



educational excellence through leadership, partnership, and innovation

Executive Director's Report May 25, 2017

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

May is Better Hearing and Speech Month! For 2017, the theme is "Communication: The Key to Connection."



The CAIU's youngest children, ages 3-5 in our Early Intervention program, receive speech and language services to increase their language skills and to expand their speech skills, such as articulation, voice volume and pitch, and fluency. Since July 2016, the Early Intervention SLPs provided speech and language therapy to over 1,800 children.

In addition to the Early Intervention Speech and Language services, the school-age speech and language pathologists provide assessment and intervention for students in our area's public and nonpublic schools. Therapy focuses on disabilities of language, articulation, voice and fluency that are present to such a degree that educational performance is affected.

The CAIU also provides Audiology services. Audiologists are licensed professionals who evaluate and treat hearing loss. Services may include assessments, audiometer calibration, FM Listening System evaluations, hearing screening follow-ups and direct and consultative services for students and staff in IU classrooms and school districts.

NEWS

19th Annual Tom Buskey Student Achievement Awards Celebration

The annual Tom Buskey Student Achievement Awards Celebration was held on Thursday, May 18, 2017. This event, sponsored by the Capital Area Intermediate Unit Transition Council, recognizes graduating seniors who have demonstrated progress in overcoming personal challenges and are realizing potential by building bridges toward successful post school transition. Several IU students were nominated for the Tom Buskey award.

In addition to honoring 25 students from our IU region, the event also featured Adam Blank, a motivational speaker who shared his personal story of overcoming adversity and self-acceptance. Adam is a young man with challenges of visual impairment, albinism and autism. As a young child, Adam received services from Intermediate Unit #1.

PA Corrections Education Association's (CEA) Teacher of the Year Award

Congratulations to Alison Howard, special education and math teacher at Loysville Youth Development Center, was the recipient of the PA Corrections Education Association's (CEA) Teacher of the Year Award! This was presented at the annual state CEA conference earlier this month.





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Art and Achievement Night

Hill Top Academy staff welcomed family and friends to the 3rd Annual Art & Achievement Night on Tuesday, May 16th. Students worked hard on their art, academic projects and food menu items highlighted at the event.



Student Services

- Curriculum Coaches are meeting with Supervisors and the Curriculum Team to plan the Functional Math Curriculum for the 2017-2018 school year.
- Summer Academy (professional development) training days are scheduled for school-age staff. We are focusing on the following topics; trauma, confidentiality, new IEP writing software and use of paraprofessionals as instructional partners.

Year in Review Data

- **School-age Evaluations and Re-evaluations (ER/RR)**
 - Equitable Participation - we conducted 99 ER/RRs in 33 non-public schools.
 - School Psychological Evaluations - we conducted 211 ER/RRs in IU programs.
 - Clinical Psychological Evaluations - 12 evaluations.
 - Psychiatric Evaluations - 2 evaluations.
 - District ER/RRs - 26 ER/RR for preschool to school-age transitions, 66 ER/RRs, 4 ADOS (Autism Diagnostic Observation Scale).
- **Hill Top Academy**
 - During the 2016-2017 school year, Hill Top Academy served 23 districts.
 - Cumulative enrollment was 178 students, with a current enrollment of 118.
 - As of May 4, 2017, 340 IEPs were processed (113 annuals and 227 revisions).
 - Sixteen students began a full-time or part-time transition to district.
 - Approximately 40 backpacks full of food are sent to our neediest families each weekend. This has been possible through our partnership with New Hope Ministries in Mechanicsburg and their Power Packs program, and HTA staff that volunteer to stuff the backpacks and bring them back to HTA. Power Packs is a food and nutrition program where students in need receive food in backpacks on Fridays to take home over the weekend.
- **Loysville Youth Development Center (LYDC)**
 - Two hundred sixty-seven students attended at least one day of school at LYDC so far this year. The number of new intakes is at 170 and continues to grow.
 - Current enrollment is 96 students.
 - Eighteen students graduated with Commonwealth of PA High School Diplomas.
 - Sixteen students received GED Diplomas.
 - Nine students have taken one or more CAOLA courses.
- **Preschool**
 - The Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL)-Bureau of Early Intervention Services administers an annual family survey to parents inquiring about their satisfaction with Preschool Early Intervention Programs. The CAIU received an overall satisfaction rating of 89% (statewide average is 88%).
 - Family satisfaction for children receiving speech and language services was 4.5 out of a 5.0 rating.



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CAMhP (Capital Area Mental Health Program)

- CAMhP Program is growing and the plan for 2017-2018 is to open 1-2 more classes. We are currently looking for district settings to “house” this program. This will require a need to hire teachers and social workers for each new class.

