

State Task Force On the Right to Education Minutes

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

10:00 am – 12:00 pm



TOGETHERNESS - STRIVING FOR A COMMON CAUSE

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 991 9413 4883

One tap mobile

+13126266799,99194134883# US (Chicago)

+16468769923,99194134883# US (New York)

Presenters:

McKinley Rouse – PADDCC Staff - Overview of the Pennsylvania Developmental Disability Council (PADDCC) <https://www.paddcc.org/>

Stacey Mandel – Mindfulness Presenter - PADDCC Grantee Project Delaware County Advocacy and Resource Organization– Divided Attention

- ❖ **Call to Order:** Keith H. Focht called to order the 3rd State Task Force meeting of the 2022-23 school year and provided an overview of the two guest speakers within the meeting.

- ❖ **Welcome:** Local Task Force Chairpersons & Vice Chairpersons and Members, Agencies, and Other. Mr. Focht asked all to introduce themselves. In addition, he shared out the picture on the STF agenda was the theme for the State Task Force Luncheon – that being “Togetherness – Striving for a Common Cause.” He further shared all of us from parents, Local Education Agencies, Intermediate Units and Agencies need to work together to provide the appropriate supports for each other and specifically for the students.

- ❖ **Introduction - Overview** of today’s Meeting

- ❖ **State Task Force - Old Business / New Business:**
 - November’s STF minutes - Mr. Focht reviewed STF Minutes – this was sent out to all LTF and STF members via e-mail and will be posted on the STF Website pending STF Member approval. Mr. Focht asked for a motion to accept the November minutes. Motion to accept the November minutes was made by Jessica Capitani and seconded by – Gary Smith
These minutes will be sent to all via e-mail and will be posted on the STF Website,
STF Website Link: <https://www.pattan.net/Partners/State-Task-Force>

 - 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>

Mr. Focht shared the Parent Satisfaction Survey, bath in English and Spanish are active again for the LTFs to utilize if they wish to.

- **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.

- **Good-byes and Welcomes**

Mr. Focht took some time to wish Katie Yost well with her new endeavor in life and thanked her for the years of service she had provided to The Arc of PA as well as the support and guidance she provided to the State Task Force as the Government and Advocacy Associate and her advocacy on a daily basis.

Ms. Yost provided comments to the group on her appreciation of working for the Arc as well as servicing the audience. Katie also provided a few minutes introducing Emma Nolan (enolan@thearcpa.org)- the new Arc of Pennsylvania liaison to work with the STF.

Ms. Nolan also took a few minutes to share her excitement in moving into this new position for her and her looking forward to filling that role within The Arc of PA.

• **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.
- Katie Yost (kyost@thearcpcpa.org) – Government and Advocacy Associate – The Arc of Pennsylvania – (717) 234-2621.
- 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.

• **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>

❖ **State Task Force - Old Business / New Business (cont'd):**

1. **Local Task Force Contact Information for the 2022-2023 School Year. Please review the Contacts, Dates, Times, Zoom Links, location, and presentation style. Send an email to Keith Focht to bring corrections to our attention for us to correct before we post it on the STF website. [2022-2023 LTF Contacts](#)**
2. **BSE Luncheon - The 2023 Pennsylvania Department of Education Conference will be March 1-3, 2023 this year. Each year the Bureau of Special Education invites the Chairpersons and Vice-chairpersons to the conference.**
3. **At the BSE LTF Appreciation Luncheon, it was shared one of the State Task Force goals for the upcoming 2022-2023 school year was to increase parent membership of the LTFs across the commonwealth by 5%.**
 - If you cannot make the conference as a Chair or Vice-chair you may ask one of your LTF members to come in your place. You will need to have them to register and reserve a room (if eligible. Please email me their information such as name and email in the excel registration spread sheet I had sent.
 - If you are the Chair and do not have a Vice-chair and you have an interested member that may want to be a future chairperson/ Vice-chair, invite this individual in the slot of Vice-chair and email me this action.
4. **The STF wishes to have an open-forum meeting with all the LTF's Chairs, Co-chairs, and Vice-chairs to discuss successes and concerns in early Spring. Mr. Focht will be sending out a survey to determine what dates and times would be more effective. The Fall session, we had two separate meetings (morning and afternoon) to have more members participate.**

5. The STF request each LTF to provide minutes of their meeting to the corresponding STF member assigned to your LTF. This will provide another avenue for the STF members to keep in touch with their assigned LTFs.

