



LOCAL RIGHT TO EDUCATION TASK FORCE #15

Monday, April 20, 2026

10:30-12:00

[4/20/26 LTF Zoom Meeting Recording](#)

Minutes

- I. Welcome and Introductions and Planning for 2025-2026 LTF meetings- Laken Wilson welcomed all in attendance. Beth-Ann McConnell went over Local Task Force # 15 Meeting Norms.

Laken Wilson	LTF # 15 Co-Chair and CPARC Advocate
Beth-Ann McConnell	LTF # 15 IU Representative and CAIU Social Worker
Candis Chubb	LTF # 15 LEA Representative, Cumberland Valley SD
Kathleen Haigh	PEAL Center Family Resource Specialist
Jennifer Sloppy	Family Member – Dauphin County
Megan Johnston	Cumberland Perry CASSP/ESAP, Child Adolescent Mental Health
Ed Bernot	Dauphin County Service Access Coordinator/Supervisor
Mark Evans	Cumberland and Perry County
Andrew McCrea	Capital Area Intermediate Unit, Director of Student Services
Kelly Smiley	Arc of Cumberland and Perry County Advocate and Family Member
Kellie Coupal	Capital Area Intermediate Unit, Lead Behavioral Analyst acting until June 30, 2026
Alyssa Vecchiolli	Capital Area Intermediate Unit, Lead Behavioral Analyst
Amanda Price	Family Member, Cumberland County, Commonwealth Charter Academy
Litza Morales	Technology Assisted Children’s Home Program
Lisa Gipe	Family Member – Cumberland Valley SD
Brianne Wolf	Program Specialist, Arc of Pa
Vicki O’Hara	Family Member, Central Dauphin
Paula Jones	West Perry School District, Coordinator of Student Services
Emily Saich	ASERT Central Region Director
Chris Bonneau	Family Member

Local Task Force #15 MEETING NORMS

Contribute - be present, stay on task, focus on group goals, be mindful of over and under participation



Active Listening - everyone's input is valuable. Avoid interrupting

Confidentiality - professional communication, dignity, respect, and confidentiality



Remain constructive - focus on solutions and maintain positive, professional demeanor

Bigger picture - Focus on systemic issues with 10% of population or more.



Local Task Forces embrace safe spaces for creative solutions and constructive resolution of systemic issues.

II. State Task Force Meeting Update: Beth-Ann McConnell provided an overview of the 4/15/26 meeting. Detailed minutes and recording for the State Task Force will be provided on the [State Task Force Site](#). During the State Task Force Jacqui DiDomenico, PaTTAN East mentioned the [BRIDGING-KNOWLEDGE-TO-KNOW-HOW Conference](#) which will be held on August 4-7, 2026.

Bridging Knowledge to Know-How: Empowering Pennsylvania Educators and Partners. Uniting Pennsylvania's educators, community partners, families, and youth to explore insights and tools that bridge knowledge and practical application.

- This conference will bring together Pennsylvania's educators, community partners, families, and youth to explore the latest insights, strategies, and tools that bridge the gap between knowledge and practical application.
- Sessions will have a specific focus on autism, sensory disabilities, secondary transition, and students with complex instructional needs.
- Participants will gain tangible strategies to enhance teaching practices, drive student success, and adapt to the evolving demands of today's classrooms.

Staci Kenney, Office of Child Development and Early Learning' Division Chief and Sadia Batool presented about the OCDEL Family Leadership Toolkit: [ECCS Prenatal to Three Project | Department of Human Services | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)

c-sabatool@pa.gov>

The Family Leadership Toolkit is designed for state-level professionals and family leaders working to elevate family voice in systems change. The Family Leadership Toolkit offers practical tools, strategies, and real-world examples to help build strong, collaborative partnerships between professionals and family leaders.

III. Topic of Discussion: Summer Programming Laken Wilson

Emily Saich, Central Region Director of ASERT provided a brief overview of ASERT and then reviewed their latest [summer camp resource collection](#). While they are not able to promote any particular camp, Emily shared some great resources on factors to consider when selecting camps as well as tools to prepare campers. Please check out minute 13 for this discussion for detailed information.

Resources shared:

[ASERT/PA Autism](#)

[ASD Next](#) is designed to connect Pennsylvania teens and adults with autism to the most helpful resources and information, and with others in their community. (Transition age resources)

ASERT launched [Aid In Pa](#) during COVID but has expanded to broader social needs since that time. This is a joint effort between ASERT (Autism Services, Education, Resources, and Training) and the statewide HCQUs (Health Care Quality Units), this site is designed to connect individuals with disabilities, families, professionals, and community members with resources that can best serve them in different situations. [This is Autism Video Series](#) showcases the stories of 12 autistic individuals in Pennsylvania. This series aims to elevate the voices of autistic people of all ages, genders, races and experiences

Capital Area Intermediate Unit reached out to local counties to update their surrounding county [summer camp resources](#) site. This houses additional resources shared by Cumberland and Perry County Cross Systems Coordinator, Caroline Tyler.

