

# Paraprofessional Consortium Meeting

February 12, 2008

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

Attending: Marilyn Likins, Peggy Fratto, Diana Fillmore, Linda Alsop, JoAnn Mattern, Jan Harris, Kit Giddings

Pending legislation\* - HB 66 Paraeducator to Teacher Scholarship Program, \$1 million budget, is # 18 on the priority list. The \$60 million funding line is drawn at #16. This puts it jeopardy. Points of discussion:

- If it passes the house, it has a chance.
- This bill is important because it addresses one way to relieve the teacher shortage.
- Paras and institutions of higher education need to express their support to members of the education committee. - **Extremely important**
- If this bill makes it to the Senate, we need to have paraeducators in a variety of roles tell their stories. We need to identify possible paras to be ready for this eventuality.

Mission Statement and Objectives changes made in the last meeting where approved. We need to share them with the State Board of Education for approval.

Training Program Updates - The success of many of these programs is dependant on being affordable to low paid paras.

- USU - presently has 6 students.
- Weber State - working on the development of a 2 + 2 program
- SLCC - working on articulation agreements with other IHE's for their associate degree program
- Blind Deaf Program - affiliated with USU, now has 2 components. Each component provides possible outcomes of a certificate, an associate degree, and master's degree level work. All coursework is done online. The Deaf-Blind component has 15 students from 10 states and Spain. Presently part of the development of a nationally recognized certificate. A new component is a blind program in collaboration with the Hadley School in Chicago. Participants can earn either a certificate, associate degree, or complete master's level work. This program will be accessible to individuals with disabilities (for example, videos explained audibly). They already have 7 students from the Lavell School in New York.
- DATC - exploring way to remain viable. Working on articulation agreements with other IHE's.

ParaGraph - New issue just released. The next issue is to be published in the spring. Please let Marie ([mwise@dmail.net](mailto:mwise@dmail.net)), the editor, know if more issues are needed. She may be contacted via email.

Spring Training - Set for March 14<sup>th</sup> at the Jones Center. Date may be changed if we can get an affordable venue which will allow more people to attend. We need to determine a budget and confirm training areas so we can advertise. Enrollment will be on a first come/first serve basis. Ideas for training were discussed including:

- Behavior Management
- Communication
- Interpersonal Relationships
- Motivational speaker

National Para Conference - April 9 - 12 in Hartford, CT for this year. Next year, the national conference will be held in Salt Lake City next year during late April or early May. The exact date and location will be determined soon.

Future Meeting Dates - all at UPDC with polycom available (need 2 days prior notice)

March 13	2-4 pm	Thursday
May 13	2-4 pm	Tuesday

\* Update (Feb 14, 2008) - info emailed on Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>

The Public Ed Appropriations Committee met late yesterday afternoon into last evening