

LOCAL RIGHT TO EDUCATION TASK FORCE #15

January 13, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Recording: [Local Task Force 1-13-25 Zoom Recording Link](#)

I. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Attending:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kathy Gingerich, Co-Chairperson	The Arc of Dauphin County
<input checked="" 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"/>	Jen Sloppy	Family Member
<input type="checkbox"/>	Megan Johnston	Cumberland Perry MH
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ed Bernot	Dauphin County Service Access Management Pathways Forward Supervisor
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dr. Andrew McCrea	CAIU, Director of Student Services
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Laken Wilson	CPARC
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tim Krushinski	PDE- State Task Force
<input type="checkbox"/>	Deanne Ryan-Washington	West Shore School District
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mark Evans	Cumberland and Perry County IDD, EI Director
<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 checked="" 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"/>		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 Svcs

<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

II DISCUSSION- Tim Krushinski Timothy Krushinski, Bureau of Special Education, Policy Advisor was welcomed to our Local Task Force as our representative for State Task Force. Tim provided information from his department. In addition, Tim noted information shared at the State Task Force, January 8, 2025 meeting. During that meeting, a presentation by ODR’s Ashley Smith on IEP and IFSP Facilitation was provided. Please see the STF presentation attached to the email accompanying these minutes for a copy of this presentation. Information has been sent out in a separate email as well regarding this meeting and will be found on the PaTTAN site.

<https://www.pattan.net/Collaborative-Partnerships/State-Task-Force>

A brief update was given on the LTF Listening Sessions held in November 2024. In July 2025, there will be opportunities to learn about the outcomes of these meetings and collaborate with Dr. Clancy and others to develop a more structured Local Task Force.

The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) is currently conducting monitoring in several key areas:

1. **Monitoring of Districts** – Reviewing how districts implement special education services.
2. **Data on Assessments** – Analyzing data related to student assessments, dropout rates, and graduation rates.
3. **ChildFind** – Ensuring proper identification of children who may need special education services.
4. **State Performance Plan & Annual Performance Report** – Evaluating the state's progress on meeting special education goals and reporting on performance.
5. **Fiscal Management** – Reviewing the management and allocation of funds for special education services.
6. **Dispute Resolution** – Assessing the handling of disputes related to special education services.
7. **Policies & Procedures** – Conducting a deep dive into district policies and procedures to ensure compliance with regulations.
8. **Technical Assistance & Professional Development** – Providing support and training to districts to improve service delivery.

The Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN) assists in these monitoring efforts to improve special education services.

Additionally, Tim spoke about the Disability Inclusive Curriculum grant and the work that has been done with 10 pilot schools since the grant started. They are really integrating how disability impacts everyone throughout the day. Also, for people with disabilities, the impacts that they've had and the disability pilot promotes topics and subject matter for instruction to all students again, all students, not just the special Ed students. And it will help learners understand that disability is a natural part of the human condition, and that will emphasize the critical contributions of people with disabilities.

For more details on what Tim shared today, please listen to Tim's report at minute 4:59 on the zoom recording.

Tim Krushinski Contact information:

PA Department of Education

Bureau of Special Education, Policy Advisor

607 South Drive, 5th Floor – East Wing | Harrisburg, PA 17120

Phone: 717.329.4029

tikrushins@pa.gov | www.education.pa.gov

Links mentioned during the State Task Force meeting and today's Local Task Force meeting:

<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/education/programs-and-services/instruction/elementary-and-secondary-education/special-education.html>

<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/education/programs-and-services/instruction/elementary-and-secondary-education/special-education/prof-dev-tech-assistance.html>

<https://www.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: Jen Sloppy shared a movie that her son recently watched and encourages all to watch titled, Out of My Mind. This is streaming on Disney Plus. <https://www.disneyplus.com/movies/out-of-my-mind/5U9QeQMDIDaj?v=var1>

Additionally, Jen asked about Cyber/Charter School Funding changes. A discussion was held regarding this at minute 18:36 on our recording. If anyone has additional information regarding this, please let us know so we can share this with Jen and our other members.

Arc of Dauphin County: Kathy Gingerich has returned to her Advocacy role after an extension leave. Please understand while she is catching up! Beth Light shared that they are very busy. School concerns along with helping some individuals with housing concerns have been a priority for their work as of late.

Arc of PA: Mikeisha Mobley shared that currently the book club up and running but is closed to new registrations. There will be additional clubs in the future and the Arc of PA will inform us when they return. Also, she shared that transition information sessions will be coming back soon.

District- Cumberland Valley School District's Candis Chubb shared they are working on a January 28th parent training. Held at Mountain View Middle School. This training includes Cumberland Valley, West shore, East Pennsboro and Camp Hill School Districts. They have 4 different training topics for that. This is for any parent of a child with an IEP that is from those 4 districts can register for these trainings. They are doing a training on unpacking the impacts of social media on mental health, understanding, communication and behavior. Supporting families through the stress as a caregiver of a child with special needs, and then a session on puberty. Candis was able to find the Burn Center to do our presentation on puberty, which is

great. Laurel life is going to do the parental stress training Communications Beginnings is going to be doing the communication and behavior training. And their social workers are going to do the social media training. Their parents can go to 2 different trainings that night and do 2 different sessions that they rotate through. They are providing childcare right now. They are lower on the parents that have responded. At the time of this meeting, there were 50 parents that responded. Last year they had a little over a hundred. They are hoping that they get some more responses. They have 13 vendors coming. They do have a lot of vendors that are coming to the training which will be great. They can provide a lot of different resources to their families.

