

**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  
December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2004  
Davis Applied Technology College (DATC)  
Minutes**

**Attendance**

Jan Pace, Connie Nink, Beth Rodriguez, Rebecca Rich, Mike Christensen, Marilyn Likins, Mary Baldwin, Michele Friz, Diana Fillmore, Pat Fender and Linda Alsop

**Welcome**

Jan Pace welcomed everyone and highlighted today's agenda.

**Future Meeting Dates—Please mark them on your calendar**

January 6 at the USOE at @2:00 – 4:00

February 8 or 22 place to be announced @10:00 – 12:00

March 16 at Jones Center @2:00-4:00

May 4<sup>t</sup> at DATC @ 10-00 – 12:00

**Update on Standards and Supporting Competencies/Letter – Marilyn Likins**

Marilyn disseminated the original core competencies and the changed core competencies. The changes have been underscored and the bullets have been changed to emphasize the alphabet. Will continue the alphabet with the Supporting Competencies. Marilyn highlighted the changes and some ideas that will be added. The date will be added under the definition of core competencies when approved by the Board.

Marilyn stated that the new IDEA 2004 adopted the Senate version as it pertained to paraeducators (the need for training and supervision tied to state standards and policies). We will be discuss the law further at the January Meeting.

A letter about the history of how the Paraprofessional Consortium developed the standards would be a nice handout when doing training. This committee will provide feedback on this at the next meeting.

Marilyn talked about a recently published book for paraeducators by CEC entitled "*Parability: The CEC Paraeducator Standards Workbook*". Bruce has ordered copies for the consortium members. They will be distributed at the January meeting.

### **SLCC Program/Meeting Update – Beth Rodriguez**

Beth stated that SLCC has finally come up with a program that has been approved for development. Beth disseminated information on Pre-Teacher Ed and Para Education classes that will be offered. The classes are parallel and will be offered at the same time. The electives for Para Education from the old program created some problems in that some are transferable toward a B.S. degree in Education (T = transferable) and some are not (N = not applicable). Beth stated that the program would have prerequisites and a goal as do what will be done and would like the consortium approval to move in that direction. She also requested help on a SLCC committee to re-examine the electives. Beth highlighted the various classes: EDU 2600 is introduction to special education, EDU 1400 is more of a values course. SLCC wants to maintain a 2-year paraeducator associates degree as well as a certificate that has yet to be established. There will be paraeducators who want certain courses but may not want to go through the whole program. Beth stated that another probable class is our parent relations class on teaming/collaborations with para/teacher.

The new committee to help develop a program will consist of Beth Rodriguez, Linda Alsop, Marilyn Likins, Rebecca Rich and Deanna Avis. Anyone else that may be interested should contact Beth as soon as possible.

### **CEC Membership Advantages/Disadvantages – Betty Ashbaker**

Rebecca Rich reported for Betty Ashbaker who could not attend. Betty has been working with CEC with the Paraeducator Special Interest Group (SIG) and would like committee members to go out into their districts to see if paraeducators would be interested in CEC membership. Betty has negotiated a fee for \$60.00/year. The question was asked if

that would be a block or would they have to pay a division fee as well if they wanted to join other groups? This information could be put on a web site, chat room, but not in a journal. Members will explore the possibility/interest in CEC membership. A discussion followed. Some comments included: CEC has had paraeducator standards for some time but have chosen to do little about it. If it was profitable things might change for the better for paraeducators. If paraeducators don't see the value in joining CEC they will not pay the \$60.00.

It would be a good idea to have CEC representation at the NRCP/State conference in April. They could have a booth. It is not an easy task to go on the web site because information is buried. Another question was does the NRCP want to become a membership organization? There are other great web sites that paraeducators can go to get great information. The committee will go back into their district and talk with Paraeducators and see what their opinions are, will they benefit from the membership?

Bob Morgan suggested a questions and answer sessions at the conference. It would be good to hear from a lot of different people. Could give a definition of what a national organization has to offer. Another suggestion was having a survey to assess interest. Mike Christensen stated that it should be up to CEC to sale their product. Rebecca will take this feedback to Betty.

### **Update on Para Conference – April 28-30, 2005 – Marilyn Likins**

Marilyn highlighted the handout she disseminated last meeting. The call for presenters deadline is December 19. Information is on the [www.nrpara.org](http://www.nrpara.org) website. The Utah registration and other conference information will be posted on the Utah web site ([www.utahpara.org](http://www.utahpara.org)). Marilyn disseminated Utah registration to committee members

### **Update on the PARAGraph – Carol Harrington/Marilyn Likins**

Carol Harrington was not in attendance. Marilyn reported that the Utah PARAGraph should be in districts this week or next. Many problems plagued this edition which should be worked out for the next. Carol is pursuing funding and it will be discussed in January.