

## LOCAL RIGHT TO EDUCATION TASK FORCE #15

November 18, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Recording: [https://caiu-org.zoom.us/rec/share/BCxVWs07g0e6nn\\_xArB-uA83V18ZCDFgSadHjMLKss3maz4AN4Fe3Nml2eBazlWK.AAxAw45\\_B2CYSEmy](https://caiu-org.zoom.us/rec/share/BCxVWs07g0e6nn_xArB-uA83V18ZCDFgSadHjMLKss3maz4AN4Fe3Nml2eBazlWK.AAxAw45_B2CYSEmy)

### I. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Attending:		
<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"/>	Lisette Johnson	CPARC
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kelly Smiley	CPARC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rachel Clifton	Dauphin County Deputy MH Administrator
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Patti Wiedt, Co-Chairperson	Family Member
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pam Matesevac	Family Member
<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"/>	Angela Quigley-Jones	Newport School District
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Candis Chubb	Cumberland Valley School District
<input type="checkbox"/>	Christine Titih	CT HomeCare Services
<input type="checkbox"/>	Diane Desmond	Family Member
<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 type="checkbox"/>	Jennifer Macsisak	The Arc of PA, Program Specialist
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mikeisha Mobley	The Arc of PA, Program Specialist
<input type="checkbox"/>		Big Spring SD, Director of Student Services
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Judi Dunkle	CAIU Early Intervention Social Worker
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Laura Piontkowski	Abby Care Outreach Home Health Care
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mark Evans	Cumberland/Perry EI and IDD Supervisor
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Carol Dugery	Technology Assisted Children's Home Program
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jen Sloppy	Family member
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mary deCoen	Deputy Administrator Autism/ID Dauphin County

**DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION-** At a request from the LTF families, Megan Johnston, Cumberland and Perry County CASSP Coordinator/ESAP Liaison Supervisor and Rachel Clifton Rachel Clifton, Dauphin County Mental Health Deputy Administrator joined in a presentation today about mental health trends, concerns and resources. Rachel shared various treatment and supports that are offered at the different counties **at minute 17:02** on the recording. A discussion on different levels of treatment and waitlist concerns are mentioned. It's important for families to remember to think about other types of services or even community based involved activities. There are longer waits for various levels of treatment options where some such as outpatient type may not be as long. It is also important to have children involved in community-type activities. Rachel has shared a recreational activities document for Dauphin County area. She wants to have people send information to their office to add to this list. Megan Johnston has a plethora of resources if requested for her counties.

**At minute, 28:39, Megan** discussed the current climate of mental health within our counties while noting the importance of looking at the function of behaviors and while looking at this building interventions and supports. She noted that environmental factors as well as potential trauma histories need to be looked at as well. Megan additionally talked about the overuse of social media and its impacts on children and youth while looking at the increase in anxiety over the past decade or so and its correlation to social media use.

Rachel shared and discussed a grant they have with the PA Department of Health for suicide prevention activities that is specifically targeted to the 15-24 age cohort. Dauphin County has partnered with NAMI of Central PA to offer programming in schools and the community including Youth Mental Health First Aid, Teen Mental Health First Aid, and NAMI on Campus among others. An attached chart shows a description of the programming being offered by NAMI. They would love to involve more schools in this work.

She mentioned the collaboration with the Bhutanese Community and future work that they will doing with some members of this community.

They are hopeful Dauphin County districts will apply for and receive more Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency funds to enhance mental health services in their schools. Please reach out to Rachel if your school is interested in learning more!

Additionally, **at minute 43:35**, they spoke about their mutual county collaboration of Connections Health Solutions, <https://connectionshs.com/harrisburg> an emergency behavioral health walk-in center serving Dauphin, Cumberland, and Perry Counties. It will also serve as the region's mobile crisis response provider. Connections emergency behavioral health walk-in center will serve youth (age 14-18) and adults experiencing a behavioral health crisis and be open 24/7/365. Megan and Rachel shared additional information about the process for accessing the mobile crisis unit which will be available for all ages within their counties. Please refer to the recording for accurate details presented by them.

Opening date is slated for December 4, 2024. An open house is planned for the afternoon of December 3, 2024. For additional information about this event, please reach out to them.

