



educational excellence through leadership, partnership, and innovation

## Executive Director's Report August 24, 2017

### PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

#### South Central PA Consortium for Excellence & Equity

In September, we will begin our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual series of workshops focused on a mission to positively transform the lives of each and every one of our students by preparing them for success in post-secondary education and in life – especially our diverse children and youth who have traditionally struggled academically in our systems, or who might likely be the first in their family to attend and graduate from college. The Consortium serves as a valuable resource for district leaders to effectively address their local challenges of securing and sustaining high level student achievement for all.

The series planned for this school year includes the following topics/presenters:

- *“Beyond Poverty: Brain Inspired Ways to Understand and Respond to Our Students coming from Economic Disadvantage”* – September 20, 2017 **Presenter: Shauna F. King**
- *“Middle School Forum”* – October 31, 2017
- *“Going Beyond Instruction: Motivating Diverse Middle & High School Students: Strategies for Building a Successful Classroom and Nurturing a Positive Learning Environment”* – November 16, 2017 **Presenter: Jonice Arthur**
- *“Cultivating Equity Mindedness for Leaders, Teams, and Decision-Making”* – December 19, 2017 **Presenter: Dr. Sharon Radd**
- *“Creating School Cultures That Nurture Our Diverse Learners’ Optimism and Engagement”* – January 10, 2018 **Presenter: Dr. Megan Tschannen-Moran**
- *“Why Race and Culture Matter in Schools: Closing the Achievement Gap in America’s Classrooms”* – February 22, 2018 **Presenter: Dr. Tyrone Howard**
- *“The Foundations for Advancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Your District”* – March 15, 2018 **Presenter: Courtney Portlock**

### NEWS

#### CAIU Opening Week

It is an exciting time of the year as we welcome our staff for the 2017-18 school year. Our staff providing school age services returned during the week of August 14, and staff providing services for our preschool children returned on August 21. Program meetings are held at various times during this two-week period. I had the opportunity to visit the program meetings to welcome staff to the new school year. It is always great to see and hear the excitement as staff begins their work for the new year.

We welcome many new staff, including teachers, paraeducators, personal care assistants, secretaries, physical therapist, psychologist, speech and language clinicians, social workers, and technology staff, to the CAIU. We held New Staff Orientation on Friday, August 18, for 42 new employees.



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## **Student Services**

### **Preschool**

- The Preschool Program received \$7,511.00 for the 2017-18 Evidence Based Implementation Grant. Jamie Gordon, Inclusion Consultant, was instrumental in writing this grant. The focus of this grant will be on identifying children who are at risk or who demonstrate delays in social-emotional development. As a result, preschool teaching staff will provide identified children with instructional strategies and coaching to develop these critical skills. In addition, preschool staff will participate in professional development trainings throughout the year to increase their knowledge and understanding of social-emotional development while enhancing their skills in implementing consistent intentional instruction of social-emotional skills through programming and instruction.
- Mr. Bostick, Mrs. Telep, and Mrs. Gottlieb have visited some preschool sites to discuss emergency preparedness. They provided information to the staff about drills and the new Navigate system and also collected information that will be used to update the administrative regulations regarding AED/First Aid/CPR readiness in their buildings.

### **School Health Services**

- Intake forms have been revised to accommodate the new immunization requirements. Mrs. Betsy Seidel, School Nurse, has proactively reviewed the health records of our students and notified parents/guardians of missing/new immunizations. Fortunately, only a few of our students needed additional immunizations to be compliant with the new regulations.

### **Speech**

- Orit Porter will be completing her required internship with the CAIU this fall. Orit is working on her degree from Western Kentucky University and she will be working with a CAIU clinician in a school aged setting in a public school.

### **Vision**

- Dr. Dorsey is working in collaboration with Schuylkill Intermediate Unit #29 who has agreed to provide vision services for students in the Halifax and Upper Dauphin Area School Districts. This arrangement was necessary due to the lack of a viable candidate to replace a recent retiree. Additionally, Dr. Dorsey is working with Sunbelt Solutions as a contracted services while he continues to search for a permanent replacement.

### **Deaf/Hard of Hearing**

- Ashley Adams, the DHH teacher at Susquehanna High School is working with the building administration to create schedules for her students. The building is excited to have our IU class back after a brief hiatus.

### **Emotional Support**

- Dr. Dorsey met with the Jenna Landis, IU teacher, Carla Sauer, building principal at Enders-Fisherville, and Matt Czaplicki, supervisor of special education, in early August to discuss the opening of the new CAIU, district-based, emotional support class. The building administration staff has been very supportive as the team works through the details



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necessary to open the class. The IU educational consultant and coaches have also been a tremendous support to the team by ensuring that all of the details have been considered.

### **Hill Top Academy**

- Another successful Extended School Year (ESY) program at Hill Top concluded on July 27<sup>th</sup>. The culminating activity was again the tremendously popular Fishing Derby hosted by the Yellow Breaches Anglers Association.
- Hill Top Academy welcomed back teachers and staff on August 17<sup>th</sup> for Program Day including six new teachers and five new paraprofessionals.
- The 2017-2018 school year begins for students at Hill Top on Tuesday August 22<sup>nd</sup>. This year students will be welcomed to a building with aesthetic and physical updates (walls and HVAC). Staff had very productive Summer Academy professional development opportunities to help equip them for the needs of their students.

### **Loysville Youth Development Center**

- There have been 37 new residents so far this summer. The population has remained steady and is currently at 86 residents. We expect about ½ of the population will turn over from last school year.
  - Fourteen of the 86 students, or 16%, of the population already have their GED or High School Diploma but will attend school.
  - Six students passed the GED test this summer.
- We operated a limited summer school program with Title I funds
  - Eight students took a business class with the goal of earning a certificate from International Computer Driver's License (ICDL).
  - Eight students took an Employability class. These students did not have the course last school year and should be released prior to having the course this fall.
  - Nine students participated in a pilot program to take CAOLA courses for credit recovery. These courses were offered to underclassman.
- LYDC School will participate in Special Education compliance monitoring this spring. Nikki Wertz, LYDC teacher, and Arlene Moll, projects administrator, participated in training on August 8 at PATTAN to help us prepare.

### **CAMhP and Diakon**

- CAMhP (Capital Area Mental-health Program) has expanded to three classes (Iron Forge Elementary grades 3-5, Hill Top Academy ~ Middle School, Central Dauphin East ~ High School).
- Center Point at Diakon currently has an academic track and is working on a rehabilitation track for severe drug and alcohol cases.

## **NOTIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES**

- Attended Education Core Solution Partners meeting with United Way Capital Region.
- Met with Ms. Christina Spielbauer, Acting Superintendent at Carlisle Area SD, and Dr. Tamara Willis, Superintendent at Susquehanna Township SD.
- Held meeting with All Staff Day Committee to organize and plan for the CAIU All Staff Day planned for Friday, January 12, 2018.