



educational excellence through leadership, partnership, and innovation

Executive Director's Report January 26, 2012

NEWS

- The **Federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)** is conducting on-site audits of the school-based ACCESS program (procedures, compliance, and expenditures) in Pennsylvania and the CAIU has been selected for an audit. We were notified on January 18th that they will be on-site the week of January 30th conducting this audit.
- The December **CAIU Champions for Children Giving Tree** was a HUGE success – 108 gifts were purchased and donated by staff to needy children served by the CAIU.
- **Barnes & Noble** conducted a book drive to benefit **CAIU Champions for Children** and, as of late December, over ONE THOUSAND books were purchased by Barnes and Noble customers and donated to the CAIU Champions for Children for distribution.
- The **Capital Area School-based Partial Program (CAPP)** has made many significant changes to ensure regulatory compliance and quality clinical services. This resulted last year in a nearly 20 point positive improvement during our managed care audit.
- The **CAIU** is now an **approved provider** of continuing education for licensed professional counselors due to the work and applications completed by our CAPP staff.
- In response to increasing mental health needs, the **CAPP program** has been increasing contacts with local psychiatrists, County Mental Health Departments, managed care (CBHNP), and the State (Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services), as well as planning for additional professional development sessions for staff focusing on mental health content and topics.
- PSBA will be conducting a **salary study** of our classified staff during the 12/13 school year. This review is a follow-up to the initial study that was conducted in 2004 to ensure we have consistently maintained the structure and our staff is properly categorized by pay and job description.
- The **January Guest teacher** program was cancelled due to the diminished need for emergency-certified substitutes by our districts. We are hopeful we will have training in September, 2012.
- The Internet consortium filed an E-Rate Form 470 on behalf of all the member districts and solicited bids for a 5 year **contract for WAN and Internet** from 7/01/2012 through 6/30/2017. Comcast, provided a response which met both the needs of our consortium. In summary, we will be getting more bandwidth at a lower cost due to this group being proactive and bidding the network early. In addition, Comcast would terminate our existing contract with no penalty should we enter into a new contract. Before entering



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into this agreement, we need to account for all of the districts that receive WAN and Internet services through this consortium. Letter of commitment from districts is due February 3, 2012.

- The second **Bring Your Own Device** planning was held on Friday, January 13, 2012. Participants discussed policies, procedures and action steps to allow for greater access to interactive digital curricula, electronic textbooks and online applications. The next meeting will include Dorothy Bollinger, from the Bollinger Law Firm, to assist us in writing policies for this endeavor.

RECOGNITION

- **Arian Monasmith**, teacher of the deaf/hard of hearing, is being published in PA Administrator in February. She co-authored an article with Jane Freeman, former CAIU supervisor and now a PaTTAN consultant. The article is about the use of CART, Communication Access Realtime Translation in schools. CART is a type of live captioning for non-broadcast settings (classrooms, meetings, etc.) that uses a provider, who types into stenograph-type machine, and software that translates the shorthand into print for display on the user's computer screen.
- **Tracy Geist**, social worker, had an article published in the Child & Adolescent Social Work Journal. It is titled, "Conceptual Framework for Animal Assisted Therapy" and discusses the impact of therapeutic treatment for students with emotional disturbances in school settings.

NOTIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES

- A group of approximately forty CAIU stakeholders met on January 10, 2012, for a day of **Strategic Planning**. The group was involved in an exercise called Scenario-Based Planning led by Dr. Craig Bullis, a strategic developer from the U.S. Army War College. The groups looked at four scenarios based on the relationship the CAIU has with its clients and the current programs offered by the CAIU. The day was extremely successful in finding the common factors and sign posts to look for if we want to move the CAIU forward. We will be using this information and the information that we gathered from the surveys to help assist the focus groups that will help plan for the future.
- Three of our districts, Big Spring, Carlisle and Lower Dauphin, have contracted with Dellicker Strategies for the **PA Hybrid Learning Initiative**. The results from the first phase were reported to the districts last week.
- Last week I had the opportunity to visit several of our classes including Pre-school, School-age and the hospital setting. It is amazing the work that our teachers and staff do.



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UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- **Tuesday, January 31, 2012**, the board will hold a special session from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm to discuss the Executive Director Evaluation form and goals. A dinner will be provided.
- TEDxENOLA, will be hosted at the Capital Area Intermediate Unit on **February 1, 2012**. Technology, Entertainment, Design (TED) is a nonprofit devoted to Ideas Worth Spreading. TedxEnola, a smaller TED venue will be sure to inspire innovators, educators, parents, and community members with new ideas and research that support Brain Based instructional practices. The event will host speakers from Johns Hopkins University, Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Pennsylvania, North Western University and many other nationally recognized researchers and experts to inspire "*Ideas Worth Spreading!*"
- **Thursday, May 17, 2012** is CAIU Employee Recognition Dinner. Please place this on your calendar.