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## Executive Director's Report September 28, 2017

### NEWS

#### 2017 PAIU Student Services Conference

This is a new professional development opportunity geared toward Special Education and Pupil/Student Services administrators in districts and IUs across the state. The conference will be held November 1-3, 2017 in Pittsburgh. As part of our value-added Student Services offerings, the CAIU has offered to sponsor up to 20 LEA attendees by covering the registration costs.

#### Student Services

##### Reconciliation

- The school-age, special education, contracted service budgets reconcile at the end of every fiscal year. If an individual program budget had excess revenue, we reconcile the cost down and return funds and if there were any revenue shortfalls, we reconcile the cost up and send additional detailed bills.
- In reviewing the fiscal items for the year, we had a variance of \$390,063.01 across all of our special education contracts and programs (39 districts/charters/agencies). That variance is 2% of our total expenditures for these programs (\$19,034,777.24). The primary causes of the variance were increased student enrollments in class placements and increased contracts for some itinerant services.
- Of the 39 districts/entities that contracted for special education services, 32 will receive a refund and 7 will not receive a refund or invoice. Of the entities receiving a refund, the largest refund was \$49,257.03 and the smallest refund was \$43.87.

##### School-age Programs

- We begin this year with \$12.1 million in school-age service contracts.
  - \$5.7 million of that is special ed classroom placements and the remainder is itinerant and consultative services.
- The non-class placement services that are purchased most frequently are: Autism Support, Deaf/HH, Vision/O&M, OT, PCAs in district and in IU classrooms, Psychological Services, Speech & Language, Sign Language Interpreters for students in IU classes.
- We have 38 school-age, special education classrooms this year.
  - 19 are at Hill Top Academy, 14 are in school district locations, 1 is at Penn State Health Hershey Med, and 4 are at Diakon.
  - 93 students are currently at Hill Top Academy and 91 students are in the other locations.

##### Loysville Youth Development Center

- There have been 15 new residents since August 9, 2017. LYDC currently has 96 residents, up from 86 last month. Eighteen of the 96 students, or 18%, of the population already had their GED or High School Diploma when they arrived at LYDC, but will continue to attend school.
- We added an Industrial Technology teacher and now can run one group for the graduated students. This group has all vocational programming and one period of Computers/Employability class.



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### **Pupil Services/Classroom Programs**

- The staff in the Autism, MDS, Transition, Direct Ed, & Consultative Support programs have worked very closely with Dr. Elias during the transition gap from Keith Imboden to Dr. McCrea. We appreciate the staffs' professionalism and communication during this time.
- Several districts are continuing to need psychological support and services. We recently had two school psychologist resignations. We plan to hire two full time psychologists and one full time LTS psychologist.
- Our RISK team will be trained and ready to support districts again this year with any sudden tragedies where districts may need mental health/counseling support.

### **ELECT**

- The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC) has a grant to provide programs and materials to our ELECT students. Our first program, "How to Choose Good Day Care," presented by Jeanne Predmore and Leslie Fick, was held on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Each student packed a diaper bag with items such as wipes, a blanket, a bottle or sippy cup, a toy, and a book to take to day care with her child. We had 16 students, as well as their children and a few grandmothers, attend the program.

### **Speech**

- A number of requests, to increase the contracted service days, have come in recently from three of our districts. Dr. Dorsey is working with his staff to provide as much help as possible although, with additions to the contracts after the summer, it is challenging to squeeze the caseloads.

### **Deaf/Hard of Hearing**

- The classes at Susquehanna Middle School, Susquehanna High School, and Conewago Elementary are off to a great start. Deb Genet and Ashley Adams have decided to collaborate during Susquehanna Township's monthly early dismissal, when our classes are in session, and join forces to focus on transition skills and job readiness.

### **Hill Top Academy**

- **SAVE THE DATE:** Hill Top Academy staff invite you to attend their Back-to-School Night on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Additional information is available on the flyer attached to the Board Agenda.
- In addition to creating supportive classrooms and engaging instruction, new and returning Hill Top staff have already participated in multiple professional development opportunities in the opening weeks of school. This has included IEP Software Training, Curriculum Coaching and Safe Crisis Management (SCM) certification training.
- Hill Top Academy is pleased to be able to continue encouraging positive connections with the Upper Allen Police Department this school year. Officers have already visited classrooms to read to students on Fridays and will continue to be a positive presence in our classrooms and during PBIS school-wide celebrations.
- Hill Top Academy kicked off the fall semester with Messiah College on August 31<sup>st</sup>, with the first on many seminars for the students from their Special Education Teacher Preparation program. In addition, the Messiah students will be assigned teacher supervisors from Hill Top and spend 2 days per week in Hill Top and CAIU classrooms this semester.

### **Preschool Transition to Kindergarten**

- Last year, we had 728 children who were eligible to transition to school age programming for the 2017-18 school year.
  - 6% of these children remained in Early Intervention for an additional year at parental choice.