Litza Morales, Technology Assisted Children's Home Program Social Worker, shared that it may help to consider checking with local county MHIDD/Autism for options as well as possible funding if your child is involved in their services. Additionally, she mentioned that some camps may have scholarships and other funding options. Gym memberships were mentioned as well to explore. Consider looking into area resources for equine therapy and music therapy but please know that insurances may not cover these options.

Ed Bernot, Dauphin County and Cumberland County, Mark Evans added information about their programs and potential funding options to explore with individuals receiving their services. It was clearly mentioned that there are limits to this and funding is a factor to note. For consideration of this, one must be in their system and there are no guarantees to what is and what is not covered. Additionally, some options require payment for registration and have stipulations to what is required additionally.

Brianne Wolf from The Arc of PA also shared that they provide a virtual "summer camp" that is done in the evenings in July- August (dates TBD right now). It's for grades 3-6. Registration opens in May. It's free, the kids are sent activities to do in the mail, and they have a really fun time. These are the different themes: Orientation, Camp Out Fantasy Day, Olympics, Friendship Day and Talent Show.

IV. Systemic Concern Discussion: Candis Chubb oversaw this discussion.

Jennifer Sloppy mentioned concerns with transitioning from Elementary School to Middle School noting differences with services. It was noted that many families may have confusion as to what is offered in earlier years of school vs. later years and this could be improved. ASERT's Emily Saich provided their [ASERT transition planning](#) guidance.

Laken Wilson offered to share CPARC's resources on this topic. These were added to our [LTF # 15 Padlet](#). They are found in the section titled, LTF # 15 4/20/26 Meeting Information.

Extended School Year was also a discussion brought up in reference to understanding what the purpose of ESY is really about and general confusion for families. General description of ESY was provided during the meeting. An additional opportunity to talk with Dr. McCrea, our LTF LEA representatives, was provided following the meeting and was not recorded.

[PaTTAN's ESY Information](#) was shared as a resource during the meeting.

Additionally, a question was asked about an update on the Parent Engagement Survey from the State Task Force/PDE. Beth-Ann McConnell reached out to our State Task Force contact, Lisa Smith- Lisa provided the following from Dr. Carole Clancy:

The parent survey is the post card. We are in the process of collecting the data and that window will not be closed until June 30th. Results will be published in our SPP APR report next year.

IV. Member Updates: Laken Wilson

Families: None noted.

School Districts: None noted.

Cumberland-Perry MH: Megan Johnston noted that this year there have been 670 referrals and that history shows there will be an increase in this number over the next month as the school year nears the end. She mentioned that budget cuts still continue to threaten their funding for the services that they are able to currently provide. In the past it was suggested that families and districts could reach out to the county commissioners with their concern about this potential loss of services and supports.

Cumberland-Perry IDD: None noted.

Dauphin County MH: Ed Bernot shared that at Pathways Forward's Mental Health Intake Supervisor has left the organization and currently the Deputy Mental Health Administrator is covering this role.

Dauphin County ID/ CMU: Ed Bernot mentioned that those that were registered for their transition fair will be notified of the rescheduled date of May 27th.

The Arc of Cumberland & Perry Counties: Caregiver Relaxation Workshop will be held on May 2, 2026. Flyer information is provided on the [LTF # 15 Padlet](#) and has been shared in previous emails sent by Beth-Ann McConnell.

The Arc of PA: Brianne Wolf mentioned the Arc of PA camps that will occur this summer. Additional information will be shared by Brianne Wolf as it is made available.

CAIU:

[LTF # 15 Padlet](#)

[CAIU LTF #15 Website](#)

[What is LTF video](#)

UCP: Not in attendance

PEAL Center: Kathleen Haigh shared that they have added 2 new Resource Specialists [the PEAL Center](#).

TACHP- Litza Morales shared about her program, [Technology Assisted Children's Home Program](#) This is a free program developed to provide unique, home-based care coordination to parents of children with special healthcare needs. TACHP provides non-medical services to build capacity among families and caregivers to care for their technology assisted children in their home. Their team of community navigators draw on the shared expertise in the service area provided within the program, including special education, parental advocacy, medical assistance, accessing in-home nursing services, etc.

V. This year’s meeting schedule

2025-2026 LTF # 15 Meetings

9/29/25	10:30 to 12:00	Zoom 9/29/25
11/10/25	10:30 to 12:00	Zoom Link for 11/10/25
1/26/26	10:30 to 12:00	Zoom Link for 1/26/26
4/20/26	10:30 to 12:00	Zoom Link for 4/20/26
5/18/26	10:30 to 12:00	Zoom Link for 5/18/26