

## LOCAL RIGHT TO EDUCATION TASK FORCE #15

### 9/23/24 Meeting Minutes

**Recording:** [https://caiu-org.zoom.us/rec/share/vs4SEnDlejhl97G4g8klVUEi\\_ail52ZRky-N8TAW5FHVTtCZYc6g4JBmveldb5Qt.dIYBHgPFwA7D2vUW](https://caiu-org.zoom.us/rec/share/vs4SEnDlejhl97G4g8klVUEi_ail52ZRky-N8TAW5FHVTtCZYc6g4JBmveldb5Qt.dIYBHgPFwA7D2vUW)

#### I. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

<i>Attending:</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kathy Gingerich, Co-Chairperson	The Arc of Dauphin County
<input type="checkbox"/>	Beth Light	The Arc of Dauphin County
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Beth-Ann McConnell	CAIU - Interagency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Holly Turner	CPARC
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kathleen Haigh	Family Member/PEAL Center
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Megan Johnston	Cumberland Perry MH
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ed Bernot	Dauphin County ID Supervisor
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dr. Andrew McCrea	CAIU, Director of Student Services
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Laken Wilson	CPARC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lissette Johnson	CPARC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kelly Smiley	CPARC
<input type="checkbox"/>		Dauphin County MH
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Patti Wiedt, Co-Chairperson	Parent
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pam Matesevac	Parent
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sherry Campbell	Central Dauphin School District
<input type="checkbox"/>	Melissa Bialis	Central Dauphin School District
<input type="checkbox"/>		PDE- State Task Force
<input type="checkbox"/>	Deanne Ryan-Washington	West Shore School District
<input type="checkbox"/>		Newport School District
<input type="checkbox"/>	Candis Chubb	Cumberland Valley School District
<input type="checkbox"/>	Christine Titih	CT HomeCare Services
<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Patsy Gilbert	Parent Advisory Council – Derry Township
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jessica Capitani	Parent Advisory Council – Derry Township
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amanda Neidig	UCP Family Support Specialist
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kelli Fry	UCP Family Support Specialist
<input type="checkbox"/>		ODP-State Task Force
<input type="checkbox"/>	Irene Reedy	CAIU Student Services Supervisor
<input type="checkbox"/>	Emmy Sasala	Family member
<input type="checkbox"/>	Maggie Parke	Family Member Parent to Parent of PA
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gerren Wagner	Family Member, Parent Advocate ABA in PA
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jennifer Mulle	Family Member, Include me PA
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lisa Butler	Family Member/ The Next Step
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cynthia Lamon	Family Member/Lighthouse Human Srvs
<input type="checkbox"/>	Susan Tachau	PATF
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tracy Beck	PATF
<input type="checkbox"/>	Leah Kostelak	CAIU, Transition

<input type="checkbox"/>	Chris Bonneau	Family member
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mikhail Bower	UCP Central PA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jennifer Macsisak	The Arc of PA, Program Specialist
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mikeisha Mobley	The Arc of PA, Program Specialist
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jennifer Hottenstein	Reach Cyber Charter, Transition Coordinator
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sherry Wiest	Harrisburg City School District, Transition Coordinator
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Karee Robinson	Lower Dauphin SD, Transition Coordinator

**DISCUSSION-** Beth-Ann shared some information from the State Task Force meeting held on September 18<sup>th</sup>. Please note in the near future, there will be a recording that will be shared from the State Task Force with more details. Noted by Dr. Clancy was the systemic alignment that is occurring with PaTTAN, the training arm of PDE as well as the Intermediate Units across Pennsylvania. Also noted is the rejuvenation of Local Task Force. There will be listening sessions provided by Bureau of Special Education and the Arc of Pa that will be held in November for Local Task Force members. This will be an opportunity for individuals to hear and talk about the possibly vision for Local Task Force groups. Details on these meetings will be forthcoming from the State Task Force Lead, Tim Krushinski. Also, during the meeting, The Arc of Pa’s staff discussed their various programs such as Include Me Program. They also noted that districts can ask for their support to work with team on what is needed for students. <https://thearcpa.org/includeme/> Additionally, Pennsylvania’s Department of Education’s Families to the Max’s Jacqui DiDomenico and team shared about this program. Jacqui can be reached at [jjidomenico@pattan.net](mailto:jjidomenico@pattan.net) or please explore more on their site. <https://www.pattan.net/Parent-Information/FAMILIES-TO-THE-MAX-Pennsylvania-Statewide-Family>

Tim Krushinski, shared at the STF meeting that the Disability and Inclusion toolkit which was piloted to 10 schools has been met with thrilling progress. This is a regular ed and PDE initiative. Training for year two just happened and hope is that it will be able to be shared throughout Pennsylvania in the near future. For more information, please reach out to Tim at [tikrushins@pa.gov](mailto:tikrushins@pa.gov)

A discussion was held by members on what topics will be of interest to them for this coming LTF year. Mental Health topic discussions were a need shared amongst families and agencies. Also, the need for resources for when families are near or in crisis seem to be a topic of need as well. Megan Johnston shared Understood.org as a resource during this conversation.

**III. CAIU #15 Local Task Force Elections** - In May 2024, Kathy Gingerich and Patti Wiedt were voted back in as the Co-Chairs for upcoming school year.

