



educational excellence through leadership, partnership, and innovation

Executive Director's Report September 25, 2014

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Training and Consultation Services

Training and Consultation, part of the Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD), is authorized by the Federal Government (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, IDEA) to provide professional development and consultative services to administrators, consultants, teachers and parents. These services are an integral part of broad school and district-wide accountability planning. Professional education activities are aligned with national, state and local initiatives, and support the strategically identified needs of our constituent school districts. While these services are not designed to focus on ongoing individual student interventions, they are intended to provide staff with professional development and resources to build capacity within the school to improve the education of all students. The Pennsylvania Department of Education outlines six initiatives, **Autism, Inclusive Practices, Positive Behavior Support, Response to Instruction and Intervention (RtII), Secondary Transition, and Assistive Technology**, which are the focus of this team's work with local education agencies.

NEWS

Congratulations to **Alice Womer**, CAIU Speech Language Pathologist, who has been selected to be a Guest Lecturer as part of the 2014-15 Outstanding Teacher Program sponsored by the Shippensburg University School Study Council. She will have the opportunity to work with Dr. Kelly Carrero, Assistant Professor of Special Education at Shippensburg University, in teaching an undergraduate class.

Technology Services – E-Rate

Julie Tritt-Shell, Pennsylvania's E-rate Coordinator, presented to the Technology Advisory Committee, on September 11. Julie shared the current status of E-rate and provided an overview of the substantial changes to E-rate for the 2015-16 school year. Some of the changes will include the elimination of phone and cell phone services and web hosting and a decrease in reimbursement for schools receiving the 90% discount. However, schools will be eligible to receive funding for infrastructure equipment. Julie will be providing a detailed training session on E-rate on October 31 at the CAIU.

Early Intervention – Preschool

The CAIU Early Intervention Program and the Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital entered an agreement to conduct evaluations for children with suspected Autism Spectrum Disorders. One day a month, Dr. Cheryl Tierney, Developmental Pediatrician (Associate Professor of Pediatrics; Section Chief, Behavior and Developmental Pediatrics) and a nurse join an evaluation team at the



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CAIU. Our team consists of Jen Yingling, Service Coordinator; Dr. Johanna Tesman, Licensed Clinical and School Psychologist; Michelle Straw, Speech Pathologist and Assessment Specialist; Tracey Knauss, Occupational Therapist and Assessment Specialist; and Sharon Kello, Speech Pathologist.

This clinic is scheduled monthly. Two children and their families come to Enola for a clinic evaluation. Over the course of several hours, the children and families rotate through the team members in order to conduct: a joint parent interview and intake by the CAIU and Dr. Tierney; Cognitive and Gross/Fine Motor Testing; Speech/Language and the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule standardized testing; and a physical examination.

At the conclusion, the entire team meets with each family individually and reports findings to the family. This will include recommendations for Early Intervention educational services by the CAIU, medical and Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Services by Dr. Tierney, and additional resources and services available from other agencies by the whole team. The child becomes a patient of Dr. Tierney and receives additional medical follow-up as requested by the family.

Transition Programming

Project SEARCH, a program partnership between CAIU, Penn State Hershey Medical Center, and OVR (Office for Vocational Rehabilitation), kicked off with a presentation and program training for local school district representatives, agency and Medical Center Staff on September 17 and 18. This program is an employment development internship program for students with intellectual disabilities who are in their senior year of school and is slated to begin in August 2015.

Hill Top Academy

Upper Allen Police officers will again be coming into Hill Top to read to the elementary classes.

Messiah College Interns are with us this fall participating in IU classes at Hill Top, Delbrook Preschool, East Pennsboro MS, Elmwood Elem, Lemoyne Preschool, Hershey MS and Hershey ECC. They are in classes every Tuesday and Thursday morning. Additionally, they attend presentations over a 6 week period provided by IU staff. Presentations include Animal Assisted Therapy, Behavioral Interventions and Level Systems, OT and Sensory Integration, Engineering the Classroom for Communication, Deaf/HH and Vision Support and Autism Schedules and Structures.

Capital Area Partial Program (CAPP)

We continue to work closely with our districts, contracted psychiatric providers, and agencies to create program revisions to meet the needs and requirements of the districts, students and families and state agencies. We are working to revise the program, so that we can provide the services in the context of an educational model.



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Pupil Services - Social Work

Four Masters of Social Work (MSW) interns from Shippensburg will be with CAIU staff for the entire school year. This is the first time we've done this with a large group and for the entire year. The professors and candidates met with our social workers to find matches that would be most beneficial for the interns and the CAIU staff. The following students are listed below with their staff mentor:

- Alyssa Toth ~ Erika Stiffler (CAPP program at Hill Top Academy)
- Megan Murphy ~ Beth-Ann McConnell (itinerant social work services)
- Lisa Skema ~ Melissa Rosado (ELECT program)
- Laura Hofstetter ~ Brandon Barnhart (Hill Top Academy)

Autism Support

Based on student referrals, we opened two additional Autism Support classes this year – one district-based and one at Hill Top Academy.

Consultative Services

Our Educational Consultative services are being used by 14 school districts and 5 charter schools this year. We have 10 consultants providing those services in the areas of autism, multiple disabilities support, positive behavior support, emotional support, and coaching.

NOTIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES

- Attended the monthly PAIU Executive Directors' meeting
- Attended the monthly PAIU Central Region Executive Directors' meeting
- Participated in the Chief Recovery Officer's committee meeting with the Harrisburg School District
- Met with Heather Donovan and Michelle Sholder, along with Theresa Kinsinger and Alicia McDonald, for our quarterly CAEA meeting
- Attended the monthly Professional Advisory Committee meeting at Cumberland Perry Area Vocational Technical School
- Attended PAIU-Curriculum Coordinators' meeting as the Executive Director Liaison
- Participated in the second PAIU Planning Process Work Group session