

**Minutes of the Pittsburgh/Allegheny County LICC
May 21, 2024**

Microsoft TEAMS Meeting

In Attendance

Beverly Bummer, PPS EI; Elizabeth Strickland, PPS EI; Becky Czekaj-Dangler, Early Learning Resources Center; Jennifer Mason, AFIT; Ashley Harland, Trying Together; Mary Evrard; Lauren Stuparitz, parent; Tara Korn; Betsy Gamza, Kris Putzlocker, Carol Averso, parent; Christie Cross, Amazing Kids; Emily Madigan, Mirella Roman-Molina, parent to parent; Nikki Herman, parent, Sharon Richards, and Sheri Schell.

Welcome and Introductions

Kris Putzlocker welcomed everyone. Kris reviewed the LICC Mission Statement.

Kris Putzlocker accepted the minutes for March 19, 2024, and Carol Averso seconded the motion.

Committee Updates

Child Find Committee

Child Find Committee-Heather Mackey, AIU/PEI Service Coordinator-last meeting in June to wrap up things.

Family/Professional Involvement

Carol Averso reported. Please call Autism Connection about camps and scholarships.

Inclusion Committee

No report.

Issues and Public Policy

No report.

Training Committee

Elizabeth Strickland. We will be working on presenters for next year.

Transition Committee

No report.

Department Updates

A. Allegheny County Department of Health

No report.

B. Allegheny County Department of Human Services

- **Office of Behavioral Health**

No report.

- **Office of Developmental Supports (ODS)**

Mary Evrard reported.

Office of Developmental Supports (ODS) registers eligible Allegheny County residents with

- Intellectual Disability (ID)
- Autism
- Developmental Disability (DD) prior to age 9 and
- Medically Complex Condition (MCC) prior to age 22

to connect them to Supports Coordination and other supports and services.

Connections to supports and services information and resources can be shared with all, regardless of eligibility.

Learn more at www.alleghenycounty.us/Services/Human-Services-DHS/DHS-Offices/Office-of-Developmental-Supports

New to the ODS webpage at <https://www.alleghenycounty.us/Services/Human-Services-DHS/DHS-Offices/Office-of-Developmental-Supports> is "Relocating to PA or Allegheny County" information

Contact Mary.Evrard@AlleghenyCounty.US for more information.

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- **AFIT - Early Intervention Birth to 3**

Tara Korn Reported. We are no longer requiring clearances to be updated every three years. We have decided to realign with PA DHS's requirement of renewing clearances every 60 months.

- **CYF**

No report.

C. Pittsburgh Public Schools

- **Early Intervention, EHS, Head Start/EC Programs**

Emily Madigan reported for PPS Early Intervention. We continue to get referrals and we are in the process of completing evaluations before the summer break.

We are also in the process of planning and organizing the summer EI services.

D. AIU

- **Preschool Early Intervention(PEI)/Head Start**

AIU/Preschool Early Intervention Program

Reported by Kris Putzlocker. In the process of planning summer services for around 2,200 kiddos. Carrie Frohnapfel, the director, is leaving the program and her last day will be 6/21/24.

- **AIU/Head Start**

No report.

E. COTRAIC

- **Head Start/Early Head Start**

No report.

F. OCD Early Head Start

No report.

G. SICC

Tara Korn reported. The next meeting is June 6, 2024. A retreat meeting was held in the beginning of May. Discussion on how to engage the group and creating sub-committees occurred. At this time, all the information was collected.

EITA

No report.

Early Learning Resources Center

Becky Czekaj-Dengler reported.

The current ELRC Region 5 Partnership (Allegheny County DHS, The Alliance for Infants & Toddlers and Trying Together) was awarded the grant for the next five years by the Commonwealth. We are excited to continue to support families, child care providers and the entire community in Allegheny County!

The Allegheny County Child Care Tool has been updated with summer camp and summer care options. Please see the link below.

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

There have been Rapid Response Team personnel changes since Alicia Sebastian is no longer working as part of the team. Deysi Keegan has joined the team and we are continuing to hire. Please email rapidresponse@tryingtogether.org for support.

Trying Together

Reported by Ashley Harland.

Trying Together shared a state budget advocacy resource created by partners at Thriving PA - linked is an Infant/Toddler EI Fact Sheet for Legislators and Elected Officials

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<https://www.papartnerships.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/PPC-Thriving-PA-EI-Fact-Sheet-April-2024-ONLINE.pdf>.

Over the past year, Trying Together has been working on several projects related to strengthening the relationship between EI and early care and education programs. We've been working on developing a toolkit with resources and training material to educate and support child care programs when it comes to referring families to EI, utilizing EI, and partnering with EI providers. Also, in partnership with the ELRC 5, the capacity of the Rapid Response Team is expanding and they're hiring additional team members. Referrals can be made to rapidresponse@tryingtogether.org. Lastly, we are contracting with the Erikson Institute to further look into EI outreach and enrollment for children 0-5 in Allegheny County. We're specifically looking at experiences of Black and Brown families as well as non-English speaking families to identify any potential gaps in enrollment. For more information, contact ashley@tryingtogether.org.

New Business

LICC dates for 2024-2025 school year

Tuesday, October 29

Tuesday, January 28

Tuesday, March 25

Tuesday, May 27

Tara Korn motioned to approve the LICC dates for 2024-2025, All present agreed to approve.

Lauren Stuparitz was nominated as parent co-chair. All present agreed to approve.

Kris Putzlocker adjourned the meeting. Sharon Richards seconded the motion.

Minutes submitted by Beverly Bummer, Pittsburgh Public Schools, Early Intervention Program.