Megan E Johnston

Mental Health | Senior Human Services Manager | CASSP Coordinator/ESAP Liaison Supervisor-  
Cumberland/Perry Co

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- II. **State Task Force updates:** An overview of the State Task Force meeting was shared by Beth-Ann McConnell. At the time of the meeting, Dr. Clancy and Sherri Landis were inviting attendees to join their area's Listening Sessions for Local Task Forces. This is a revitalization of Local Task Force Right to Education groups tour across PA. The hope being to bring us back to what these are meant to be. It is known that there are many different types of LTFs where some are collaborative, some are not and some do not exist. There is also a variety in how they are run and the tasks that they are focused on. A reminder of the point of the LTFs were mentioned and the following was provided to us to share at our LTF meetings. <https://thearcpa.org/resources/historical-documents/>

Since that meeting, some members of the LTF attended the various sessions. Beth-Ann, Patti and Mikeisha noted some of them comments heard during the listening sessions and the point of these sessions. The following were points to respond to during the question portion of the sessions.

Needs

Best Practice/constructive Interactions between schools, families, community:

Recommendations :

There is a comment form for Local Task Force Right to Education Listening Sessions: This form is open until 11/29/24. Please feel free to provide your comment on this form:

[https://forms.microsoft.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=0Sk027hkVkyJ4jPTgBch2O6nedq8\\_BBMN2l1gU87BdUQkVHNjISREpLNIBKTEFKVfDXSEZZUDBOQS4u&route=shorturl](https://forms.microsoft.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=0Sk027hkVkyJ4jPTgBch2O6nedq8_BBMN2l1gU87BdUQkVHNjISREpLNIBKTEFKVfDXSEZZUDBOQS4u&route=shorturl)

The survey is also on the PaTTAN website on the STF page: <https://www.pattan.net/Collaborative-Partnerships/State-Task-Force>

Additionally, Families to the Max shared about what they have to offer for families. For more information about this, please see these links shared during the STF meeting.

Families to the Max <https://pattaneast.jotform.com/243054936707865>

<https://secure.smores.com/n/d2rn1>

<https://secure.smores.com/n/z4cdj>

[F2MAX@pattan.net](mailto:F2MAX@pattan.net)

- III. **CAIU #15 Local Task Force Elections** - Kathy Gingerich and Patti Wiedt were voted back in as the Co-Chairs for upcoming school year. Thank you to both of you!

IV. **MEMBER UPDATES**

**Families:** Nothing to report

**Arc of Dauphin County:** Not in attendance

**ARC of PA:** Mikeisha Mobley noted that tonight there is a transition event. (Information was sent the LTF members via email but also shared in the chat during the meeting.

Book study: [Book Studies | The Arc of Pennsylvania](#)

Transition Series: [Event Calendar | The Arc of Pennsylvania](#)

Include Me Connection Club: [Include Me Connection Club | The Arc of Pennsylvania](#)

Mikeisha's contact: [mmobley@includemepa.org](mailto:mmobley@includemepa.org)

75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrated this past Saturday!

**District-** Cumberland Valley's Candis Chubb reported that their district and consortium recently had a family training that included CPARC's Laken Wilson. There was a focus on IEP basics. There will be a training in January for families that will have a variety of breakout sessions one having a focus on social media and mental health.

**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!

<https://edservtac.padlet.org/bmconnell17/local-task-force-15-capital-area-intermediate-unit-2024-2025-t1meinghcx5ndic>

Additionally, a new flyer and brochure has been created for you to share to families. These have been added to our Padlet and have been attached to the email sharing these minutes.

**CPARC:** Laken shared there will be a Connections Conference on March 8, 2025. Details will be shared at a later date.

**Cumberland Perry MH & IDD:** No additional information shared beyond the presentation.

**Dauphin County MH/ID & CMU:** Ed Bernot shared that with the Connections Health Solutions addition to their building there are some changes that may impact those utilizing their services. He mentioned that there will be security present and their will be wandering that occurs. He suggested that families are made aware of these changes.

**Parent to Parent:** Not in attendance

**Abby Care-** Laura shared the link to their website [abbycare.org](http://abbycare.org) and as well as her email [laura.piontkowski@abbycare.org](mailto:laura.piontkowski@abbycare.org)

**Technology Assisted Children's Home Program-** Carole Dugery was in attendance and shared briefly about their program. <https://tachp.phmc.org/>

**UCP:** Not in attendance

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>