

Paraprofessional Consortium Meeting Minutes
Utah Professional Development Center
10:00-12:00

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

Attendance: Diana Filmore, Dianna Avis, Ginny Wimmer, Brian Christensen, (USEA) Bryan Sprague (USEA), Gail Johnson, Deanna Nyman, Linda Alsop, Margo Thurman, Marilyn Likins, Bruce Schroeder, Beth Olsen, Pat Fender and Peggy Dooling-Baker

Welcome: We met at the Davis Applied Technology Center and had a warm welcome with wonderful treats!

Letter to the State Board: Gail Johnson gave the group background on a recent proposal submitted to the State Board. The Utah Professional Standards were presented to the board as guidelines for training; such as the mentor training for the Early Years and the TAPS program.

Marilyn asked the consortium members present to give feedback on . It is the intent of the Utah Paraed. Consortium to ask the State Board to acknowledge the Paraprofessional Supporting Competencies as guidelines for district inservice training and program development at 2 and 4-year institutions. Any ideas or comments should be e-mailed to Marilyn Likins, Margo Thurman or Diana Filmore. We are anticipating completing the letter and presenting it to the State Board in January .The presentation committee is Marilyn Likins, Bruce Schroeder, Gail Johnson, Margo Thurman, Diana Filmore and Michelle Friz.

Paraeducator Program Updates:

State Office of Education- Gail Johnson

There is still money available for training districts and paraprofessionals prior to the June deadline for highly qualified status.

USEA- Brian Sprague

As part of the negotiated agreement with the districts, money is available for classified training programs. There is an application process in each district. Money can be used for training, conference attendance, etc. Paraeducators just need to be proactive.

ATF- Pat Fender

AFT has scholarships for members who want to attend the conference.

Salt Lake Community College-Beth Olsen

Curriculum Committee will review the curriculum this week. We will get an update at the next meeting.

The program would like to develop cohorts in rural areas. A link will be included on the Utah Para website.

Consortium for National Paraprofessional Training in Deaf and Blindness- Linda Alsop
The WebCT format is created. There is a template in place for coursework. Classes will begin in the Fall of 2006. Classes are offered as electives that can be part of many degree programs. The courses can be taken independently or completion of the entire 9 hours will result in a certificate of completion.

Utah Para web site has changed it now has an s on the end of para. The new address is www.utahparas.org Check it out!

Please note: The consortium meeting schedule for the 2005-06 school year is as follows:

November 30, 1:00-3:00 Utah State Office of Education

January 19, 2006, 1:00-3:00 Salt Lake Community College

February, Ednet, Date and Time to be announced

If you have not participated because of distance and time conflicts. Please take this opportunity to attend via EDNET. We need to know ahead of time so that we can schedule sites. Please let us know if you are interested.

March 24, 1:00-3:00 Jones Center Granite School District

May 4, 10:00-12:00 Davis Applied Technology Center