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Executive Director's Report November 20, 2014

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Preschool Early Intervention Program

The Capital Area Intermediate Unit Preschool Early Intervention Program provides a wide array of programs and services for children from their third birthday until entry into school. Children transition from Infant and Toddler Early Intervention Services provided by County programs; are referred by physicians, early childhood programs and parents. We conduct Child Find activities in the community to screen children to determine a need for further evaluation. Services for children during the preschool years are provided without cost to their families when the child is determined to meet eligibility requirements. IEPs are written to define services, including related services as appropriate.

In 2013-14, the Preschool Early Intervention served 2,011 children. That is 99 more children than the previous year. To date, we have served 1,488 children. There are 975 children currently enrolled in the program.

I had the opportunity to visit the staff and children at three of our preschool locations this month: Delbrook Preschool Center, Lemoyne Preschool Center and Options Daycare and Preschool Program at the Capital Area Children's Center. The Preschool Early Intervention program team has identified a site in Mechanicsburg for a new preschool classroom to support additional children identified for EI services.

NEWS

Fall Superintendent's Leadership Conference



The CAIU Superintendent's Leadership Conference was held this year from October 28-30, 2014, in Annapolis, MD. The initial session included a "Build-A-Bike" team building activity. The Superintendents were placed on teams and through a series of competitive activities "earned" the parts to a bicycle so they could put together their bike. At the conclusion of the activity, children from the local Boys and Girls Club participated to judge the final presentation of each team. The highlight of the activity was when the children and superintendents learned that the children would receive the bikes. The children were extremely grateful and excited to be the proud owners of these new bikes.

The content for this year's conference was "**Principal Effectiveness: Framework for Leadership**". This Act 45 course, led by Cheryl Rudawski, CAIU Curriculum Specialist, began during the conference, and superintendents will complete job-embedded activities to finish the



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course later this year. Superintendents explored PDE's Framework for Leadership rubric and had discussions about how this principal effectiveness system can fit into and enhance existing systems already in place. The session also provided an introduction to both the correlation data component of the principal's evaluation as well as the elective data component.

Real Life / Real Issues: Drugs and Young People

In response to concerns from High School Principals about the increased use of drugs in our region, Brian Griffith has coordinated an effort with our local PBS station, WITF, to provide a year of information and resources on this topic. WITF kicked off the Real Life / Real Issues series on Monday, Nov. 10th on their daily SmartTalk radio show. For more information, please visit www.witf.org/real.

Student Services

Pupil Services - New contracts/programs

One of our charter schools has requested supports for administration and a counselor/social worker. We are currently providing the counselor/social worker supports as a contract and providing some administrative consultation.

Hershey Medical Center ~ Nephrology Department is contracting educational services for the prolonged dialysis patients. This will be considered a partial program as the students are in dialysis on Monday, Wednesday and Friday only and are not staying at the hospital overnight.

Diakon Wilderness Center and Dickinson College Partnership

Diakon Center Point Program began a partnership with the Dickinson Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring (ALLARM) in the fall of 2013. The initial contact was made by Diakon Adventure Coordinator, Mike Savario, but the direct contact has since been taken over by CAIU science teacher, Wendy Shaver. ALLARM provides the Center Point Program with technical assistance for implementing quality stream monitoring to assess the health of the local waterways.

Once each semester, ALLARM members come to the Diakon Wilderness Center campus to aid in performing chemical, visual, and biological tests on the local stream. They provide equipment such as microscopes, advanced chemical tests, stream waders, and macroinvertebrate identification cards to enhance the assessments. Before the ALLARM members come to campus for the stream monitoring, they meet with the environmental science teacher to determine what the Center Point students have been learning in their science class in order to best enhance the curriculum that is already in place.

Project SEARCH - Update

Project SEARCH is a school-to-work program that takes place entirely at the workplace. The CAIU, Penn State Hershey Medical Center staff and OVR (Office of Vocational Rehabilitation) are all very excited and supportive of this new program. The application process for district referrals and the interview process have been established and shared with our districts.



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Hill Top Academy

The English/Language Arts curriculum pilot of EngageNY materials is underway with additional training this month to the team at HTA.

The monthly EEL (Experiential Education and Learning) trip occurred on November 14th. The students went bowling.

The Student Council started a Food Drive which will continue through December 10th.

Capital Area Partial Program (CAPP)

We are still on target to relinquish the partial hospital license with December 31 as the last official day of partial program operations. Weekly updates are being provided to the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and ongoing contact is taking place with our county Departments of Mental Health and PerformCare (Medical Assistance Managed Care Company).

The new program description has been finalized and sent to school districts. It emphasizes the nature of the new program as an educational program with intensive therapeutic features and not guaranteeing psychiatric services due to the nation-wide shortage of child and adolescent psychiatrists.

We continue to reach out to all families to set up meetings and help them understand the changes, answer questions, and address concerns. Families are being advised to seek out alternative psychiatric services and assistance is being provided in helping families locate outside psychiatrists.

Technology Services

CAIU Pennsylvania Summit: Featuring Google for Education

The CAIU, in partnership with Google, Inc., held its first Google Summit on November 18, 2014, with over 100 attendees. This event was a day long, fast-paced conference focused on integrating Google Apps for Education, Chromebooks, and tablets in K-12 learning environments. The summit offered hands-on demonstrations and breakout sessions. Presenters were educators that are currently using Chromebooks or Android tablets in their classroom. This event provided an opportunity for schools to hear about lessons learned from districts already implementing these devices.

SAVE THE DATE

Turkey Day – Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon – Tuesday, November 25, 2014 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Hill Top Academy, 405 E. Winding Hill Road, Mechanicsburg, PA. Students decorate, greet attendees and help serve the meal. Invitations are extended to administrative staff, board members and Upper Allen Police who provide community outreach service to our students.



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NOTIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES

- Attended the monthly PAIU Executive Directors' meeting.
- Attended the monthly PAIU Central Region Executive Directors' meeting held in State College.
- Attended the PAIU-Curriculum Coordinators' meeting held at IU #8 as the Executive Director Liaison.
- Participated in the final PAIU Planning Process Work Group session
- Held two staff communications meetings. The afternoon meeting was offered both face-to-face and virtually. It was also recorded for later viewing.
- Attended the Outstanding Teachers' Luncheon at Shippensburg University to honor Alice Womer, CAIU Speech Language Pathologist, a recipient of this year's award.