Another update is that some may have heard about most recently, which was in the news, was the update about the regional special Olympic games. On April 16th, these are going to be at Bishop McDevitt. So that's a great update as they didn't have the games last year, and that impacts both East and West Shore school districts.

Newport School District, Angela Quigley-Jones is interested in having a family event as well and noted reaching out to Candis to find out details on planning this at their district.

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/bmccconnell17/local-task-force-15-capital-area-intermediate-unit-2024-2025-t1meinghcx5ndic>

CPARC: Laken Wilson shared they have two events coming up. The 1st one is March 8th and that's their advocacy talks connections. They will be going over topics such as the adult Idd system, school advocacy, adult advocacy. They are going to do behavioral systems within the schools setting and then behavioral services within the adult setting alternatives to guardianship. Patti Wiedt and potentially Beth-Ann McConnell will join the vendor piece of this to share about Local Task Force. If there are any other family members that would like to join in this, please let Beth-Ann, Patti or Laken know1 They have another event coming up May 3rd and that's their annual caregiver relaxation workshop. This will be their 4th one. A flyer for the March 8th Advocacy Talks Connections have been shared via email since this meeting and additionally placed on the Padlet for our LTF.

Cumberland Perry MH & IDD: Megan Johnston was not able to attend today's meeting but shared additional information prior to the meeting regarding the Connections Health Solutions Walk-In Crisis Center. See above and on the Padlet for additional information. If your school would like more direct presentation on this, please reach out to Megan. mejohnton@cumberlandcountypa.gov

Mark Evans shared a couple of updates on a couple of updates on the IDD side. They continue to see a tremendous number of referrals and open cases just alone in IDD, last year they opened 100 new individuals, which, likely is one of the highest that Mark could ever recall in his 25 years in this area. Their Capital Area Employment 1st Coalition, which is a partnership between Cumberland, Perry Dolphin, IDD, Supports, Coordination organization, school districts and our other partners are planning a transition fair for Wednesday, March 12th and is being held at Penn State, Middletown campus. The focus of that is for students who are scheduled to be graduating in 2026 are invited to attend, and they will have a lot of resources there about adult services. Such as what to be planning for when we make that transition to adult

services, a lot of independent living employment supports and some general just education for folks. They are looking forward to that and usually have about 250 folks attending this event. Kathy Gingerich and Beth-Ann McConnell will be joining the vendor portion of this event to share about the Local Task Force # 15.

Dauphin County MH/ID & CMU:

Ed Bernot noted that CMU officially changed their name to Pathway Forward. For now, you will see email replies saying formally known as CMU.

Additionally, Ed shared that requests for their services continue to exceed previous years. They are hiring staff but are short of staff right now.

Ed discussed a trend they are seeing where individuals at a higher rate than previous years are losing their insurance. A discussion was held on this and the reasons this may be happening was briefly discussed. A resource that may be helpful to families is UPMC Enrollment Specialists. Additionally, a statewide county assistance number 1-877-395-8930 may be helpful for families to explore what is needed to be reinstated if they meet qualifications.

Ed noted that Connections Health Solutions, which is located in their office building at 1100 South Cameron Street Harrisburg has opened to ages 14 + and is fully operating as of today. This is serving Cumberland, Perry and Dauphin County residents.

Connections Health Solutions operates the emergency behavioral health crisis walk-in center which serves all individuals ages 14+ in need of emergency behavioral health care and treatment. The center is open 24/7/365 to support individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis.

For additional information, please see <https://connections.shs.com/harrisburg>

This group asked for Connections Health Solutions staff join us for the next LTF meeting. This has been scheduled since this meeting was held.

Parent to Parent: Not in attendance today but please join us in welcoming Terri Shultz to Parent to Parent as our regional connection. tshultz@parenttoparent.org
Thank you to Maggie Parke for your involvement and continued support!

UCP: Kelli Fry shared information regarding events coming up in the near future. Sib Shops will return starting in February to May. Family Bowling will occur on March 1st. Flyers have been added to our Padlet for these events. Please see our Padlet for more information!

<https://edservtac.padlet.org/bmconnell17/local-task-force-15-capital-area-intermediate-unit-2024-2025-t1meinqhcx5ndic>

Additionally, Kelli shared that their All in Theatre which is an inclusive theatre program that is housed at Pollock Center in Camp Hill will be putting on Seussical the Musical February 7 to 9th. She stated that in May there will be opportunities for individuals to do exploration night for theater. There are opportunities for individuals to check out stage crew and lighting work. The next musical will be in May. Please reach out to Kelli at kelli.fry@ucpcentralpa.org for additional information on this.

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

V. LTF MEETING PLANS

Join us on March 24, 2025 for a presentation by Connections Health Solution. This will allow families to hear about the crisis walk in center, mobile crisis options and ask from a family perspective about this center.

Proposed CAIU #15 Local Task Force Meetings

2024-2025 LTF # 15 Meetings

9/23/24	10:30-12:00	https://caiu-org.zoom.us/j/98792714913
11/18/24	10:30-12:00	https://caiu-org.zoom.us/j/93261301756
1/13/25	10:30-12:00	https://caiu-org.zoom.us/j/91223347054
3/24/25	10:30-12:00	https://caiu-org.zoom.us/j/97474672910
5/19/25	10:30-12:00	https://caiu-org.zoom.us/j/99764400870