

Head Start/Early Head Start Board Report November 2021

General:

Continue processing orders from the approved COVID funding in the amount of \$137,340.

The carryover funding projects for the most part are on hold due to the upcoming winter weather hindering their being able to be completed on time, with the exception for the doors at Merrick back doors leading to playground (\$12,482) and Liverpool (doors between two offices \$7,500.) which will be completed by January 31, 2022.

Many staff attended the first of the 7 C's training (Exploring Organizational Culture Series). Discussion was held on culture of caring/safety and what that looks like within our program and places that we can improve

90.22% of our staff (166 out of the current 184 HS/EHS) have made us aware that they have received either their first COVID vaccine or received both vaccines or have a medical exemption. We continue our efforts to encourage all staff to be vaccinated.

Staff attended trainings on Sexual Harassment; Supervision of Children and Mandated Reporting; Policies; The Importance of Children Drinking Milk in our Program, and Nutrition education. Staff also completed CACFP training / quiz on line which combined health topics (shaken baby; blood borne pathogens and daily health check).

Education:

The coaches continue to implement Practice Based Coaching (PBC) practices. The PBC cycle consists of goal setting; observation, reflection; and planning. The cycle is completed bi-weekly with each coached teacher, focusing on social emotional wellness of the children and adults in the classroom. Observations are conducted in person. Reflection meetings are conducted in-person or virtually. Virtual communication continues with Zoom meetings and emails. Goals are continuously being set and re-evaluated for the best possible achievement of the teachers. Most coachees are ready for new goals.

Coaches attended a Wellness Committee meeting to finalize the Wellness Survey that we would be sending out to all of the sites.

Inventoried all of the Lakeshore and Kaplan orders that had been delivered for our COVID bags. Once these are made up we will get them out to sites for them to deliver to children affected due to room closure.

Home-Base: Completed 167 home visits and two socializations.

Home Based team is still doing in-person and virtual home visits. As the weather gets colder home visitors will be more virtual.

Being still down four staff, appreciate the assistance from child development coaches and the disability coordinator for their support.

New home visitor completed the Parent As Teacher curriculum training.

Supervisor completed HOVRS- observation assessment tool for home visitor. Needed to renew to be able to continue using the tool.

Attend Regional HS/EHS Home Based Committee Meeting- shared information, discussed staff shortages and continue concerns with COVID.

Health:

A child experiencing a potential anaphylactic reaction at Merrick received the stocked emergency epinephrine.
6 staff completed CPR/FA/AED and Stop the Bleed training.
7 staff completed Belay allergy training and training held each month for new staff.
Chompers Dental clinics completed at Baldwinsville/Jordan and Sumner and Merrick will finish soon.
OCFS Health Care Plan signed off by new Site Supervisor Janet Klock at Jordan Head Start on December 1st

Mental Health:

Attended the collaborations directors meeting and discussed the MH component area.
Completed an observation at LaFayette. Spoke to site staff as well as classroom teachers in regards to concerning behaviors that have been observed. Provided MH referrals to the family worker.
Attended children's mental health community group meeting. Discussed CRM (community resilience model) and if/how this model is used within the agencies represented at the meeting.
Completed an observation in a Sumner classroom. Discussed concerns with classroom staff discussed the tools/strategies currently being used in the room.
Created and presented to Jordan-Elbridge parents - Intro to Conscious Discipline (parent meeting zoom).
Visited the Liverpool site and provided staff with Second Step's new "touching curriculum". Discussed the changes as well as any concerns or questions staff may have regarding the new curriculum.
Webinars Attended: 5 R's to promote self-regulation skills in young children; Transforming education systems through family school collaboration; and Coaching Corner Series: Coaching to Support Children's Emotional and Behavioral Self-Regulation.

Nutrition:

Nutrition Coordinator facilitated a "Got Milk" staff training to address concerns about hydration, fluid requirements, water and milk consumption among EHS/HS children in our program.
Contacted purveyors for kitchen appliances repairs at sites.
Presented Nutrition Service information at a Family Worker meeting.
Traveled to sites to monitor nutrition aided and kitchen activities.
Nutrition Specialist worked with nursing staff and production kitchens to ensure all children with allergies, intolerances, cultural preferences could be accommodated safely.
Developing a standardized list of ingredients that are used in both production kitchens. Working on creating a list of ingredients for parents of children of food allergies to review.
Trained new nutrition staff at Sumner: Nutrition Aide & Nutrition Driver/Aide on HS nutrition guidelines, CACFP guidelines, OCFS guidelines, internal policies and procedures, food safety and sanitation.
Provided resource binder to keep in the kitchen with information and policies/procedures.
Began distributing the HS/EHS Simply Yummy cookbooks to HS/EHS sites. Family workers have started planning parent meetings (via zoom) and activities to engage families. The Onondaga County Health Department also provided us with a limited amount of "Curious Chefs" cooking kits for children; these will be distributed to families who attend the parent meetings and/or are involved with other nutrition related activities.
In September we were feeding approximately 500 HS/EHS children of which 90 required a modified diet. Twenty of those children have documented food allergies.

The Disabilities Coordinator took part in several CPSE meetings in an effort to support children with disabilities in our program. It is helpful to hear about the evaluation results of children in order to better help staff support the children in the classroom. In addition, it can be helpful to try and find related service providers that may already be in specific classrooms or centers that could possibly pick up more children.

Attended the Preschool Coalition of Young children with Special Needs meeting this month. Discussion about the shortage of itinerant providers as well as special education placements in our region. This typically does not occur until March and it is already starting in November.

[illegible]

Currently have five family worker openings.