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- 11% of these children were expected to enter kindergarten not needing any special education services.
- 6% of these children were dismissed from services prior to transitioning.
- Looking ahead to 2018-19 school year, there are currently 616 children who are eligible to go through the transition process this winter. Parent Orientation Meetings with the 24 school districts will take place in November and December with district representatives and families. Formal transition meetings are scheduled across six days in January and February, and two additional days in April and May for children who are newly evaluated and found to be eligible for early intervention.

#### **Preschool & Andrew's Gift Partnership**

- The Andrew's Gift Foundation and the CAIU Early Intervention Program are again partnering to develop a literacy-focused preschool program for children with autism. The challenges that accompany autism put this group of children at risk for poor literacy outcomes. The literacy project successfully brought evidence-based practices to support the development of early literacy to this population of children.
- Andrew's Gift awarded the EI Program a \$20,000 grant this year to extend this model into another class at Delbrook Preschool to provide hardware, software and staff training for the site. In addition, the 24 children in this class are eligible for an individual grant to obtain an iPad with a package of Apps selected by the staff to support their learning at preschool and at home. Champions for Children contributed another \$2000 to enable the purchase of all the items requested in the grant proposal.

#### **Preschool Speech & Language**

- Preschool SLP's professional development day began with a webinar from American Speech & Hearing Association (ASHA) - "A Roadmap to Integrating AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication) into the Classroom". School-age SLPs were also invited to this portion of the day since both Preschool and SA programs are extending their learning on AAC and use of core vocabulary with students. Other activities included a "speed-dating" experience to share current implementation ideas for AAC and core vocabulary with caseloads, a "Make and Take" time for creating materials to follow program-wide speech sound pictures and cues, and also work on the Preschool Speech Wiki. The wiki will provide a great amount of resources for our SLPs through collaboration and sharing of ideas and materials.

#### **Preschool Professional Development**

- Preschool staff participated in a training presented by Jamie Gordon, CAIU Inclusion Consultant, and Lisa Murray who is an Education Consultant and Trainer in the field of effective communication and emotional intelligence. Staff reviewed and discussed how to integrate social and emotional development into instruction.

#### **PIIC**

The **PIIC (Pennsylvania Institute for Instructional Coaching) Network** welcomed coaches and building and district administrators to its annual Action Planning and Goal Setting Meeting. Building and District level teams focused on how to effectively work together, identified issues they are facing in buildings and districts, and created plans for addressing the issues. Thirty-two coaches and administrators representing twelve buildings and five districts attended this half-day workshop.



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### Technology Services

#### **PowerSchool User Group - PSUG**

PowerSchool User Group Meeting will be held on September 25<sup>th</sup>. Currently, eleven Intermediate Units participate in this consortium. Each Intermediate unit provides a room for their districts and the CAIU conducts a video conference, so districts across the state can communicate with each other.

#### **Technology Law Presentation**

On September 13<sup>th</sup>, the CAIU hosted a technology law session titled "Privacy and Technology in Education." Mark Walz, an attorney with Sweet, Stevens, Katz and Williams, led the presentation. The focus of the content was around the 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment and privacy from searches. Over twenty district staff members attended the session.

#### **Wide Area Network (WAN) and Internet Update**

During the month of September, the CAIU cutover to the new 10 Gbps Internet connection. This Internet connection serves the CAIU and the majority of our school districts. Additionally, the connection to Hill Top and Loysville were upgraded to accommodate their increased use of technology. The district WAN upgrade is being completed over the next month as we work with the school districts, Comcast and Content Keeper to coordinate the cutovers.

## **NOTIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES**

- Attended the PAIU Central Region Executive Directors' meeting
- Attended the monthly PAIU Executive Directors' meeting
- Met with Superintendents' Conference Committee to plan the Fall Superintendents' Conference
- Attended Harrisburg SD Chief Recovery Officer Meeting and Academic, Instruction, and Student Services Board Committee Meeting
- Met with CAEA Executive Committee along with Alicia McDonald and Theresa Kinsinger for our quarterly Meet and Discuss
- Attended United Way quarterly Board Meeting

## **SAVE THE DATE:**

- The **2nd Annual Tinker Expo** will be held at the CAIU on Tuesday, October 17, 2017, and will feature the latest in maker-movement inspired products and projects supporting the 4 C's in education: creativity, communication, collaboration, and critical thinking. Similar to a Maker Faire, the day will be full of opportunities for conversations with educators and organizations to inspire attendees to become an innovative practitioner.
  - **\*\*\*SPECIAL BREAKOUT EDU** afternoon workshop available between 1:00-3:30 p.m. This specialized workshop is an additional \$100, which includes a Breakout EDU kit. Pre-registration is required. This introductory workshop focuses on problem-solving and engaging students, of any age, in their learning. Register today at the following link: <https://goo.gl/tfXAhW>
- The **6th Annual iPad Summit** will be held on **Friday, December 1, 2017**. Along with our keynote and traditional presentations, we will be adding an Exploration Station that will focus on Coding in the Classroom. For additional information, including registration and call for proposals, please visit <https://goo.gl/gttHwj>.