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Executive Director's Report October 22, 2015

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

The Capital Area Intermediate Unit Early Intervention Preschool Program provides a wide array of programs and services for children from their third birthday until entry into school. Services for children during the preschool years are provided without cost to their families when the child is determined to meet eligibility requirements. IEPs are written to define services, including related services as appropriate.

Specific services may include screening and assessment, support in early childhood environments, specialized classrooms, therapy/treatment, early language parent training, and transition to school age programming.

The CAIU, in collaboration with UCP, offers a unique opportunity for children with special needs to participate in a classroom setting with typically developing children. A team of teachers and therapists helps make this learning environment very special for the children. At this month's Board meeting, Eric Bostick, Supervisor, and Kristin Leitzel, Preschool Teacher, will provide an overview of our inclusive preschool classroom.

RECOGNITION

Congratulations to **Susan Voigt**, Program and Grant Evaluations Specialist at CAIU, for her selection as President-Elect for Southern Region PASCD.

Congratulations to **Karen Shenk**, Educational Consultant on the Curriculum Services Team, for successfully completing the Applied Behavior Analysis coursework that will make her eligible to sit for National Board Certification as a Certified Behavior Analyst.

NEWS

CURRICULUM SERVICES

October 12 In-Service at East Pennsboro Area SD. CAIU Curriculum/Technology staff delivered in-service to middle and high school teachers at the East Pennsboro Area School district. Their teachers asked for differentiated offerings, and we delivered! The CAIU provided a menu of choices to meet the staffs' individual needs and interests. Prior to the October 12 in-service, administrative leaders from East Pennsboro Area School District and the Instructional Technology Team collaborated on how to structure and deliver such a unique type of professional development.

Assistive Technology Workshop. Geri Schaffer, Educational Consultant on the Curriculum Services Team, is offering new Assistive Technology workshops here at the CAIU by having full-



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day learning labs. District and IU staff can attend at any time on the designated day. The first workshop was held on October 8, 2015. Geri answered questions and demonstrated the equipment for fifteen people who attended. Educators from several districts as well as IU employees and families stopped in. The workshop will be offered several times throughout the year. Educators and families are encouraged to stop in if they have questions or want to preview the new devices.

STUDENT SERVICES

2014-2015 School-Age, Special Education Reconciliation

- Accounting and communication for the 2014-15 reconciliation is complete.
- There were 41 districts/entities that contracted with the CAIU for school-age, special education services in 2014-2015. The final contracted revenue was \$17,501,542.78. The CAIU final expenditures were \$16,859,485.91 resulting in an overall variance of \$642,056.87 to be returned to 31 districts/entities based on the specific services purchased. There were no districts/entities for which reconciliation resulted in an invoice. The largest refund was \$93,141.80 and the smallest was \$417.56.

Blind/Vision Support Program

- October 14 was White Cane Day. Several members of the BVIS staff created a bulletin board (in the Enola office lobby) highlighting cane skills.

Equitable Participation

- Equitable participation funds are being utilized to support nonpublic schools by working with teachers and/or grade level teams. A particular focus is sharing/modeling/coaching teachers in techniques and strategies to differentiate instruction for identified students.
- Our first non-public school learning support network meeting was held on October 14, 2015. A number of learning support teachers from non-public schools in the region attended.

School Age Speech and Language Program

- The School Age Speech and Language Program will be hosting three networking meetings for district SLPs during the 2015-16 school year. The first meeting will be held on October 30 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Preschool

- On 9/10/15, with the assistance and coordination of the CAIU Technology Department, a video was completed with a former Preschool child and mother. The mother shared her family's experience in Early Intervention and the developmental skills that her child gained through the programming and services received at the CAIU. Skills learned and gained contributed to a successful transition into a local district kindergarten program at the end of August. The video is expected to be part of a PAIU Preschool Funding Campaign and communication drive with legislators and stakeholders.
- We have a new partnership with Follow Me Christian Child Care Center located in Harrisburg. Although we worked with them for years providing services to children enrolled at their site, we will be replicating the co-teaching, collaborative 10 year partnership that we have had at United Cerebral Palsy of Central PA at their Options Childcare and Preschool Program; also known as Capital Area Children's Center (CACC). Similar to CACC, we will



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operate an inclusive classroom utilizing a co-teaching model at Follow Me starting in mid-October with two different groupings of children.

