediatricians have the most updated flyers and information for making Early Intervention referrals.

**Family/Professional Involvement**

No report.

**Inclusion Committee**

Hollea Gangloff reported.

No update – October meeting was cancelled and will be rescheduled

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## **Issues and Public Policy**

No report.

## **Training Committee**

Elizabeth Strickland reported.

We are looking forward to having a presentation from Allegheny County OID on Supports Coordination for our March 2024 meeting, and we are currently coordinating with Community Care Behavioral Health for a presentation on IBHS but are not yet sure which date they will present. If anyone has additional suggestions for presentations, please contact Elizabeth Strickland at [mstrickland1@pghschools.org](mailto:mstrickland1@pghschools.org)

## **Transition Committee**

Vonna May-Miller submitted.

The Transition Sub-Committee was to meet on September 26, 2023, however, due to lack of agenda items committee agreed not to meet. The committee will meet in November/December depending on need.

The next meeting has not been scheduled.

## **Department Updates**

### **A. Allegheny County Department of Health**

No report.

### **B. Allegheny County Department of Human Services**

#### **• Office of Behavioral Health**

Tara Korn reported.

1 update, we have a new Deputy Director, Stuart Fisk. He will be starting early Nov.

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

No report.

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- **CYF**

No report.

**C. Pittsburgh Public Schools**

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

Elizabeth Strickland reported for PPS Early Intervention/Early Childhood.

We shared the results of our audit with staff and are working on any corrections needed. We are also partnering with our PPS Early Childhood program on the exploration of the coaching model from EITA.

**D. AIU**

- **DART/Head Start**

**AIU/Preschool Early Intervention Program-DART**

Hollea Gangloff reported.

We have a new program director, Carrie Frohn Apfel, who is now fully in her role. We are also part of cohort 2 for Service Delivery: Coaching Across Settings from OCDEL. We are in the exploration phase right now so there is team doing some work behind the scenes to continue providing coaching and building collaborative partnerships with the families and caregivers of children in our program.

- **AIU/Head Start**

**No report.**

**E. COTRAIC**

- **Head Start/Early Head Start**

Katie Scherer reported.

COTRAIC is preparing for an F1 Review (date unknown). We also have a grant to partner with childcares that have children (infants/toddlers) affected by opioid/substance abuse-specifically with their parents. We are currently looking for these childcares. We are also hiring for multiple positions.

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**F. OCD Early Head Start**

No report.

**G. SICC**

No report.

**EITA**

No report.

**Early Learning Resources Center**

Becky Czekaj-Dengler reported.

The ELRC 5 Downtown location on Wood Street is now a Diaper Bank and Formula Bank. Please direct families to us who may be visiting downtown Pittsburgh and are in need of diapers or formula.

We are also available to assist families in applying for LIHEAP.

There is not a waiting list for child care subsidy at this time so it is a good time for families to apply.



Becky Czekaj-Dengler

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## **New Business**

Ashley Harland, Trying Together provided the following information:

- Trying Together is a non-profit organization committed to providing advocacy, training, and resources to support the caregivers in the lives of young children
- We advocate for healthy and positive early childhood development opportunities. We provide a variety of professional growth opportunities, trainings, and workshops for early care and education programs. We also partner with the ELRC and operate a Family Center in Homewood.
- We currently have grant funding to build the capacity of the Rapid Response Team and also strengthen early care and education programs' ability to understand, utilize, and collaborate with EI.

Mary Evrard, Allegheny County provided the following information:

**Allegheny County Department of Human Services (DHS) Office of Developmental Supports (ODS)** registers eligible Allegheny County residents with • Intellectual Disability (ID) • Autism • Developmental Disability (DD) prior to age 9 and • Medically Complex Condition (MCC) prior to age 22 to connect them to Supports Coordination and other supports and services. Refer to the document Diagnosis Eligibility Requirements on the

ODS webpage at [www.alleghenycounty.us/Human-Services/About/Offices/Developmental-Supports.aspx](http://www.alleghenycounty.us/Human-Services/About/Offices/Developmental-Supports.aspx). There you'll also find Fact Sheets, resource lists and other helpful supports, services, medical assistance and community resource information.

Please reach Mary at [mevrard@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:mevrard@alleghenycounty.us) or 412-253-1251: If you have any questions about ODS supports and services or want to sign up for regular informational emails.

*The Robert Morris University (RMU) Trees Network has been established to create a system of interconnections for families...Learn more and sign up for their newsletters at [www.rmu.edu/academics/provost/trees](http://www.rmu.edu/academics/provost/trees)*

### **RMU Trees Network November 6 Family/Parent Support Meeting, Supports Coordination and Waiver Funding**

Join us FREE and VIRTUALLY on Monday, November 6 from 7PM-8PM for our next family/parent meeting on support coordination and waiver funding. Mary Evrard,

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Allegheny County Department of Human Services Office of Developmental Supports (AC DHS ODS) Community and Communications Liaison will be joining us and sharing information and resources on supports and services in our region, how to connect with a support coordinator to aid in transitioning, and how to obtain access to waiver funding. Please join me at the November 6<sup>th</sup> RMU Trees Network Family/Parent Support Meeting. Contact Deanna at [hiltzd@rmu.edu](mailto:hiltzd@rmu.edu) 412-397-6407 or Vicki at [donne@rmu.edu](mailto:donne@rmu.edu) 412-397-5465 to register.

Stacey Trocheck adjourned the meeting. Elizabeth Strickland seconded the motion.

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

Upcoming Meetings Dates:

Tuesday, January 23, 2024

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Tuesday, May 21, 2024