

Head Start/Early Head Start Board Report August 2022

General:

Head Start Summer sessions at Sumner, Merrick and James Street have ended as of August 15.

Staff Trainings included:

8/24 Ron Shuali, M.Ed. – The Empowered Educator, 3 Success Secrets to Terrific Teaching and Behavior Mastery: Take Your Power Back

8/30 Jamie Colucci - Sexual Harassment; Robert Davis - IT Information; Kimberly Barone and Tammi Hatch - Policies and Procedures; Matt Eaton – Financial Planning and Tammi Hatch, Antoinette Parkhurst, Karen Morano, Judith Parkin, Christina Lear, Marie Budd, Ryan Leach, Kara Cutrone, Elizabeth Passarello – Stop the Bleed.

9/1 Megan Ryan Kelly, LMHC - Early Childhood Trauma; Christine Scott and Jacki Evans - Parent Engagement / Non Federal Share;

Dawn Engel - Disabilities: The CPSE Process and Understanding an IEP; Tammi Hatch - Green Runny Nose, Cold, Allergy vs. Flu vs. COVID and Kimberly Barone – Who's Who / Organizational Chart.

9/6 All Head Start / Early Head Start staff enjoyed a team building day at the Spinning Wheel.

In July three and in August four staff members testing positive for COVID.

Staff spent much time completing collection of data for the PIR which was due August 31.

Education:

Two Child Development Coaches continued helping the short-staffed home base program by visiting three children weekly; observing these children's skills and knowledge for assessment/individualization purposes and entering notes in My Head Start documenting the visits. The program year ended this month so the coaches met with the site and/or home visitor that will be serving these children for the next program year. To ease the transition, important information such as where the children are developmentally and knowledge and skills that had worked on throughout the year were shared with the applicable staff.

Head Start Program Performance Standards indicate programs should review their curricula and assessment tools periodically to ensure they still meet the needs of the program. One of the coaches reviewed other assessment tools not used by our program and then compared them to our current child outcomes assessment tool, Teaching Strategies Gold (TSG). A preliminary report was drafted based on the comparisons indicating the coach's findings indicate TSG is still justified as the best assessment tool for our program currently. A similar process was carried out for reviewing our curricula. Comparison reports have been completed for The Creative Curriculum for Preschool; The Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers & Twos; Parents as Teachers Foundational 2 Curriculum: 3 Years Through Kindergarten; and Parents as Teachers Foundational Curriculum: Prenatal to 3. The reports have been shared with applicable staff and will be shared with community representative(s) and parents who volunteer to review them.

Met with the Director of Atonement and our Partnership Coordinator. Coach received an updated staff list. The coach provided hard copies of the home visits form, due dates, case notes, and 45/60/90 day cheat

sheet. A plan was made to meet with staff in the beginning of September to give refreshers about the expectations (for staff that have been there) and more in depth training for the new staff.

Met with teachers chosen to be Practice-based Coaching coachees for the new program year and explained the Practice Based Coaching model. Continued coaching 2 EHS teachers weekly including weekly observation and reflection. When the EHS program year ended, met with the teacher who will move out of the coaching program to wrap things up and to let her know how I would continue to support her next year.

Webinar 8-18-22 – What does it Really Mean to be Trauma Informed? – Teaching Strategies

Completed CLASS (Classroom Assessment Scoring System) 2nd Edition Pre-K – 3rd Observation Transition Support Course – Teachstone

Completed CLASS (Classroom Assessment Scoring System) Observation Support: DLL (Dual Language Learners) - Teachstone

Home-Base

Home Based visits 70- Program ended August 12th

Home visitors attended Motivational Interviewing training with Jonnae Tillman. Important take away from the training is motivating and empower folks to take steps to change they would like to see. Listing pros and cons, scale on how much they want to change. List of questions for help folks to decide how to make the desire changes.

Home visitors were able to attend in-person or virtually Parents as Teachers International Conference in Denver, Co. We have been using this curriculum for 4 years and from the feedback from Home Visitors, they received good information and gain connections with other agencies using the curriculum.

Workshops – Block Play-Strong Play- how blocks are universally for every stage of development;

Dance, Music, Science – art changes brain cells, neuroscience-ECH brain development; Words Matter from inclusion to belonging-Steps needed, being invite to the party, being asked to dance and feeling free to dance; Your baby's Amazing Brain; Pathological Demand Avoidance: A profile on Autism – outline the characteristics, types of demands to remain in control and methods to address PDA. Difficult diagnosing autism; Family Enrichment in transitional living settings- a program Oklahoma finds suggest in parent education using PAT (Parents as Teachers). H.V. is interested in partnering with translational living settings here; Suicide Awareness; Beyond the Inventory- learned about risk factors, characteristics of depression; What Does it Mean to be a Father in Today's Age? Papa & Me sessions. Listed staff actions to increase father's involvement. Staff was impress with the information and suggest bringing presenters to PEACE, Inc.; Bridging Mental Health Gap - learning Love Languages. Importance self-care; Maternal/Child Health Nurse is now Safe Crib advocate through PAT conference.

Carrie Daniels & Liessa Rudolph attended Destiny Toddler Tuesday to recruit families for home based.

Health:

Five staff completed the MAT (Medication Administration Training) and 10 staff completed CPR/FA.

Six new staff completed Belay Allergy preparedness training.

