

*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  
March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2007  
Utah Personnel Development Center (UPDC)  
MINUTES**

**Attendance**

Marilyn Likins, Margo Thurman, Gail Johnson, Diana Fillmore, Kit Giddings, Peggy Fratto, Michelle Friz, Linda Alsop, Lois Osetreich, and Mary Baldwin

**Welcome and Review of Meeting Dates**

Michele Friz welcomed everyone. Next meeting will be held at the USOE from 12:00-2:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided. The May 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting will be held at the UPDC from 1:00-3:00 p.m.

**Training Program Updates**

**(DATC) – Michelle Friz**

Michelle stated that student enrollment for her program has improved greatly. They are still working on offering her courses on-line and slowly moving toward articulation with SLCC, U of U and Weber State University. Weber offers up to 6 credits for work experience and students are able to earn some credit and establish a career pathway. The evening classes were cancelled due to low attendance. Will be working on a reading proficiency course this summer.

**USU Training Program – Tammy Pettigrew**

Tammy has taken over the paraeducator training program. Will work with Bob Morgan or Ronda Menlove to determine what stage the program is in. It will be an on-line program.

It would be very helpful to have a viable program available at USU although cost will be a factor as it is with all credited programs.

**Paraeducator Training for Interveners – Linda Alsop**

Concurrent courses are still being offered. Will be offering 3 courses in the fall. The interactive program is being field tested and

the response has been excellent. Data and feedback have been invaluable in making changes for each ensuing course.

### **SLCC – Lois Osetreich**

Lois stated that Tim Riesen will be leaving. She has received the necessary information to move the program forward and is not sure where it stands. She reported that paraeducators are enrolling in the pre-teacher program but she is not sure of the status of the other. At the May meeting, Lois will report back to see what is happening, what programs are being offered and the options available. Michelle Friz will look into concurrent enrollment at SLCC. Hopefully Tim Reisen will be able to attend to give a much needed update.

SLCC has been a good site and still very interested in offering a paraeducator program. Many districts are not aware of the available program and credit. In some states are paying their paraeducators to take courses. If they have good grades, they do not have to pay the money back. Still exploring options that will work.

The Consortium discussed where or not new Special Education and Title 1 Directors were aware of the available training programs. It was suggested that SLCC, DATC, Weber, USU, etc., provide information at the September Consortium. Perhaps a single brochure could be made and disseminated to districts.

### **Granite School District – Peggy Fratto**

Peggy stated that for the most part, Granite training for paraeducators is self-contained or district driven. They do not have updated information as to what programs are available. Peggy stated that once a month she does an orientation and any information or flyers regarding training options could be disseminated. The primary jobs available in Granite are in Title I, Special Education, Headstart, and Pre-school.

Based on the discussion it was clear the Consortium needs to work smarter by keeping everyone informed and disseminating key information. In August, an orientation with the Wasatch front districts could be set-up for DATA, SLCC, USU, etc., to orient districts and paraprofessionals to program options. It can also be posted on the [www.UTAHpara.org](http://www.UTAHpara.org) web-site.

**State Rules: Consortium Letter and Update on State Rules – Marilyn Likins**

Marilyn shared the letter written to Lisa Arbogast at the USOE on behalf of the Consortium. Due to the removal of CSPD from the new proposed rules, there is no equivalent reference in the proposed Utah Special Education Rules to the IDEA 04 regulation stating the need for supervision and training of paraprofessionals related to their roles and responsibilities. The letter requested that this be added.

**National Conference Flyer – Marilyn Likins**

Marilyn highlighted the 26<sup>th</sup> National Conference for Paraprofessionals to be held in Albuquerque, NM, May 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. There are numerous excellent presentations as well as a State Leadership Meeting Wednesday night May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Information on the conference is available at [www.nrcpara.org](http://www.nrcpara.org)

**Next Steps: Review Consortium Mission Statement and Objectives**

The Mission Statement and Objectives will be reviewed to assess progress and determine future direction for Consortium activities. It will be sent out as an attachment to the minutes as well as the standards.