Mr. Focht provided an upcoming conference list and brought to attention how each are linked to their specific website

Conferences for 2022- 2023 School Year

Conference Title	Date / Location	In-person / Virtual / hybrid
2023 Pennsylvania Department of Education Conference	March 1-3, 2023- Hershey Lodge & Convention Center	Hybrid
AAC Talks Web Conference	May 12, 2023	Virtual
PaTTAN Literacy Symposium	TBD	Virtual
Math Conference	June 13 & 14, 2023	Virtual
PDE Computer Science for ALL - PA Summit (#CSForALLPA)	June 14 & 15, 2023	Hybrid/PaTTAN Central (Harrisburg)
Pennsylvania Deaf-Blind Project's Family Learning Conference	TBD	Hybrid/State College
National Autism Conference	July 31-August 3, 2023, Following year - August 5-8. 2024	Hybrid/State College
PA Community of Practice Transition Conference	August 2023	Hybrid/State College
2023 National Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE) Conference https://pagov-my.sharepoint.com/personal/kfocht_pa_gov/Documents/Desktop/STF%20Meeting%209-21-2022/APSE%20Statement.docx	June 12-15, 2023	700 In-Person will be accepted
Integrated PAPBS Network and MTSS Conference Implementers' Forum	November 1-3, 2023,	TB

Topic Points of Discussion and Presentations:

-  Presentation (s)


McKinley Rouse provided a presentation to the State Task Force audience on an overview of the Pennsylvania Developmental Disability Council, their function, purpose, philosophy, and actions as they serve the developmental disability population across Pennsylvania. He further shared how he organization seeks out grantees to address initiatives to this service.

This provided the segway for one of the contacted service providers who worked with a grantee to offer her services as it related to a grantee, she had provided service. She provided a presentation on how to work with students that struggle with behavior issues and to address this using Divided Attention – Mindfulness. Her presentation PowerPoint is hyperlinked below.

- I. – McKinley Rouse – Overview of the Pennsylvania Developmental Disability Council (PADDCC) - <https://www.paddc.org/>



State Education
Taskforce Presentatio

- II – Stacey Mandel – PADDCC Grantee Project – Divided Attention – Mindfulness 
[DOE task force meeting.pptx](#)

STATE TASK FORCE AGENCY REPORTS

❖ The Office of Developmental Programs Update: Gary Smith

ODP NEWS

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.

ODP Announcement: Opportunity for Certification for Cornell's Work Incentives Practitioner Credential (To build capacity to provide Benefits Counseling)

- No cost opportunity for providers to have staff person (s) participate in a virtual certification program with the goal of receiving a Work Incentives Practitioner Credential to provide Benefits Counseling services funded by the Consolidated, Community Living, or P/FDS waivers and Base Funding.
- Main goal is to build provider capacity to educate individuals and families on the advantages of utilizing the Benefits Counseling service to help break down barriers associated with losing benefits when a person gets a job.
- Two cohorts of 25 learners. First cohort started in May 2022 and ended in June. Second cohort began in September and ended October 2022.
- As of January 2023- 8 certified, 34 with provisional certification and 8 taking the exam.

Policy Amendments Waivers:

- Consolidated and Community Living Waivers - adding the capacity to serve children with medically complex conditions – Effective June 1, 2022, renewals of the Consolidated, Community Living and P/FDS waivers and an amendment to the Adult Autism Waivers are currently pending approval with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
- Waiver renewals were approved in January 2023 and an announcement has been published in MyODP

Trainings: Currently working on

- **(Formerly named Experience the Employment Connection- EEC) now named the PA Secondary Transition Connecting for Employment.** Joint initiative is ODP, OVR and Bureau of Special Ed. 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 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. An in-person event will be held again at the Secondary Transition Pre-Conference in the summer of 2023.
- **Employer Engagement Regional Forums-** In person regional forum 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.
 - Three forums at PaTTAN sites (east, central, and west)
 - By invite only- Representatives from the Intermediate Units will be invited along with OVR and ODP stakeholders
 - Presentations will be recorded and posted for others to view.
 - Tentative dates are being explored for the end of April and early May.

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% ---- January 2021 14% --- January – September 2022 17% --- November 2022 18%
- ODP Annual Comprehensive Employment Report is forthcoming.
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 Laura Cipriani at smiga@pa.gov or lcipriani@pa.gov

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

PaTTAN's Short Video Series for IEP Members

PaTTAN has developed a set of short, animated videos that highlight different members of the IEP Team. The purpose of these videos is to support students who are learning about the IEP process, as teachers are supporting students to become the leads at their IEPs.

The videos give a quick description of the role of the team member, why a student may need that person on the team, and the expertise and role that the person can fulfill for the team. They are youth, family, and professional friendly.

To date, individual videos have been released for: Behavior Specialist, Educational Audiologist, Educational Interpreter, Family Member, Intervener, General Education Teacher, Reading Specialist, Physical Therapist, Speech Language Pathologist, Paraprofessional, Occupational Therapist, Local Education Agency Representative, School Nurse, and School Psychologist – with more to come.

This has been a collaboration with the Post School Outcomes Student Led IEP project, Family Engagement, and Secondary Transition with input from the corresponding initiatives representing the various IEP team members.

