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Executive Director's Report

March 17, 2016

Spotlight

Occupational and Physical Therapy (OT/PT)

Occupational and physical therapy are related services that are provided to students as identified on an IEP or services agreement. The primary focus of this program is to provide services that will help the student benefit from an appropriate special education program or regular education program through compensations for sensory and gross or fine motor deficits. The therapist evaluates the student within the school setting or typical environment and develops recommendations combining the OT or PT concerns with the school program. Services promote the development of fine motor dexterity and coordination, visual motor skills, self-regulation, gross motor skills balance, strength and coordination, postural stability and control, appropriate positioning and mobility, independence in daily activities, and improved quality of movement.

Program features may include:

- Individual or small group therapy
- Ongoing support for students through OT/PT service integrated into their educational programs
- Consultative services to teachers, classroom aides and parents
- In-service training for staff
- Preparation of specialized materials for student's use

NEWS

Legislative Events

The CAIU hosted two sessions with Legislators at the Delbrook Preschool Center on March 4 and 11 to share with them about the work of the preschool program and the need for an increase in early intervention funding. The Legislators participated in a short presentation and discussion about early intervention services and then had the opportunity to visit three early childhood specialized preschool classrooms. At the March 8th PDE Budget Hearings, Senator Pat Vance, who had been in attendance at the March 4th event, questioned Pedro Rivera, Secretary of Education, about the department's current proposal of no increase of funding for early intervention services for the 2016-17 year.

Student Services

Preschool/Early Intervention

- Preschool staff participated in professional development training on expanding the implementation and use of technology in instruction.
- The Preschool Program participated in sharing resources at the Capital Area Educating Young Children Spring conference.
- During the month of March, the CAIU Preschool Program collaborated with Cumberland County Early Intervention Program and Rachel Bechtel from Aspire to conduct three mini-



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trainings on the importance of social emotional development with young children to caseworkers from Cumberland County Children and Youth.

- Preschool Supervisor attended the Early Intervention Policy Forum sponsored by Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL). The featured topic was on Partnering to Strengthen Early Childhood Policies to Include All Children.

OT/PT Program Updates

- We have several graduate students completing internships in our program: one PT doctoral student from Lebanon Valley College, one Fieldwork Level II OT student from Chatham University, and two Fieldwork Level I OT students from Elizabethtown College.
- Lori Glumac, DSc, PT – was elected for a three year term as Secretary on the Board of Directors for the American Physical Therapy Association – Academy of Pediatric Physical Therapy. It is a national organization of 5000 members.

School-Age Speech/Language

- One of the students in the MDS class at Hill Top Academy has a new job responsibility at school; he delivers mail to the classrooms. Using the Proloquo2Go app, Alisha Foster, SLP, prepared greetings and comments that the student could use in a functional way to communicate with staff. He practiced locating and using those greetings and comments with her prior to applying them when delivering the mail.

Pupil Services/Hospital/Diakon

- Our classrooms in the hospital settings took time to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday with stories, cooking, art activities and writing assignments.
- Meetings and site visits are taking place for the possible mental health class option that could be used as either a step-down from an inpatient placement or something more intensive than our current CATES classrooms. School districts have met with pupil services on three separate occasions to assist with planning and ideas.
- District placed students at Diakon are increasing. The availability to have drug and alcohol counseling on site and to be able to purchase only for student attendance, rather than a full slot, has been extremely successful.

Transition - ProjectSEARCH

- Interns are finishing their second rotation in their departments. Soon, they will be starting their 3rd rotation or their new jobs.
- All interns have completed and sent in applications for employment in various locations.
- Three interns have been offered jobs. One intern started his job on March 7th at Central Penn College in Food Services, another intern begins his job on March 21st at Hershey Medical Center in the Infusion Clinic, and a third intern is waiting for his clearances to begin a job in Food Services for the Harrisburg School District.
- One intern has applied and interviewed for a job at Chocolate World and another has applied for a job at Masonic Homes and we are coordinating an interview for him.
- On February 29th, we held our Interview/Assessment Day- nine students from various school districts came on that day. A current CAIU student in our Multiple Disabilities (MDS) class participated in the Project SEARCH interviews.



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- An Open House will be held in April for Hershey Medical Center department staff to recruit other areas where interns might be assigned. Currently there are 12 departments participating.
- Project SEARCH Graduation will be held in the Junker Auditorium at the Hershey Medical Center on June 7th at 6:30. All are welcome to attend.

Autism

- Ms. Bahn's Autism Support class at East Pennsboro Middle School implemented "The Great i-Ready Race" to increase motivation, active engagement, and participation in i-Ready. It has been very successful in supporting time on task with individual skills sessions.

Hill Top Academy

- As part of the partnership with Messiah College, Hill Top Academy/CAIU hosted a series of educational seminars each Thursday this past month for Messiah students assigned to Hill Top.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing Classrooms

- Two students in our Deaf/Hard of Hearing class at Susquehanna Township High School high school made a movie about Westward Expansion of the 1800s. By utilizing the writing process, they created a script, practiced their speeches, and worked with the teacher and interpreter to perfect the sign language component. The movie was recorded on an iPad and pulled together by using Windows Movie Maker. The students did all the editing and transitions and received teacher support for the captioning. The video is accessible to everyone as it is presented in sign, with voice and captions. The students were very proud of the final product.
- The East Hanover class also uses EngageNY daily for their Language Arts large group lessons. They are really enjoying the Nursery Rhymes in that program. The students roleplay each of the rhymes to help them remember.
- The East Hanover students are seeing good progress in math through i-Ready interventions as well as by using XtraMath for their computation facts.

Curriculum Services

Making Connections Training

- On Thursday, February 25th, Kathleen Eich, Sarah Kelly, and Sue Voigt hosted 12 teachers, coaches, and administrators for *Making Connections Session 3*. Building on the work of Sessions 1 and 2, the training focused on the questions that instructional leaders and coaches can ask of their teachers and their instruction to specifically address strengths and challenges seen in the data. Participants were also given the opportunity to explore resources in digging deeper with their data and asking questions about how data can inform and support teachers' instructional decisions. After this third session, a survey was sent to participants from all sessions allowing them to identify areas of need for their optional individualized session 4 which will occur at their districts. We are currently in the process of collecting the Session 4 requests and scheduling a facilitator from the series that matches each district's specific needs.



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Pre-Service Teachers

- On Tuesday, March 15th, the Southern Region of the Pennsylvania Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (SRPASCD) held an event at the CAIU Enola Office for pre-service teachers from the local universities and school districts. The Keynote address was presented by a panel of teachers from East Pennsboro Middle School discussing their successes, challenges, and “lessons learned” in implementing a blended learning environment. Breakout sessions presented by local administrators, teachers, and CAIU consultants focused on interviewing skills, first-year teacher survival skills, and technology resources for the classroom.

NOTIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES

- Attended the monthly PAIU Executive Directors’ meeting.
- Attended the monthly PAIU Central Region Executive Directors’ meeting.
- Participated in the United Way Central Region’s Education Task Force meeting.
- Attended the Mid-Atlantic Conference on Personalized Learning in connection with the Spring Superintendents’ Conference.
- Attended the Pennsylvania Principal Certification Program Convening.
- Began annual Cabinet visits with West Shore SD’s administrative team. Visits with other districts are scheduled over the next few months.
- Participated in the Chief Recovery Officer’s committee meeting at Harrisburg School District.

Upcoming Events:

17th Annual Champions for Children Bingo - April 1, 2016

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.

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.