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Executive Director's Report

April 28, 2016

Spotlight

Autism Support Program

April is National Autism Awareness Month. According to the CDC, autism is the fastest-growing developmental disability. About 1 percent of the world population has autism spectrum disorder. In the US, the prevalence of autism in children has increased from 1 in 150 children in 2000 to 1 in 68 children in 2014.

The Autism Support classroom program serves students who have been diagnosed within the broad scope of Autism Spectrum Disorder. Intense focus on the core deficit areas of autism - communication, social engagement, and self-regulation – is provided in the context of a variety of models designed to support students with autism. Our programs use strategies supported by the research of Applied Behavioral Analysis and utilize models such as the Competent Learner Model and Verbal Behavior. Students have access to both general and specialized curricula based on their individual needs. An integrated related services delivery model is utilized to allow for a high degree of generalization of skills across people, activities and settings.

In addition to the classroom program, the CAIU also offers Autism Support Services. This Supports to School Personnel service includes providing assistance through site-based guided practice and action-planning to strategically and systematically train other district staff. Co-teaching as well as guided practice is utilized to promote skill transfer from autism educational consultants to district staff. This is included in the service provided by supports to school personnel to guide district staff in full delivery of effective and efficient services once the CAIU consultant completes the referral.

Each of the Educational Consultants possess particular expertise in a variety of specific autism related areas of social cognition, pragmatic language, functional behavioral assessment/and behavior plan design and self-regulation. Additionally related staff expertise for consultation to the autism program include speech/language and occupational therapy, assistive technology, oral-motor and feeding, behavioral support, school psychology, secondary transition.

NEWS

Champions for Children

The 17th annual Champions for Children Basket Bingo event was held at the CAIU on Friday, April 1, 2016. There were 142 participants this year, and \$5,176 was raised in support of our Champions for Children organization. Thank you to our Technology Services Team and CAIU staff that planned and staffed the event.





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Student Services

OT/PT Program Updates



Left is a photo of Melissa Roberts, Jocelyn Colyer and Cynthia Shiraki, program supervisor, at the Capitol Rotunda.

The PA Occupational Therapy Association (POTA) House Resolution declaring April 2016 as Occupational Therapy Month in PA was adopted this month.

Loysville Youth Development Center

- This month there were nineteen new students enrolled and eleven students were released. Five students passed their Senior Project presentations, two students took the Pre-GED test, three students took the 8th grade PSSA Language Arts assessment on April 11, and three students took the 8th grade PSSA Math assessment on April 18.
- Staff participated in professional development for the implementation of i-Ready, reading and math curriculum tool, presented by Arlene Moll on March 17.
- Thomas McKissick, PDE Federal Programs division, visited LYDC School on March 29th. He toured both schools (open and secure units) with special interest in the Title I funded programs, Reading and Transition services.
- Visitors from the Federal Government (Office of Special Ed Programs & Federal Bureau of Prisons), PA Department of Education, and PATTAN visited LYDC on March 31. The main focus of the visit was on the way Pennsylvania facilities are able to rapidly and seamlessly send and receive student school records through the Records Center at PATTAN and reduce impact on the provision of appropriate educational services. We were honored to host this group. Among the visitors was staff from the following agencies: Bureau of Prisons (BOP), Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), PA Department of Education (PDE), and Regional Assessment and Support Team - Records Center at PaTTAN Harrisburg (RAST).

Data Systems

- **PDE Data Summit Presentation:** Cindy Gavazzi, Data Systems Supervisor, Crystal Jenkins, PennData Specialist, and Kelly Ellison, Contract and Child Accounting Specialist, will facilitate an IU Roundtable discussion at the PDE Data Summit on Monday, May 23. IU Data Managers often struggle with consistency with data reporting among IUs. Data reporting guidelines provided to school districts do not always align to IU data reporting due to differing programs and services. This session will provide a guided discussion among IU Data Managers to move IU reporting toward consistency and accuracy.
- **Data Quality Curriculum Course Completions:** During the 2015-2016 school year, 40 staff members from IU15 educational entities completed a total of 82 Data Quality Curriculum (DQC) tracks and specialty modules. The DQC is a tool for local education agencies (LEAs) to increase the quality of data submitted to the PDE, thereby reducing costly data errors and



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staff time. The DQC is available at no cost as part of the Data Governance component of the Statewide System of Support and is supported by Cindy Gavazzi.

School-Age Speech/Language

- Melissa Lyon, School-Age Speech/Language Pathologist and Sue West, Occupational Therapist, have been working collaboratively to integrate student goals across the two disciplines. One of their students has a goal for comprehension of who, what, where, why questions and a handwriting goal. When working on the language goal, Melissa asks the student to write answers using skills/techniques being taught in occupational therapy session. While in occupational therapy, the student practices handwriting by writing responses to who, what, when, where, why questions. By integrating the goals, they are targeted twice as often. This collaborative effort also promotes skill generalization.

Blind/Visually Impaired Program

- After 18 years of CAIU Vision Support services, a student at Susquehanna Township High School is graduating from high school and will participate in the adult Project Search program. He has learned to read Braille, is a cane traveler in familiar environments and uses access technology for communication and leisure. He has developed many daily living and social skills as well.

Pupil Services/Hospital/ELECT-EFI/Diakon/Blended Learning

- A \$5000 Grant was awarded to Diakon/Center Point teachers from the Chesapeake Bay Trust to support Diakon/Center Point Environmental Ed Activities.
- Hershey Medical Center teachers continue to be actively involved in the Four Diamonds Psychosocial Committee. Goals include providing more information for active and off treatment patients on 504 Plans, IEPs and other educational resources. In addition, consultation is being discussed for clinic hours and for patients completing therapy and transitioning back to various areas, including school.
- Final arrangements are being made with Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute (PPI) and Hill Top Academy for acute mentally ill students to be directly placed in their inpatient facility rather than having to wait in the Emergency Room for open beds.
- Our ELECT-EFI program was audited with a few minor changes we have to make to our recording process. That action plan will be submitted by April 18, 2016 to the Department of Education.
- Dr. Janilyn Elias was nominated and chosen to be a member of and to represent the state on the Pennsylvania Pupil Services Association (PAPSA) Executive Board.

NOTIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES

- Attended the monthly PAIU Executive Directors' meeting.
- Attended the PAIU Central Region Executive Directors' meeting.
- Participated in the United Way Central Region's Education Task Force meeting and community conversation at Central Dauphin East MS.
- Attended Cabinet visits with Susquehanna Township SD's administrative team and Middletown Area SD's administrative team.



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- Attended School District Board meetings to share an overview of CAIU Services: Steelton-Highspire SD, Central Dauphin SD, and Halifax Area SD.
- Attended PASA Women's Caucus Executive Board Meeting.
- Attended Professional Advisory Committee meeting at CPAVTS.
- Conducted two CAIU staff communications meeting.

Upcoming Events:

"My Bike" Presentation and Parade Event

We are so excited to host the second **"My Bike"** event on behalf of Variety, The Children's Charity, on Monday, May 9th at 2:00 p.m. in the Susquehanna Room. Seventeen children will receive bikes. Also, bike fittings will take place prior to and after the event.

PDE Data Summit – May 22 – 25, 2016 at Hershey Lodge & Convention Center. A special registration rate of \$150 is being offered for superintendents and school administrators, which covers Sunday night dinner and all Monday sessions. This does not include overnight accommodations. Please visit <http://www.cvent.com/events/2016-pde-data-summit/event-summary-ba45c9f6f56547978bbe1108957c4066.aspx> to register.