Erin Campion, a Parent Consultant from PaTTAN shared they are actively sharing these short, animated video series with different contacts across the Commonwealth in the hopes that they will be used and shared by schools, families, and youth. [Short Video Series - IEP Members](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLCkBP2csbOsup3QqF0YLzb2AEqJaXmj>

PaTTAN Training Sessions for Parents:

Conflict Resolution Skills for Schools and Families

- Thursday, January 12, 2023 – 1:00 – 4:00
- Monday, March 20, 2023- 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
- Wednesday, May 3, 2023 – 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

The Essentials of IEP Writing

This self-paced **twelve module online course** provides participants with instruction on required elements for each section of the Individualized Education Program (IEP) as well as best practice considerations when preparing for and conducting an IEP team meeting.

- Monday, January 23, 2023
- Monday, March 6, 2023

Universal Design for Learning (UDL) – Increasing Opportunity, Equity, and Access for Every Learner – (Webinar)

- **Monday, January 30, 2023 – 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm** All participants receive a free, one-year membership to a private online community with tailored on-demand UDL content to meet a range of professional learning needs. Content will include videos, downloadable resources, and web references to facilitate and sustain UDL across the various stages of implementation.

Youth Ambassadors Program – (Webinar)

- **Tuesday, January 31, 2023 – 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm-**
With shared enthusiasm, the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Bureau of Special Education (BSE) and the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry's Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) now offers an initiative to hire students as Youth Ambassadors (YAs) at Intermediate Units (IU), Local Education Agencies (LEAs), school districts, educational or advocacy non-profits, or special education technical assistance networks across PA.

Collaborating for Inclusive Practices – Focus on Attitudes and Beliefs - Early Intervention

- **Wednesday February 01, 2023 - PaTTAN - Online Course**
 - **Tuesday February 28, 2023 - PaTTAN - Online Course**
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Theme – “Togetherness - Striving for a Common Cause”



Registration Information for The Pennsylvania Department of Education Bureau of Special Education Annual Conference – March 1st, 2nd, & 3rd, 2023

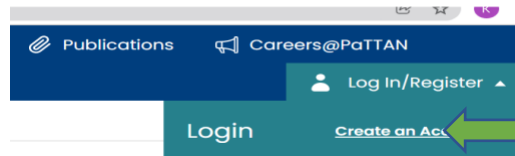
Hello to all !!! Below is information that will help you register for the PDE Conference, and a room if you qualify

➤ **Conference Registration Information-**

Step 1 - Go to: <https://www.pattan.net/training/conferences/pennsylvania-department-of-education-conference>.

Step 2:

Very Important - You will need a username and password to register at the end of the registration process do this first before you start registering for the different sessions - – If you do not have account with PaTTAN create on by clicking on “Create Account” in the right upper hand of t page. If you have an account yet cannot remember it, click on “Lost Password,” and follow the prompts to get the username and password.




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If you know your username and password, click on register. You will need your Username and Password at the end of the registration process.

Step 3 –

Choose and click on if you are attending “Virtually” or “Attending in Person.” This will take you to a page that says: Register now ... click on this button.

Step 4 –

Fill out the sessions you wish to attend. The next four boxes are the **Green** boxes. Each of these boxes have a titled Theme and corresponding sessions underneath them. When you click on the  sign in the left upper corner of the **Green** box, this opens up the different sessions for you to choose that are in orange. Do this for each of the four session boxes.

Step 5 – Very Important

Throughout the sessions there are options for you to receive credit in different professional domains (see sample box below). If you are a psychologist, paraeducator, teacher, or BCBA you may also choose to get awarded credits by choosing the corresponding boxes associated with your profession. **If you are not receiving credits you will need to click the “No credit” box in that box.** The system will

not allow you to move on to the register process after you had picked your sessions unless you choose one of the options.

Select	Units	Unit Type	Hours
<input type="checkbox"/>	0	Act 48 Clock Hour	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	0	ASHA	0.3
<input type="checkbox"/>	0	PSYCH	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	0	Hours of Instructional Time	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	0	No credit	0



Step 6 - Once you have chosen the sessions you wish to attend in all the boxes, push register, and follow those prompts to complete the registration process. The system will at this time ask you for your Username and Password. Place your Username and Password in the correct boxes and click on "Sign in". This will take you to a page that lists all your sessions you had chosen, and you can print this page for your Conference Agenda.

Again ---- If you do not have account with PaTTAN create on by clicking on "Create Account" in the right upper hand of this page. If you have an account yet cannot remember it, click on "Lost Password", and follow the prompts to get this.

You will need your Username and Password at the end of registration, to register.

PaTTAN will cross reference the names of those who are attending as a LTF chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, or designee, and mark this individual as "Paid for the conference."

