

Paraprofessional Consortium Meeting

October 16, 2007

UPDC

The mission of the Utah Paraprofessional Consortium is to promote training and support for paraprofessionals, leading to improved outcomes for children, youth and families.

In Attendance: Diana Fillmore, Marilyn Likins, Jan Harris, Pat Fender, Lois Oestrich, Kit Giddings. (Elizabeth Jenson was to attend via Polycom but prevented because of technical problems.)

Dates set for future meetings: to be held at UPDC, polycom available

December 6	2-4 pm	March 13	2-4 pm
January 17	2-4 pm	May 13	2-4 pm
February 12	2-4 pm		

To attend via polycom, we need the IP address of the machine at the receiving end. It is important to note that the polycom system is separate from the EdNet system. Polycoms are widely available.

Proposed Legislation: Rhonda Menlove, USU, has been working on legislation to provide to provide scholarships for paraeducators who wish to obtain a teaching certificate. Currently, it is in the Education Committee. The Governor's budget has included money for the scholarships. Key points of the legislation:

- The paraeducator must be working towards an associate degree in education.
- They must stay in education.
- The money will be given to school districts to administer and cannot be used for any other training or purpose.

This provides support to paraeducators until they can reach a point when traditions financial supports are available, permitting them to complete the second half of their education.

Newsletter: The Utah ParaGraph is now being funded through the USOE. A new edition is expected to be available in the very near future.

Program Updates:

- **SLCC:** Attempted to meet with DATC. They had an agreement that permitted the DATC Paraeducator program to matriculate into their program. They wanted to coordinate efforts but were unable to make the contacts needed. Jan Harris also explored ways to incorporate training into their program, teaching future teachers/administrators how to supervise paraeducators appropriately.
- **USU:** 2 courses for paraeducators are up at running at this time.
- **Deaf-Blind Program:** The online coursework was noticed by a prominent organization who has expressed a desire to teaming with her, making the training available to more people and broadening its scope.
- **DATC:** While some classes are being taught, we have not been able to make any contact with the person teaching them or find out their name.

Conference Update: Next year's conference will be held November 9th and 10th 2007 in Ogden at the Eccles Conference Center.

Mission Statement: The mission statement was reviewed. Some of the items listed as strategies for accomplishing our goals were revised. Please review and give feedback on further revisions.

Discussion: How can we identify "Pockets of Excellence" to use as models, permitting districts to increase their success in training paraeducators?

Information Item:

- Tom Johnson has been sent the materials from Weber and USU to be posted on the website (www.utahparas.org)