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## Executive Director's Report March 26, 2015

### PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

#### Deaf or Hard of Hearing (DHH) Classroom Program

The Deaf or Hard of Hearing classroom program is designed for students, ages 5-21, with an educational and medical diagnosis of hearing impairment. School age classes offer instruction in academics and communication skills as outlined in the student's IEP. As appropriate, students are included in some regular education classes with a qualified sign language interpreter. In addition to academic opportunities, the classroom program provides experiences for students to develop pre-vocational, vocational and independent living skills. Students graduate with a high school diploma from their home school district. A flexible 5-year high school program enables students to take advantage of numerous coursework and experiential options during their secondary educational training.

Immediately following today's Board meeting, we will visit the DHH elementary class located at East Hanover Elementary School in Lower Dauphin School District.

**SAVE THE DATE:** The End of Year Deaf or Hard of Hearing Awards program is scheduled for May 29 at 7:00 p.m. at the Enola office.

### NEWS

#### Thank you to East Pennsboro Township Police



The CAIU Administrative Cabinet sent a Thank You card and Champions for Children Water Bottles filled with snacks to the East Pennsboro Township Police Department in appreciation for their work in the Enola area.

#### 2015 Superintendents' Spring Leadership Conference

The Superintendents' Spring Leadership Conference was held on March 11-13, 2015 at the Nittany Lion Inn in State College. The conference featured speakers, educational sessions, and many opportunities for networking. Featured presentations included *Proposed Basic Education Funding System for PA Schools*, *Blended Learning/Online Learning*, *Making the Most of Data Dashboards*, *ESEA Waiver Renewal*, *State of the Union-Federal Legislation Updates*, *PVAAS-What Every Superintendent Should Know*, *Regional Excellence and Equity Consortium*, and *Retirement Planning*.



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## **Student Services**

### **Preschool/Early Intervention**

- Winter Preschool to School Age Transition meetings have been completed with the school districts. There will also be upcoming transition meetings this Spring.
- West Perry School for the Deaf (WPSD) asked the CAIU if they would like to partner for the Early Childhood Education Community Innovation Zone grant which is part of the Race to the Top Grant that PA received.
- Preschool Program Supervisors met with a Dauphin County Daycare Director to explore a co-teaching model similar to the program that we have at Options Daycare and Preschool Program at Capital Area Children's Center.
- Two of our Preschool Supervisors have been invited to the Spring Policy Forum from Bureau of Early Intervention.

### **Hill Top Academy**

- The staff attended an in-service on social cognition and self-regulation presented by Speech and Language clinicians and Occupational Therapists.
- We have implemented the use of CDTs (Classrooms Diagnostic Tool) as a diagnostic tool benchmark assessment. The implementation of CDTs is being supported by Sarah Kelly, curriculum consultant.
- The current student enrollment is 116 students with an ongoing and active referral list.
- Yvonne Shreffler, Early Intervention Speech Language Pathologist (SLP), presented with Carolyn Yoder, School Age SLP, to the Messiah Student Interns at Hill Top Academy on February 26, 2015 on *Engineering the Classroom*.
- In March, Sallyan Thomas, Teacher of the Visually Impaired, will share information on blindness and visual impairment with the students.

### **Capital Area Peak Potential program (CAPP)**

- Incoming referrals continue to be steady. We currently have 27 students enrolled with two referrals being arranged and two potential referrals.
- Due to increasing enrollments, a new middle school class is being opened in the CAPP program. Mary Woodward and Trish Lacey will be re-assigned as the teacher and mental health treatment specialist for the new class.
- We have an agreement with Hershey Medical Center to provide psychiatric consultation services to the program staff in order to support their interventions with students who present with complex needs.

### **Pupil Services/Hospital/Diakon/ELECT-EFI/Homeless**

- Ashley Mellott, was hired as an additional Social Worker for Hill Top Academy, in order to meet the needs due to increased enrollment.
- We are receiving positive feedback from districts regarding district referrals to Diakon Youth Center. We are currently processing our 5<sup>th</sup> referral.
- A Psychologist Network group has been started with the first meeting on April 15, 2015; Pearson representatives will be coming to discuss new assessments using technology, instead of paper/pencil, as a way to evaluate.



