



**State Task Force
On the Right to Education
Wednesday, March 15, 2023, Agenda
10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

Zoom link: <https://csiu.zoom.us/j/99194134883>

Meeting ID: 991 9413 4883

One tap mobile

+13126266799,99194134883# US (Chicago)

+16468769923,99194134883# US (New York)

- ❖ **Call to Order: Keith H. Focht**
- ❖ **Welcome: Local Task Force Chairpersons & Vice Chairpersons and Members, Agencies, and Others via ZOOM - Mr. Focht asked all participants to introduce themselves and their compacity or their role for being at the meeting.**
- ❖ **Old Business: Mr. Focht asked for approval of the January 11th STF minutes.**

- **January 11, 2023, Minutes** - sent via e-mail and will post on the STF Website pending STF Member approval, review, motion to accept and approve - Jessica Capitani; seconded by- Gary Smith.
- **Mr. Focht then introduced Barb Mazino, one of the guest presenters for today's meeting. Mrs. Mazino has been presenting in the last two STF meetings on the Bureau of Special Education responsibilities in reporting to the Federal Program – Office of Special Education Programs on how Pennsylvania is performing on the**
- **17 compliance indicators.** The State Performance plan of Pennsylvania target these 17 indicators and the Annual Performance Plan reports to the federal government on how BSE has done annually and how the Bureau can improve upon its State Performance.

Mr. Focht provided and reviewed the next page from the STF Website Link down to the hyperlinked link of Conferences.

- **STF Website Link:** <https://www.pattan.net/about-us/partners/state-task-force/>
- **Topic Points of Discussion and Presentations:**
 - 📅 **Wednesday, March 15, 2023 -10:00 am – Barbara Mazino ;**
 - 📅 **Wednesday, March15, 2023 – 11:30 am – Intensive Behavioral Health Services (IBHS) Courtney Malecki**



- 📅 **Wednesday, May 10, 2021- 10:00 am – 12:00 pm - Acronyms and Definitions**

- **Parent Satisfaction Survey Update - The two URLs listed below are:**

English URL Parent Satisfaction Survey Hyperlink

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/22-23LTF-Parent>

Spanish URL Parent Satisfaction Survey Hyperlink-

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/22-23ParentEsp>

LTF Meeting: When Having Your Meetings Remember to:

- Take attendance of members and others attending the meeting

- Have someone take minutes of the meeting and have the local IU submit this to corresponding STF member assigned to your area (see below).

- Send out your meeting information to your membership of those that attended and did not attend.

- ✓ Mrs. Jessica Capitani is assigned to LTF —1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 ,7, 8, 9,
- ✓ Mr. Gary Smith is assigned to LTF – 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 ,19 ,20, 21,
- ✓ Mr. Keith Focht is assigned to LTF – 10 ,11, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29.

Want to Meet?

If you want a State Task Force member to attend a get-together or attend a Local Task Force meeting, please feel free to contact us:

- Jessica Capitani - (cadenrox@verizon.net) The Arc of Pennsylvania – (540) 539-6671.
 - Gary Smith (smiga@pa.gov) The Office of Developmental Programs - (717) 934-4948
 - Emma Nolan (enolan@thearcpcpa.org)- the new Arc of Pennsylvania liaison to work with the STF - 717-234-2621 ext. 116.

 - Keith Focht (kfocht@pa.gov) – State Task Force Chairman – Bureau of Special Education - (717) 783-6921 or work cell (717) 982-4423.
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PA ABLE Savings Program - PA ABLE Savings Program – Updates

A PA ABLE Savings Program account gives individuals with qualified disabilities (Eligible Individuals), and their families and friends a tax-free way to save for a wide range of disability-related expenses while maintaining government benefits. The state and federal tax-free investment options are offered to encourage Eligible Individuals and their families to save private funds to support health, independence, and quality of life. To help you learn about the important features and benefits of PA ABLE, the Pennsylvania Treasury Department is hosting free webinars. Some of the topics that will be discussed include eligibility requirements for opening a PA ABLE account, the federal and state tax benefits of PA ABLE, and how PA ABLE account interacts with current benefits.

Important PA ABLE UPDATES

<https://www.paable.gov/lib/pdf/PAABLE-IRS-Regulation-Booklet.pdf>

Conferences

s Conference Title	Date / Location	In-person / Virtual / hybrid
AAC Talks Web Conference	May 12, 2023	Virtual
PaTTAN Literacy Symposium	TBD	Virtual
Math Conference	June 13 & 14, 2023	Virtual

s Conference Title	Date / Location	In-person / Virtual / hybrid
PDE Computer Science for ALL - PA Summit (#CSForALLPA)	June 14 & 15, 2023	Hybrid/PaTTAN Central
Pennsylvania Deaf-Blind Project's Family Learning	June 23 & 24, 2023	Hybrid/State
National Autism Conference	July 31-August 3, 2023, Following year - August 5-8. 2024	Hybrid/State College
PA Community of Practice Transition Conference	August 9 & 10, 2023	Hybrid/State
2023 National Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE) Conference	June 12-15, 2023	700 In-Person will be accepted
Integrated PAPBS Network and MTSS Conference Implementers' Forum	November 1-3, 2023,	TBD
Helix: High Expectations for Low Incidence Disabilities	TBD	Hybrid – State College

