



educational excellence through leadership, partnership, and innovation

Executive Director's Report

April 24, 2014

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Diakon Youth Center Program

The Diakon Youth Center educational program is designed to meet the needs of adjudicated youth requiring placement as determined by juvenile courts and Children and Youth agencies in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The educational program utilizes facilities operated by Diakon/Tressler Lutheran Service Associates, Inc. Educational services are provided by the CAIU to youth ages 13 and older. Once a student arrives at Diakon, assessments are given immediately to provide a baseline of instruction. In addition to receiving grade level academics for credit, students also have the opportunity to be enrolled in the credit recovery program. By having this opportunity students are then able to acquire enough credits when they leave Diakon to transfer back to their home districts with the hopes of graduating on time. Students with IEPs are also accepted into the program. A certified special education teacher co-teaches with the content certified staff to ensure all modifications of the IEP are being followed. For students wishing to receive a GED certification, we offer GED preparatory classes.

The primary goals of the educational program are to assess the current academic level of the youth and provide a high quality educational program in a structured setting. Communication with home districts is ongoing to ensure a smooth transition and reintegration into community as youth are discharged from this program.

In addition to providing the educational programming for students at the Diakon Youth Center, the CAIU also supports the Diakon Youth Center and seven Vision Quest sites through Title I, Part D, Subpart 2 funds. Title I, Part D is part of the federal No Child Left Behind Act. The goals of Title I, Part D, are to:

1. Improve educational services for these students so they have the opportunity to meet challenging State academic content and achievement standards;
2. Provide them with services to successfully transition from institutionalization to further schooling or employment; and
3. Prevent youth who are at-risk from dropping out of school, and to provide dropouts and children and youth returning from correctional facilities with a support system to ensure their continued education.

Some of the support programs provided through Title I, Part D, Subpart 2 funds include vocational training in culinary, horticulture, auto mechanics, and computer skills. Annually, over 2,000 youth receive services through the federal programs.



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NEWS

National Autism Awareness

April is National Autism Awareness Month. In order to highlight the growing need for concern and awareness about autism, the Autism Society has been celebrating National Autism Awareness Month since the 1970s. The United States recognizes April as a special opportunity to educate the public about autism and issues within the autism community.

Early Intervention

The CAIU Early Intervention program has received the verification report regarding the review of the program conducted on March 6th and 7th. The team reviewed records, observed classrooms, and interviewed staff. Areas of focus were general supervision, fiscal supervision, child find activities, quality of service, and transition services. The program received an overall score of 97% and received a classification of "fully meets requirements." Although the overall score was exceptional, the EI supervisors will submit a minimal corrective action plan to remedy any areas for suggested improvement.

Hill Top Academy

April at Hill Top Academy is a month filled with hard work and fun. Students are taking their PSSAs and PASAs. The fun comes when they enjoy a Spring Social on April 16th with a local DJ, and Friday the 25th is our Track and Field Day at the West Shore SD Track, Cedar Cliff HS. We successfully opened a Middle Level Autism Support class at Hill Top to provide supports for higher functioning students with autism who had been unsuccessful in a typical school setting due to their challenging behaviors. There appears to be a need among school districts to offer this type of programming for students who fit this profile. The progress of the students has been very positive and they have responded well to the new teacher/classroom. We currently have four students but look to expand to seven within the next few weeks.

Student Services

The recently established Pupil Services Network has met once with another meeting set up for May. The network consists of administrators from districts, cyber schools, private schools and CAIU. As a regional group they focus on staff development as well as administrative Q&A meetings.

Two new staff has joined pupil services: Theresa Shroyer, case manager for ELECT and Kaitlin Mamett, school psychologist.

The Deaf/Hard of Hearing Program held Level 1 and Level II Sign Language classes with 42 participants from our schools and communities. Summer classes are being organized now.

Staff in Student Services has been working on the implementation of PowerSchool for Child Accounting and PIMS functionality as part of the overall plan to streamline and integrate the various data systems currently in use. PowerSchool will replace the aging AS400 Child Accounting system as well as various databases previously used for PIMS reporting.



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Champions for Children

The annual Champions for Children Basket Bingo event was held here at CAIU on Friday, April 11, 2014 from 6 – 10 PM. There were approximately 90 participants this year and \$2500 was raised in support of our Champions for Children organization. Thank you to our CAIU staff that planned and staffed the event.

NOTIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES

- Attended the monthly Central Region Executive Directors' meeting
- Attended the PASA Women's Caucus Executive Board Meeting
- Held two communications meetings with CAIU staff – offered Live Streaming so staff at various locations could participate
- Met with Dr. Grimm, Director of Dauphin County Technical School, to review an evaluation tool and process in preparation for her annual review
- Attended the monthly PAIU Executive Directors' meeting
- Participated in the Chief Recovery Officer's committee meeting with the Harrisburg School District
- Provided an overview of CAIU Services at the West Shore School District Board of Director's Study Session
- Met with Mr. Wendling, Principal at CASA Charter School, and Brian Griffith to provide an overview of Title I and II Federal programs
- Met with Heather Donovan, along with Theresa Kinsinger and Alicia McDonald, for our quarterly CAEA meeting
- Met with CAIU Finance and Buildings and Grounds Committee to discuss restroom renovation project