



educational excellence through leadership, partnership, and innovation

Executive Director's Report

May 22, 2014

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Speech and Language Support Services

Speech and Language Support Services meet the communication needs of children ages three until entrance into Kindergarten and for school-age students in both the public and nonpublic schools. These services are provided for students when the assessment by a multidisciplinary team identifies speech and language needs. Therapy focus is on disabilities of language, articulation, voice and fluency that are present to such a degree that educational performance is affected and the problem is significantly disabling to the student. Speech and Language Clinicians that are specialists in Augmentative Communication and Assistive Technology design alternative systems for specific students to provide a means for effective communication. This may include the use of gesture/sign language systems, computers, facilitated communication, language boards, and/or electronic equipment.

Most of our 58 speech and language clinicians have obtained national certification through the American Speech and Hearing Association (ASHA). This year our clinicians provided services for over 900 students in our public and nonpublic school age settings and for 1,649 preschool children. These numbers do not include the several hundred children who were screened and/or evaluated and found not to be eligible for speech and language services. Services are delivered in classrooms or through an itinerant model.

Nonpublic School Services

Services for nonpublic school students were established in Pennsylvania through Act 89 in 1975. Intermediate Units are required to establish a program of services to provide auxiliary services for students attending nonpublic and private schools. These services are funded through an annual state allocation based on the total nonpublic enrollment within the intermediate unit footprint. Within our CAIU region, services are provided at 41 nonpublic schools by 29 remedial specialists, 13 school counselors, 2 school psychologists and 13 Speech and Language Clinicians. In addition to the Act 89 program, additional services are provided for staff and students through federal funds such as IDEA, Title I and Title II.

NEWS

Better Hearing & Speech Month

May is Better Hearing & Speech Month. This month provides an opportunity to raise awareness about speech and language disorders and the role of the Speech and Language Clinicians in



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providing life-altering treatment. Many communications disorders are treatable and with early identification many young children can catch up with their peers.

2014 Gay Keiser Scholarship Award

In conjunction with the Keiser family, the CAIU Speech and Language Program established this scholarship in memory of Mrs. Gay Keiser. Mrs. Keiser was employed at the CAIU for twelve years and worked as an itinerant speech/language clinician, educational consultant, and program supervisor. She promoted ongoing professional development to ensure quality services for all children and their families.

This scholarship is awarded to a qualified student who is enrolled in a full-time master's degree program in speech/language pathology within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who wishes to pursue a career as a speech/language pathologist in the school setting. The 2014 recipient is Alexandra Fry, a speech/language pathology graduate student at Misericordia University. Congratulations to Alexandra and best wishes as she completes her graduate studies.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing Program (DHH)

The 37th Annual DHH Awards Program was held on May 14th. The celebration focused on the successes of our current students and their families. Former students and staff also attended to help celebrate and congratulate the students.

Summer Sign Language classes are scheduled during the month of June. There are 6 sessions per class. Deadline to register is June 2nd. The Level 1 class is offered on Tuesday/Thursday evenings. The Conversation class is offered on Monday/Wednesday evenings.

Hill Top Academy (HTA)

The number of students we serve at HTA continues to grow even as the school year winds down. Several of the classes are near or at full capacity.

The Susquehanna Service Dogs organization, with whom we partner for our therapy dog program, is bringing puppies for a visit on May 15th.

June's activities include graduation on Monday, June 2nd, the end of the year picnic at Lower Allen Park on Friday, June 6th and the student's last day on Monday June 9th.

Blind/Visually Impaired Support Program

Two teachers from the CAIU Blind and Visually Impaired Support Program, Stephanie Casey and Rose Anna Stillwagon, partnered with the Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services to promote awareness of services available to blind and visually impaired children outside of the educational setting. Social workers and rehabilitation counselors were available to provide information and answer questions from parents regarding these services. This event was held on May 6th at Vision Resources of Central PA located in Harrisburg.



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Champion of Arts Education Award

The Champion of Arts Education Award, now in its thirteenth year, was presented to Cheryl Giles-Rudawski, Brian Griffith, Daren Moran and Cindy Mortzfeldt on May 15th at the CASA Charter School's annual performance. This award was given to honor our contributions and support to CASA during the transition into a full-day charter school.

NOTIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES

- Attended the PAIU Curriculum Coordinators' meeting
- Attended one day of the Pennsylvania Association of Federal Programs Coordinators' Annual Conference
- Attended monthly PAIU Executive Directors' meeting
- Attended the PASA Women's Caucus Conference in Hershey
- Participated in the Title ID monitoring for Vision Quest programs for delinquent youth. In addition to a records review on site at the CAIU, we traveled to the Vision Quest Madalyn Rite of Passage location in Breezewood to complete a site visit. Bobbi Ely, CAIU Accountant, also participated in the monitoring visit and provided the fiscal records review
- Met with the CASA Charter School Board of Trustees and Mr. Wendling, Principal at CASA Charter School, to provide an overview of Title I and II Federal programs
- Met with CAIU Transportation Committee to discuss transportation services for the 2014-15 school year
- Recognized and celebrated our 2014 Superintendent retirees: **Bruce Deveney**, East Pennsboro Area SD, **Robert Hassinger**, Halifax Area SD, **Norm Shea**, Newport SD, and **Dr. Jemry Small**, West Shore SD, at a breakfast prior to this month SAC meeting
- Attended the PDE Data Summit in Lancaster
- Conducted the final New Federal Coordinators' Training session for this year