

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

**Paraprofessional Consortium  
November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2004  
Larry H. Miller Center  
Minutes**

**Welcome**

Peggy Dooling-Baker welcomed everyone and opened the meeting by reviewing the Agenda.

**Future Meeting Dates**

The December 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting will be held at the Davis Applied Technology Center, 550 East 300 South, Kaysville, Utah. Michelle Friz stated that lunch will be provided at 12:30 in the cafeteria. Will have a working lunch. A tour of the DATC will be provided at 2:30 for anyone interested.

**Attendance**

Peggy Dooling-Baker, Bruce Schroeder, Michele Friz, Rebecca Rich, Diana Fillmore, Ginny Wimmer, Jan Pace, Deanna Avis, Larry Alplanalp, Robert Morgan, Marilyn Likins, Linda Alsop, Pat Fender, Mary Baldwin

**The Articulation Letter – Marilyn Likins/Bob Morgan**

The Articulation Letter was an agreement between USU and Salt Lake Community College. SLCC is looking at revising the original program. They have another meeting scheduled in late November and will report in the December meeting. Some of the concerns include:

- Paraeducators do not want a degree but do want credit.
- Some students do not realize what they want and put it under the teacher prep program. Paras in the meantime get their paraeducator certificate and go on to get their associates.

- The teacher prep program is not being recognized, but it is in the flyer as being offered.
- The bottom line is that the certificate needs to stay in place.
- The original articulation letter was for USU, but articulation agreements must also be built with other universities such as Weber and UVSC. A meeting with these groups needs to be set-up.

Bob Morgan stated that USU paraeducator program would result in an associates degree in education.

### **Review Standards/Documentaton/Supporting**

#### **Competencies** – Marilyn Likins

Marilyn stated that she made the changes to the document and her question is where does the committee want to go from here. Do we want to confirm them now or wait until IDEA? The revised standards will be e-mailed to everyone. Consortium members can look at them and then come back in January and decide what needs to be added. The red typing indicates edits that have been made. Changes could include highly qualified or reading, writing math pieces for special education vs. Title I, The bullets will be changed to a, b, c. etc., format.

Bob stated that this is a good document, the Standards are concise, but asked how the districts are going to use this? This document should be used to direct their training. Another question was, “How and when will it be presented to the state board? Consortium members decided to wait. They will look at it, review it with their districts, make recommendations and then bring it back for confirmation.

Marilyn will email this document to Peggy and Peggy will email to all committee members. Jan Pace stated that this committee has been together for a long time and we need to let people know that we have come up with this document and there is a whole history of how this was developed. A letter will be put together to go along with this document and will bring the letter to the next meeting for people to look at and provide feedback.

#### **DATC Training Program for Paraedcuators** – Michelle Friz

Michele Friz stated that she sent a proposal to the state board to propose that a certificate be recognized from the DATC. The board approved the DATC program for paraeducators as an option for meeting the “highly qualified” criteria. Davis District supported the program but wanted it to be an option. Michele stated it can be implemented at any of the ATCs around the state. There are a total of 9 ATC’s. The next step will develop an articulation agreement with the colleges for students that choose to pursue a higher degree.

### **Update on USU paraeducator program** – Robert Morgan

Courses for the USU paraeducator program are being developed and in need of a person to assist with the development. Bob is open to any recommendations of interested individuals. Please let him know.

Bob Morgan stated we have an advocate in the State Government now. Ronda Menlove was elected to the House of Representatives. Ronda Menlove and Corry Hollaway will be invited to the December 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. This will give them an opportunity to see what is being done for Paraeducators and get some legislative ideas going. Peggy will send out a emails to let people know about Ronda.

### **OTHER ITEMS**

Betty Ashbaker (not present) is asking if the committee is still interested in a national organization (CEC) for paraeducators. Although there has been an ongoing interest group, Betty feels that in general CEC is not supportive of paraeducators and are turning away from paraeducator issues. Many paras do not want to become teachers but should be recognized in their profession. CEC does have paraeducator standards available. Jan Pace stated that she thought that paras would like to hear what the National Resource Center has to offer. Betty Askbaker will be asked to come an explain more on this issue. Should have a national organization support. The CEC membership fee is pretty hefty, it would be nice to get the CEC to reduce fees or will it really make a difference since most paras are not even aware of CEC? Discussion was tabled until the next consortium meeting.

At the December 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting we will be discussing:

- Update on Standards and Supporting Competencies/Letter
- CEC Standards Letter
- SLCC Update
- Betty Ashbaker CEC membership Advantages/Disadvantages

Deanna Avis disseminated IOTI classes information beginning on Saturday, January 22, 2005 thru April 30, 2005 from 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Marilyn disseminated information on the April 28-30, 2005 NRCP/State Conference.