Center Point at Diakon

- Currently 65% of student enrollment at Diakon Wilderness Center/Center Point Day Program is district referrals.

Hill Top Academy

- On May 10th, all Hill Top Academy students and staff attended Education Day at the Harrisburg Senators ballpark. Tickets, lunch and t-shirts were donated by the Butler Foundation.
- Hill Top Academy High School students began taking the Keystones online on May 15th. This is the first year Hill Top Academy will administer 100% of the exams online.
- To provide an additional layer of security, Hill Top has started an electronic visitor sign-in trial with Raptor Security Systems. All visitors must present identification that runs through a database to check for offenders. All visitors then receive a visitor's badge with a printed picture.
- On May 5th, Hill Top Academy received a visit from the newest litter of future service dogs from Susquehanna Service Dogs. Staff, students and visitors delighted in interacting with the puppies that will soon serve a tremendous purpose.
- Hill Top Academy Student Council is encouraging staff and students to increase recycling at the school. Additional recycling bins were added to the classrooms and office. Student Council has also started a food drive to benefit the Pennsylvania Food Bank.
- On May 31st, Hill Top Academy will hold its annual end-of-year school carnival event. Secondary students will create and run carnival booths to engage and excite the elementary students. Prizes and picnic food served by the cafeteria will be the highlights of the day!

Multiple Disabilities Support (MDS)

- Our MDS class participated in the West Shore Consortium Prom held on May 3rd at the West Shore Evangelical Free Church. This year's theme was “A Day in Candyland” and everyone had a wonderful time.
- The students in Ms. Walker's MDS class at Steelton-Highspire HS made craft kits for Caitlin's Smiles. This helps support a worthy cause and provides an opportunity for the students to work on vocational skills. They really enjoyed this and are now able to complete kits with very little supervision. They made close to 600 craft kits and delivered them to the Caitlin's Smiles office.

Hospital Programs

- We have partnered with Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute (PPI) In-Patient program to introduce a therapy dog, Stanley, to help support students with their emotional regulation. This has been a very positive experience for students and hospital staff as well. The team is collecting data to see what improvements have occurred with respect to attendance and social interactions.



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Preschool

- Terry Telep, program supervisor, participated in an event called Book Your Child's Future sponsored by Success by 6, United Way on May 2nd at the Bosler Memorial Library in Carlisle. CAIU resources were shared with families and children.
- On May 5th, Mechanicsburg Area School District sponsored a Literacy Night Under the Lights for the community. Becky Boone (Preschool Teacher), Donna Weldon (Preschool Service Coordinator) and Sallyan Thomas (Vision Teacher) participated in the event. Hands-on activities were available for children with a focus on building literacy education in the community for parents and children from birth through Kindergarten.
- Spring Transition Meetings, for children who will be entering Kindergarten, were completed this month with the 24 school districts.
- This school year we had 14 Professional Learning Committees that preschool staff joined as part of their professional development. Staff met throughout the year working on identified goals and activities and shared their knowledge with the Preschool staff at their Professional Exchange Professional Development day.

OT/PT

- On April 24th, the OT Network meeting was held at Hill Top and the Messiah College Building on Winding Hill Road. Brittany Duling provided a tour of Hill Top and Danielle Seibert, the Academic Fieldwork Coordinator, provided a tour of Messiah's new facility and explained the new Occupational Therapy Master's program.

NOTIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES

- Attended the PAIU Executive Directors' monthly meeting.
- Attended PASA Women's Caucus Conference.
- Attended Education Transition Team Meetings with United Way Capital Region.
- The CAIU Cabinet members met with South Middleton SD's administrative team. We also had the opportunity to tour the newly renovated Iron Forge Elementary School and Administrative Offices.
- Attended Hill Top Academy's Art & Achievement Night.
- Attended Susquehanna Township SD's and Susquehanna SD's Board meetings to share overview of CAIU services.
- Attended the 19th Annual Tom Buskey Student Achievement Awards Luncheon.
- Attended the annual Deaf/Hard of Hearing Awards Program.

SAVE THE DATE:

- **Variety - the Children's Charity:** My Bike, My Stroller and My Voice presentation on Wednesday, May 31, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. in the Susquehanna Room
- **CAIU Graduation:** Tuesday, May 30, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Susquehanna Room. We will be honoring six graduates this year.
- **Early Intervention Family Carnival** will be held on June 6 from 5-8 p.m. at the Adventure Zone Playground in Mechanicsburg (rain or shine). This is a free event open to families of children involved in Early Intervention or Head Start programs 0-5 years of age in Dauphin, Cumberland, Perry and northern York counties.