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Executive Director's Report

February 27, 2014

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Transitional Support Services (Vocational Support)

Pre-Vocational Support - This service is available to students enrolled in CAIU class programs and district programs and provides pre-vocational activities both in the classroom and in the community-at-large. Transitional staff secure pre-vocational tasks, deliver them to classrooms, and provide Support to School Personnel in skills required for student success in task completion. If appropriate, transitional staff secures community-based sites and schedules on-site supported opportunities for students. These opportunities are designed to meet the specific needs of the targeted students and allow for flexibility of frequency and duration as determined by the IEP Team. CAIU Transitional Support staff conducts authentic assessments in the work environment. The transitional staff provides the IEP team with data to help determine students' readiness to progress to a longer work day. This service is available to students ages 14 and older.

Community-Based Vocational Instruction (CBVI) – This service provides unpaid training opportunities for students who have not yet displayed skills necessary for competitive or supported employment. Designed as a job and career awareness activity, students are placed in sites for six-week sessions and are fully supervised by CAIU Job Coaches while on-site. These job sites occur within the community and provide hands-on career exploration as well as authentic assessment of students' vocational skills. A training plan is developed for each student in order to target identified skills required for student growth toward supported or competitive employment. Goals are developed, data is collected and progress is monitored throughout the session and reported to classroom teachers to be used in present level information and determination of post-school transition goals. This service is available to students ages 15 and older.

Work Experience - This service provides job shadowing opportunities as well as job development and assistance with placement for students seeking paid employment in the community. Work Experience professionals and Job Coaches work in collaboration with employers to ensure successful employment experiences for students.

Students may have opportunities for **Job Shadowing**, **Job Placement** or **Job Coaching**. If involved in **Job Shadowing**, students receive support in all aspects of competitive employment, including support for application completion, acquisition of required work-related documentation, participation in job interviews and travel training, and assistance with employer orientation programs. This service is available to students age 16 and older.

Job Coaching includes short-term job training and ongoing support for job maintenance. Additionally, IU staff works in collaboration with employers to gather progress monitoring data



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for use in providing support and consultation to the IEP Team concerning work placement, vocational goals, and transition planning. This service is available to students age 16 and older.

Employment Skills Training - This service provides instruction in employability skills in preparation for future employment in a vocational training facility and possible off-site placement. Located at the S. Wilson Pollock Center for Industrial Training and at Goodwill Industries, services include authentic assessments, support and supervision conducted by CAIU Transitional Support staff, monitoring of student progress, collaboration with school and agency staff, contracted real work, and pay for completed work (rate based upon quality & quantity of work). This service is appropriate for students age 16 or older.

NEWS

Thomas W. Holtzman, Jr. Educational Leadership Award

Congratulations to Kevin Wagner, Social Studies Department Chair at Carlisle Area School District, who received the 2013-14 Thomas W. Holtzman, Jr. Educational Leadership Award at the district's board meeting on February 20. This award is given annually to an educator within the CAIU region who demonstrates exemplary leadership qualities. This award was established in 2002 to honor the memory of the former principal and superintendent of Susquehanna Township School District, whose passion for learning, positive attitude, commitment to his students' success, and concern for diversity, were an inspiration to all who knew him.

Services & Projects

We have finalized our agreement for Online Therapy Services with Presence Learning (speech and language and occupational therapy) and are conducting outreach to other intermediate units and our school districts/charter schools about accessing and using these services. Many schools and IUs have expressed interest due to the staffing shortages in these therapy areas and are planning to use these services for students who are instructed in the home or participating in online learning, compensatory education services, and/or more typical direct service.

The Student Services Team is providing West Perry School District with a program review of their special education supports, services and processes. This is a fee for service review with some of the supports/personnel provided at no cost to try to make it as cost effective as possible for the districts.

Hill Top Academy

There is an experiential education and learning activity scheduled for February 21st at Ski Roundtop for snow tubing. This was funded, in part, through a granted request from Champions for Children.

Spot the Dog was our guest reader this month in the library for the elementary classes; one of our secondary students did an outstanding job as the costumed reader!

We have had referrals and have opened a new class for elementary students with Autism and another 1:1 class for a student with Emotional and Life Skills support needs.



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HTA enrollment continues to thrive; we are at about 93 students, which fluctuate based on new enrollments and returns to home schools.

On February 12th, Dr. Kathryn Newton presented an in-service to staff on ***Vicarious Trauma***. Many of the students in our programs have issues in school as a result of experiencing significant traumas in their lives.

Speech/Language Programs

The School-Age and Early Intervention Speech/Language Programs will be hosting a graduate student extern in speech/language pathology from Bloomsburg University. Ashlee King will be completing the externship from March 10th through May 8th under the direction of Julie Barber-Bristol, CCC-SLP and Debby Hassinger, CCC-SLP.

Capital Area Partial Program (CAPP)

Erika Stiffler, CAPP coordinator, earned her Behavior Specialist License. That's three new licenses for staff in just two months.

We have a new therapy dog, Gracie, trained to respond to trauma reactions in the high school CAPP class.

Conference Presentations

Arlene Moll, a project administrator, and Julie Harman, an educational consultant, co-presented on January 23, at the 15th International Conference on Autism, Intellectual Disability & Developmental Disabilities, hosted by the Council for Exceptional Children's Division on Autism & Developmental Disabilities in Clearwater Beach, Florida. Their presentation, "***Better Outcomes Through Better Data: Addressing Severe Behaviors through the Use of Telemedicine***," was selected from a competitive, national field of presentation proposals.

Tanya Morret, an educational consultant, presented a session called "***RTII & the Advanced Learner***" at the 2014 Title I Improving Schools Performance Conference in Pittsburgh, January 26-29, 2014.

Jill Neuhard, Supervisor of Instructional Technology, presented a session called "***No More Textbooks***" at the 2014 PA Educational Technology Expo and Conference in Hershey, February 9-12, 2014.

Karen Ditzler, Instructional Technology Specialist, presented a session called "***iPad Integration: A Center-Based Approach***" at the 2014 PA Educational Technology Expo and Conference in Hershey, February 9-12, 2014.

NOTIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES

- Attended the monthly Central Region Executive Directors' meeting
- Attended the monthly PAIU Executive Directors' meeting which included an overview of the Governor's proposed budget by Acting Secretary, Dr. Carolyn Dumaesq
- Participated in the Chief Recovery Officer's committee meeting with the Harrisburg School District



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- Visited the CAIU Employment Skills Training site located at Goodwill Industries
- Provided an overview of CAIU Services at three School District Board Meetings:
 - Susquenita School District on February 11
 - Middletown Area School District on February 18
 - Susquehanna Township School District on February 24
- CAIU Administrative Cabinet met with school districts' administrative teams
 - West Perry School District on January 28
 - Camp Hill School District on February 25
- Met with Dr. Rhonda Brunner to assist her in transition planning and orientation to the Assistant Executive Director position at the CAIU
- Conducted New Federal Program Coordinators' training on behalf of Division of Federal Programs at PDE
- Facilitated the annual Title I Nonpublic Consultation meeting for our school districts and nonpublic schools
- Attended Office Depot Group Purchasing Program overview at the Office Depot Logistics Center in Newville
- Continue with individual transition discussions with members of the CAIU Leadership Team