➤ Room Registration Process / Information

While the cost of your room is paid for by the Bureau of Special Education, you still need to reserve the room via a credit card. The cost of the room is \$145 per night plus 11% tax. Upon checkout, the cost of the room and taxes will be moved from your account to the conference master account. Your credit card will not be billed for the room. This year there will be an initial \$ 20.00 billed to your card yet reimbursed as part of the room cost \$ 125.00 + \$ 20.00 = \$ 145.00. This is just how they are doing it this year, probably as a processing cost.

However, remember, your credit card will still be billed for any cost incurred via room service or damage.

This year, if you are planning to attend the PDE annual conference and stay overnight at the Hershey Lodge, you will have to reserve your room using your own credit card / debit card system by calling **the Hershey Lodge at 1 (717) 533-3311 (option 1)**. Share with them you are coming in under the block of rooms designated for the room block for the **PA Department of Education Annual Conference, March 01 - 03, 2023**.

Please make your reservations as soon as possible By late February prices may increase and/or rooms may not be available. **Rooms are on a first-come, first-served basis. Reserve as early as possible.**

If you live outside **120 miles** from the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center you may also come in and stay the night before, Tuesday, March 1st, 2022 – 4:00 PM and that room will be complimented

as well. Please closely adhere to these 120 miles (Map Quest it) as we will hold tightly to the 120 miles distance.

- Check-in for Hershey Lodge Rooms- 4:00 PM – Tuesday, February 28th, if you live outside the **120 miles range** and coming in the day before the conference (Tues, Wed, Thurs- night stay).
- Check-in for Hershey Lodge Rooms – 4:00 – Wednesday, March 1st if you live **50 – 119 miles outside** of the Hershey Conference range (W, & Th – night stay).
- If you live within the 50 mile range from Hershey Conference center, you will need to commute each day to the conference as a room will not be provided.

Cancellation of Room Reservation

When you reserve a room, using your own credit card, and something comes up forcing you to cancel your initial reservation, you will need to call and cancel three **(3) days** prior to the conference. **If you fail to follow this guideline and do not cancel with the Hershey Lodge three days in advance, they will bill your credit card for the cost of one night's deposit plus tax.**

Location:

Hershey Lodge and Convention Center

P.O. Box 446 West Chocolate Avenue and University Drive Hershey, PA 17033. Hershey Lodge reservations will be accepted at **1 (717) 533-3311 (option 1)**

Important Attendance Form !!!!

<https://pagov->

[my.sharepoint.com/personal/kfocht_pa_gov/Documents/Desktop/PDE%20Conference%20Luncheon%20Attendance%20and%20Room%20Reservation%20Form.xlsx](https://pagov-my.sharepoint.com/personal/kfocht_pa_gov/Documents/Desktop/PDE%20Conference%20Luncheon%20Attendance%20and%20Room%20Reservation%20Form.xlsx)

❖ The Arc of Pennsylvania Update: Jessica Capitani

- Representative Patrick Harkins has circulated a [co-sponsorship memo](#), indicating his intent to introduce legislation that would remove derogatory terms from the PA School Code of 1949.
- Representative K.C. Tomlinson has circulated a [co-sponsorship memo](#), indicating her intent to introduce legislation that would apply the special education funding formula to charter schools.
- Representative Dan Miller & Representative Arvind Venkat have circulated a [co-sponsorship memo](#) indicating their intent to introduce legislation that would improve college transition for students with disabilities by incorporating Senator Bob Casey's proposed federal RISE Act.
- Representative Joe Ciresi has circulated a [co-sponsorship memo](#) indicating his intent to introduce legislation that would funnel all education dollars through the Basic Education Funding Formula and the Special Education Funding Formula and no longer apply hold harmless.

- Senator Judy Ward has circulated a [co-sponsorship memo](#) indicating her intent to introduce legislation that would create a Lifeline Scholarship, which would give students and parents in lower achieving public schools to pay to go to another school of their choice.
 - Representative Clint Owlett has circulated a [co-sponsorship memo](#) indicating his intent to introduce legislation that would create a Lifeline Scholarship, which would give students and parents in lower achieving public schools to pay to go to another school of their choice.
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- ❖ **Systemic Concerns Reported: None noted**
- ❖ **Future State Task Force Dates and Presentations**
 - **Wednesday, January 11, 2023 – 10:00 am – 12:00 pm – McKinley Rouse - Pennsylvania Developmental Disability Council (PADDC) – Intro update**
 - **Wednesday, March 15, 2023 – 10:00 am – 12:00 pm – TBD -**
 - **Wednesday, May 10, 2023 – 10:00 am – 12:00 pm – TBD - *Need your Ideas***
- ❖ **Local Task Force Sharing Time - Next State Task Force on the Right to Education Meeting – March 15, 2023; 10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

Adjournment: Motion for Adjournment made by –Jessica Capitani and seconded by Gary Smith