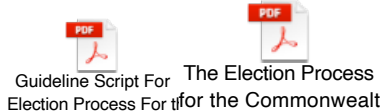
➤ **New Business: State Task Force**

Mr. Focht shared the election of the Local Task Forces should take place in May and June. Important information from the STF Handbook on Elections:

5.3 Elections

- 5.3.1 Elections are to be held at a Local Task Force meeting, on or before June 30th. The results must be sent by August 1, to the State Task Force chairperson.
- 5.3.2 The Election meeting is to be announced and advertised to members.
- 5.3.3 Nominations are to be submitted by the call of the Chair and Vice-Chair, from the floor, at the meeting.
- 5.3.4 A second to each nomination is required.
- 5.3.5 The candidate should be present and accept the nomination.
- 5.3.6 The voting can occur by voice vote or paper ballot by membership as defined in Section 5.1.1(2).
- 5.3.7 A simple majority of those present will be declared the winner of the Chair and Vice-Chair office.

- **Election Process-**



Kim Doan shared her thoughts about the importance of being a member of a local task force, yet also to become a parent peer monitor as it relates to cyclical monitoring of the Local Education Agencies (public schools and charter schools). She also shared she felt it is important for all to participate in this process and to go to the 2 -1/2-day training to learn how the LEA is audited in special education. She shared they work around your schedule, and you will be given a list of LEA audits taking place for that year and you choose which one you can participate.

STATE TASK FORCE AGENCY REPORTS

❖ **Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) Update- Provided by Gary Smith, ODP Statewide Employment Lead, DHS State Task Force Representative**

ODP NEWS

The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) distributes news via a weekly digest. [MyODP News Online](#) shares information about the work of ODP and individuals our work supports who are living the Everyday Life. Please visit [MyODP News Online](#) where you can find articles that have been published.

The digest is sent every Friday and contains the week’s posted news in abstract. If you have information that you would like to share about ODP’s work supporting people with disabilities, please use my contact information Smiga@pa.gov to submit it for consideration or readers may send inquiries and/or story ideas to ra-pwmyodp@pa.gov.

Policy Amendments Waivers:

- Consolidated, Community Living and P/FDS and amended Adult Autism waivers were approved by CMS Centers for Medicaid Services in January 2023 and an announcement has been published in MyODP.

Trainings: Currently working on

- PA Secondary Transition Connecting for Employment- Joint ODP, OVR and Bureau of Special Edu. initiative collaborating with the goal of connecting systems with each other to increase employment outcomes for transition age youths. Held a kickoff event at the Secondary Transition Pre-Conference (**by invite only**). The event pulled together local teams with representatives from intermediate units, OVR, county intellectual disability agencies and supports coordination agencies. The event premiered a connecting **#(hashtag) connecting4employment** video training series (video series on the 101’s of each agency) and a secondary Transition Roadmap. Local teams were given time for action planning. A regional follow-up event was held in October of 2022 (virtually). Targeted outreach was done with teams that needed technical assistance from the state team. Three more regional events are scheduled for March 2023. An in-person event will be held again at the Secondary Transition Pre-Conference in the summer of 2023.

- Please visit pasecondarytransition.com for more information.
- **Employer Engagement Regional Symposia**- In person regional symposia to provide a platform for networking, sharing resources and learning best practices to employment leaders on how to utilize tools and proven strategies on engaging prospective employers on the benefits of hiring people with an intellectual disability and/or autism.
 - **Two forums at PaTTAN sites (se/ne 5/12, central 4/25 and west 5/4)**
 - **By invite only- Representatives from the Intermediate Units, (IU's) invited along with OVR, Administrative Entities (AE'S) and ODP stakeholders.**
 - **Registration is open (MyODP / ODP listservs)**
 - **Presentations will be recorded and posted for others to view.**

Data:

- As of November 2022, 18% (7786) of working-aged people (ages 18-64) enrolled with ODP are employed in competitive integrated employment.
- Pre-pandemic: **January 2020** 17% (7216) ---- **January 2021** 14% (6224) --- **January – September 2022** 17% (7329) --- November 2022 18% (7786) which is an increase of 570 jobs.
- ODP Annual Comprehensive Employment Report is now available on MyODP.
If you are not part of ODP's listserv, here is the link to subscribe:
<https://home.myodp.org/resources/subscribe-to-odp-listservs/>
If you have any additional questions concerning these updates, please contact Gary Smith or Lisa Rudawski at smiga@pa.gov or ludawski@pa.gov

❖ **The Department of Education/Bureau of Special Education Update: Keith H. Focht**

PDE Conference

The annual Pennsylvania Department of Education Conference, *making a Difference: Educational Practices That Work*, was held March 1-3. Over 30 nationally renowned speakers presented on a wide variety of topics – from practical strategies that can be used in the classroom, to how to attract, prepare and retain personnel to the field of special education.