- The Preschool Leadership Team was invited to participate in a panel at the EI Leadership Fall Conference on November 4-5 with an emphasis on Promoting High Quality Leadership. The Preschool Leadership Team will share program research, a video and discuss the professional learning communities that program staff is participating in this year.
- We had a very successful collaborative and interactive training on Supporting Naïve Learners in Instruction presented by School Age Consultants/BCBA's and the Preschool classroom teaching teams utilizing CLM to all of our preschool staff.

Pupil Services/Hospital/ELECT-EFI

- Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit #13 is looking to model our district referral program with Diakon. They have a similar program with Diakon in Lancaster but without district referrals and would like to add this to their repertoire of services
- Hershey Medical Center Children's Hospital, in conjunction with the CAIU teaching staff at HMC, is working on a 6-9 month plan to implement user friendly techniques for staff to use with children with autism who come to the hospital

Hill Top Academy

- Enrollment: 122
- SCM (Safe Crisis Management) initial training and recertification is being offered to Hill Top/CAIU staff.
- Our new Educational Consultant (Christina Derr) at HTA starts this month. Ms. Derr is coming to us from Harrisburg SD where she worked as an IEP facilitator.
- The Hill Top Academy elementary students have an upcoming experiential educational trip to Paulus Orchard in Dillsburg.

Transition

- Students have begun their first internship rotation at Hershey Medical Center through our Project Search program. Internships have been arranged in Patient Transport, Human Resources, Simulation Lab, Environmental Health Services, Admissions, and the Infusion Clinic.

Autism

- We welcome our newest teacher, Kirsti Dietz, to the Autism Support class at East Pennsboro HS. Kirsti replaces David Blom who has spent 14 years teaching at CAIU but has recently taken a position with EPSD. We are pleased to have Kirsti on board and we wish Dave the best in his new position.
- The Hershey MS Autism Support class team continues to work on the Project MAX (Maximizing Access and Learning) initiative. Meetings have been held with the building principal as well as grade level teachers in order to expand opportunities for our students with autism in the general education setting.
- The 2nd annual Competent Learner Model (CLM) Conference will be held at CAIU on October 27- 29.



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Deaf/Hard of Hearing

- We continue to grow in our DHH class at East Hanover Elementary School, having added three students during October.

Data Systems Updates

- The **Data Quality Network** meeting on September 16th was attended by 39 staff members from 27 LEAs in the CAIU region. The video conference was broadcast live across the state to other IU sites. There were a total of 529 participants from 28 IUs. PDE staff from the Division of Data Quality presented from the CAIU Enola office about changes to PIMS reporting for the 2015-2016 school year.
- In September, the **Capital Area Data Network (CADN)** hosted 28 data managers from 21 entities for the first meeting of the 15-16 school year. Discussion focused primarily on recent changes to the reporting of summer graduates and dropouts and other 15-16 PIMS changes.

NOTIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES

- Attended PAIU Central Region Executive Directors' monthly meeting in State College.
- Met with CAEA Leadership, along with Alicia McDonald and Theresa Kinsinger.
- Attended East Pennsboro Township's Intergovernmental meeting.
- Attended United Way Education Task Force's initial meeting. Will be co-chairing this task force along with David Volkman, Executive Deputy Secretary PDE.
- Attended PAIU Executive Directors' Monthly meeting.
- Attended PAIU Government Relations Committee meeting.
- Attended PSBA-PASA Conference in Hershey.
- Attended PASA Women's Caucus Executive Board meeting.