**IV. MEMBER UPDATES**

**Families:** Nothing to report

**Arc of Dauphin County:** Jennifer Macsisak mentioned information shared at the State Task Force and via email. All attachments shared have been added to our Local Task Force Padlet. You can find them here: [CAIU 15 Local Task Force Padlet 24-25](#)

Additionally,

1. Transition Parent Sessions – PDF on 3 sessions we are offering parents/caregivers on transition services available in the state of PA (in September and October).
2. Include Me Professional Development Guide – PDF on the trainings we offer to districts and community groups regarding Inclusion in Education
3. Post Cards IMCC and DATL – QR codes and other information regarding IMCC (Include Me Connection Club 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders) and DATL Book Studies (5-8 year olds, 8-12 year olds, 12-17 year olds, and Adults) – please remember these ages are only based on content themes, not at all based on reading level – we provide accommodation ☺
4. Mikeisha and My contact information – feel free to reach out to us and we'll get you connected to correct employee(s)
5. IM Program Overview – Information about the Include Me program that we offer school districts
6. IM Overview for Families – Information about the Include Me program that we offer parents
7. Website Information for IMCC: <https://thearcpa.org/includeme/include-me-connection-club/>
8. Website Information for DATL: <https://thearcpa.org/includeme/bookstudy/>
9. Website information for our e-learning modules available to EVERYONE! <https://thearcpa.org/training/e-learning/>
10. More information about The Arc of PA: <https://thearcpa.org/>

Jennifer Macsisak

Program Specialist for ADEPT and Include Me

The Arc of Pennsylvania

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[www.thearcpa.org](http://www.thearcpa.org) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Become a member](#)

**District-** Thank you to the transition coordinators who joined today from various districts and charters!

**CAIU** – Beth-Ann shared a link for the Local Task Force Padlet. This houses all presentations shared this school year during our meetings as well as links to those individuals or organizations. Other information is on there for resource sharing! Check it out!

LTF #15 Padlet

<https://edservtac.padlet.org/bmconnell17/local-task-force-15-capital-area-intermediate-unit-2024-2025-t1lmeinghcx5ndic>

CAIU LTF #15 Website

<https://www.caiu.org/community/opportunities-for-everyone/local-right-to-education-taskforce>

What is LTF video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RXcngq-4D-s>

**CPARC:** Laken Wilson reported that there continues to be an increase in need for mental health resources and support for individuals they are supporting in their advocacy and education work. Also, there is an increase in supporting families of children who are transitioning back to school from mental health placements but are sitting at home due to no educational placements being available. Beth-Ann McConnell mentioned the interagency/intensive interagency involvement that the CAIU can provide in conjunction with PaTTAN/PDE when children are at risk of not receiving FAPE or actively involved in this situation. Reminder to districts that this is a service that they should be reaching out to when in this situation was stated.

**To make a referral to this districts can report the concern here:**

<https://www.leaderservices.com/seshomeNET/index.aspx>

**Cumberland Perry MH & IDD:** Megan Johnston reported that the mobile crisis walk-in center will be opening in December. More details to this opening will be provided in the near future. Megan also spoke to capacity of services and that there is improvement to some depending on level of care needed. Additionally, she mentioned her program's increased involvement with local districts due to the recent increase in threats to schools and district responses to these threats. She mentioned the District Attorney's Office news report regarding these threats and potential need to charge at the fullest extent of the law because of the impact to resources being spent for each threat as well as the psychological impact to all impacted. Lastly, Megan shared that Mark Evans has recently been hired as the Director for Cumberland and Perry's Intellectual Disabilities and Early Intervention. Please welcome Mark to our Local Task Force!

[mcevans@cumberlandcountypa.gov](mailto:mcevans@cumberlandcountypa.gov)

**Dauphin County MH/ID & CMU:** Ed Bernot shared that Dan Sausman has retired from their organization and Amber Wolford is now the Developmental Disability's Director. Sarah Freeland has been promoted to Deputy. He mentioned there has been a lot of changes on the mental health side of their organization. William Price is now the Mental Health Director. Beth-Ann McConnell shared that Lynn Pascoa, Children's Mental Health Specialist has left this position and is now employed as the Director of Autism at the state level. You can reach out to Rachel Clifton in the meantime while Lynn's position is being filled.

[rclifton@dauphincounty.gov](mailto:rclifton@dauphincounty.gov)

**Parent to Parent:** Not in attendance. Please see the Padlet of resources for additional information shared by Maggie Parke in advance of this meeting as well as this link: <https://www.parenttoparent.org/>

**UCP:** N/A

## V. LTF MEETING PLANS

### **Proposed CAIU #15 Local Task Force Meetings**

#### 2024-2025 LTF # 15 Meetings

9/23/24	10:30-12:00	<a href="https://caiu-org.zoom.us/j/98792714913">https://caiu-org.zoom.us/j/98792714913</a>
11/18/24	10:30-12:00	<a href="https://caiu-org.zoom.us/j/93261301756">https://caiu-org.zoom.us/j/93261301756</a>
1/13/25	10:30-12:00	<a href="https://caiu-org.zoom.us/j/91223347054">https://caiu-org.zoom.us/j/91223347054</a>

3/24/25	10:30-12:00	<a href="https://caiu-org.zoom.us/j/97474672910">https://caiu-org.zoom.us/j/97474672910</a>
5/19/25	10:30-12:00	<a href="https://caiu-org.zoom.us/j/99764400870">https://caiu-org.zoom.us/j/99764400870</a>