An exhibit hall featured over 50 vendors, and a poster session included over 30 presentations by LEA personnel.

BSE Bulletin for Educators

The bulletin will provide monthly updates from the Pennsylvania Bureau of Special Education and PaTTAN. Subscribe at <https://www.pattan.net/Publications/BSE-Bulletin>

The Grab and Go Series - Leadership Series - https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLCkBP2csbOstt8srzRLe5C1FuHt_axHJ8

The Grab and Go Series consists of recorded videos, all under 10 minutes in length, designed to provide special education leaders with a succinct synopsis of the mandatory reporting requirements completed through the PA Department of Education (PDE) and Leader Services portals. Leaders and those who hold the responsibility for special education reporting in local education agencies can access the following reporting videos online at any time:

- Act 16 Reporting
- Approved Private School (APS) 4010 & 4011 Reporting
- Comprehensive Plan Reporting
- Contingency Fund Reporting
- Homebound Instruction & Instruction Conducted in the Home Reporting
- Restraint Information System Collection (RISC) Reporting
- Special Education Plan Reporting
- Special Education Students at Home (SES) Reporting

Health Matters: Supporting Children & Youth with Disabilities (Lancaster) – Sponsored by PEAL Center

Wyndham Lancaster- er Resort and Convention Center, 2300 Lincoln Hwy East, Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17602

March 23, 2023, 9:00am -3:00pm. Lunch will be provided. Details will be sent after registration. PEAL offers this event at no cost!

A one-day conference for parents and professionals, with a unique leadership strand for youth. Event is focused on families living in Adams, Berks, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntington, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Northampton, Perry, and York Counties, but all are welcome to attend.

(Spanish interpretation and open captioning will be provided) https://www.pealcenter.org/health_matters_march/

Cyclical Monitoring Schedule -

Below is the Link for the remaining BSE Cyclical Monitoring for Continuous Improvement (CMCI) [Cyclical Monitoring Schedule](#)

PaTTAN Training Opportunities - <http://www.pattan.net/category/Training/Calendar/>

❖ The Arc of Pennsylvania Update: Jessica Capitani / Emma Nolan

Legislative Update – PA General Assembly

Senator Jarrett Coleman circulated a [co-sponsorship memo](#) indicating his intent to introduce legislation that would allow schools to apply to the Department of Education for a waiver of many state-imposed mandates.

Senator Rosemary Brown circulated a [co-sponsorship memo](#) indicating her intent to introduce legislation that would implement the 2013 Special Education Funding Commission’s recommendation for applying the same special education funding principles used to distribute special education funding to school districts for a student enrolled in a charter school.

Senator Nick Miller circulated a [co-sponsorship memo](#) indicating his intent to introduce legislation that would accelerate funding towards the Level Up initiative to assist students from inequitably funded school districts.

Senator Lindsey Williams circulated a [co-sponsorship memo](#) indicating her intent to introduce legislation that would provide for charter and cyber charter school reforms.

Representative Bizzarro introduced [House Bill 132](#) which would amend the Public School Code of 1949, in charter schools, providing for full-time cyber education program offered by school districts.

Representative Ciresi introduced [House Bill 114](#) which would amend the Public School Code of 1949, in reimbursements by Commonwealth and between school districts, further providing for student-weighted basic education funding and for special education payments to school districts.

❖ **Systemic Concerns Reported: None**

❖ **Future Agenda Items-**

- Wednesday, May 10, 2023- 10:00 am – 12:00 pm-
 - Special Education in Pennsylvania
 - Gifted in Pennsylvania
 - Acronyms and Definitions
 - Cynthia-Grace Devine-Kepner PA PTA Federal Legislative Chair (FLC) – National -PTA & PA-PTA

❖ **Next Year's State Task Force Meetings – (Subject to change)**

- Wednesday, September 20, 2023
- Wednesday, November 8, 2023
- Wednesday, January 10, 2024
- Wednesday, March 20, 2024
- Wednesday, May 15, 2024

Presentation:

Intensive Behavioral Health Systems – Guest Speaker – Amy Kabiru - OMHSAS

Mr. Focht introduced our second guest speaker of the day, Amy Kabiru, from the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) talking about Intensive Behavioral Health Services (IBHS). Ms. Kabiru provided a PowerPoint of IBHS services and how the system provides interventions and supports of youth or young adults under the age of 21, who have mental, emotional, or behavioral health needs. These services can be provided in the community, school, or home setting.

❖ **Local Task Force Sharing Time**

- ❖ **Next State Task Force on the Right to Education Meeting - Wednesday, May 10, 2023, Face-to-Face**
- ❖ **Adjournment: Motion for Adjournment made by – Gary Smith; seconded by Jessica Capitani.**