

Para Study Committee Meeting

6/3/09

Members present: Marlene Jolly, Sherry Bingham, Heidi Kirby, Kim Banks, Robin Courtney, Rhonda Denning, Lisa Morando, Krystal Porter

Members not present: Terri Driscoll, Stacey Gomez, Tammy VanDyne, Erin Hund, Sheryl Smith

Linda Aldridge presented information about further state cuts in categorical aid and how it affects Keystone.

1. Keystone may limit every para to a 30-31 hour workweek.
2. Time is needed to analyze para contracts. Therefore, paras may not receive contracts until late summer.
3. Para wages may be frozen.

The committee discussed questions/concerns received from paras.

1. The para handbook language will be clarified to reflect a policy concerning vacation/sick/personal leave for part time employees
2. There was discussion about insurance issues.
 - a. The question of making summer insurance payments is being researched by Lisa Morando.
 - b. It will be recommended to the Board that the insurance 125 plan be handled by a new broker. There will be some changes to products offered and only one choice will be offered for each product.
3. Questions about in-service hours were addressed.
 - a. In-service hours over 20 cannot be carried over to the next year due to state mandates.
 - b. Family/para meetings/consultations can be counted as inservice in some cases.
4. The question of unemployment through the summer months was discussed.
5. Paras would like to submit suggestions for the para handbook and can do that by contacting Rhonda Denning and/or Krystal Porter. The handbook changes are being made through June.

Linda Aldridge expressed a need for para representation on the benefits committee. Anyone is welcome to attend and become a member. The committee is a non-paid committee.

Because of financial cuts within Keystone, Linda recommended that the para study committee only meet 3 times next year and that representation be limited to 1 person from each district. Robin Courtney will be recruiting committee members at the para in-service in August.

The next meeting will be held in the fall as determined by Linda Aldridge.