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- Trish Lacey, our Dauphin County Site Coordinator for Homeless collaborated with the Region 3 Coordinator and Messiah College to have an evening Screening Event to promote awareness for Homelessness.

#### **Deaf/Hard of Hearing (DHH)**

- We recently added a part-time teacher to our elementary program due to increased numbers and state caseload maximums.

#### **Autism**

- Students in Mrs. Sarah Bahn's CAIU Autism classroom at East Pennsboro Middle School are successfully increasing their participation in regular education classes. These are students who had previously not been able to attend classes in a public school setting.
- Samantha Forsythe's CAIU Autism class at Hershey Middle School has volunteered with the Dauphin County Library System to assist them with some projects. This is the second activity they have done this year. They are assembling new patron bags as well as disassembling bags with outdated information and replacing with current materials. Ms. Forsythe is using this to promote pre-vocational skills as well as providing community service.

#### **School-Age Speech/Language Program**

- Parent feedback to Jodi Rineer, School-Age SLP:  
*"I wanted to express my true gratitude for all your expertise and patience in working with both my sons over the years. I know you've seen one at both ends of his emotional spectrum, and it takes someone who is truly dedicated to return every week and keep pushing their students to the best of their ability (and then just that little bit further). In my eyes, you have truly earned the title of teacher.  
With deepest appreciation."*

#### **Speech/Language & Occupational Therapy (OT)**

- From: Suhr, Marie (Halifax Area SD)  
To: Alice Womer, Greer Aukstakalnis (CAIU Speech Clinician & Occupational Therapist)  
Subject: **THANK YOU!**

The feedback I am receiving from the staff about your presentation at our HEA day in-service is phenomenal. Thank you so much for presenting! They (and especially I) appreciated you taking the time to do it.

#### **Technology Services**

The **2015 Regional Computer Fair** will be held at the Capital Area Intermediate Unit on Wednesday, March 25, 2015 from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The event will showcase both Middle and High School students' products/projects created using technology.

Eighty-seven (87) students representing thirteen (13) regional districts/schools will participate in the competition. Specific categories include: **Animation, Computer Fair Logo, Digital Movie, Graphic Design, Programming, and Web Page Design.**



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Schools/Districts Represented: Northern York County, Cumberland Perry AVTS, Central Dauphin, Halifax, Newport, West Perry, Cumberland Valley, Derry Township, Mechanicsburg, East Pennsboro, St. Joseph School, Holy Name of Jesus School and CASA Charter School.

The statewide **Collaborative TAC Event** occurred on Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The session's topic was **1:1 Implementation: Choosing the Right Device** and was led by CAIU technology staff. Districts from our region and across the state attended at their local IU and virtually from their own district. Five districts shared information about the decision making process as well as lessons learned when selecting their 1:1 device for their students. Big Spring and Middletown School Districts presented at this event on their 1:1 implementation and their message was well received by districts.

## **NOTIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES**

- Attended the monthly PAIU Executive Directors' meeting. As part of the monthly meeting, the Executive Directors met with Acting Secretary Pedro Rivera and key PDE staff.
- Attended the Central Region PAIU Executive Directors' meeting.
- Participated in the Chief Recovery Officer's committee meeting at Harrisburg School District.
- The CAIU Cabinet members continue their annual visits with our school districts. We met with Halifax Area School District's administrative team on March 10. Visits with our districts' teams are scheduled over the next few months.
- Board visits continued this month with visits to South Middleton SD on March 2, West Perry SD on March 9, East Pennsboro Area SD on March 16 and Northern York County SD on March 17.
- Attended the PASA Women's Caucus Executive Board Meeting.

## **UPCOMING CAIU EVENTS**

### **Champions for Children 16th Annual Basket Bingo - April 10, 2015**

Let's play Bingo--and help support Champions for Children! Bingo and raffle prizes at this year's event will include Vera Bradley bags and accessories and Longaberger Baskets. Food will be available and raffles will be held throughout the evening.

Champions for Children offers assistance to children in need within the Capital Area Intermediate Unit's service area. Since 2000, Champions for Children Basket Bingo has helped to raise over \$40,000!

Doors open at 5:45 p.m., bingo starts at 6:45 p.m. Adults only. Tickets: \$25 for 6 cards.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency is offering a second **Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning for Schools** at the CAIU on July 14-16, 2015. Priority registration is given to School/School District Administrators from our IU region.