Dr. Chaudhary approved Chompers Dental Clinic dates for PEACE location HS sites

Project with Dora Anderson- Senior Education Specialist from the Department of Early Childhood training at SUNY Albany completed at Merrick HS. A video training on food allergies, other special diets, and the procedures our program has to make sure each child receives their special diet. The project is also recognizing how our program has implemented emergency epinephrine stations at all 8 PEACE locations for stocked non-patient specific emergency epinephrine. This project training video will be for OCFS childcare licensors and regulators.

Mental Health:

The program's recently hired Child Behavior Specialist (CBS) began orientation in August. The CBS will focus on enhancing trauma informed practices in our program as well as, support classroom staff and home-based visitors in meeting the needs of children and families who may have experienced trauma. The trauma-informed practices will be based on the Conscious Discipline model – the social-emotional program our Head Start currently uses.

Nutrition:

August 2022: Feeding approximately 118 HS/EHS children in 3 centers: Sumner, Merrick, James St. 25 of those children require a modified diet. 4 of those children have documented food allergies. Allergies include: peanut, tree nuts, strawberries, pineapple. Multiple children require modified diets due to feeding/swallowing issues

Nutrition Coordinator observed EHS/HS children with alerts and feeding concerns or met with staff to evaluate special diet or special medical needs of child participants.

Nutrition Specialist participated in discussion and planning of the allergy training video which took place at Merrick on 8/16 & 8/17.

Filled in for Merrick kitchen Head Cook: August 8th - 31st.

Reviewed documentation for approximately 75+ children starting in September with special diets.

Family and Community:

August HS enrollment was 105 in a seat. This is for HS classes at James St, Sumner, and Merrick, Homebased, Atonement and Cab Horse. EHS enrollment was 112 at 78%

August attendance; HS 65% and EHS 75%. Attendance was dismal for both HS and EHS. I am not sure why we have some kids with 100% attendance and others with 20 %. Reasons varied but there was COVID issues, illness, doctors/WIC appointments, and transportation. There was also a lot of no call/no shows.

We have 6 Family Worker openings, a Data team opening and a Family & Community Service Coordinator opening.

Disabilities:

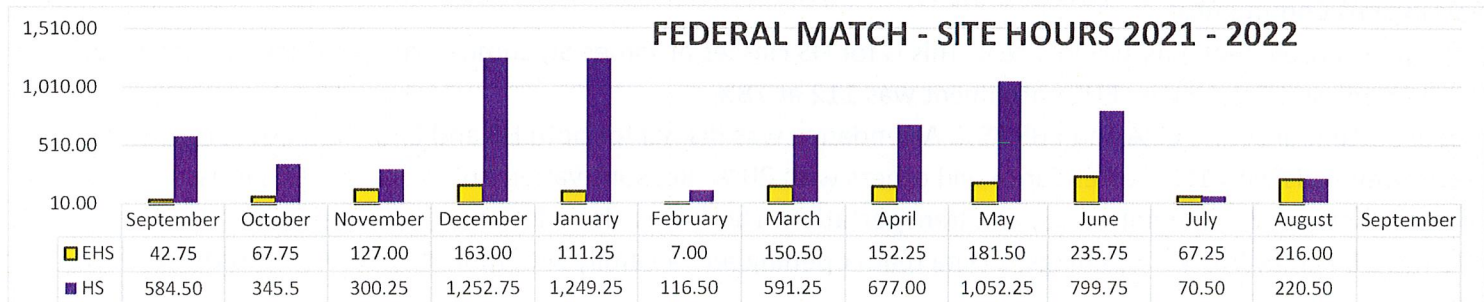
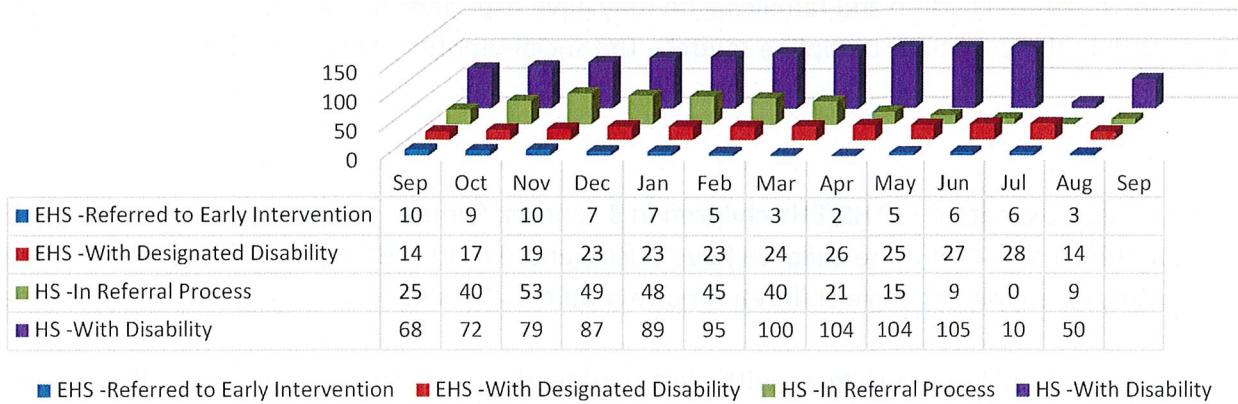
The Disabilities Coordinator worked closely with the intake department this month, ensuring we were accepting children that would be appropriate for our program. She continued to work closely with individual sites and the children who qualified for special class integrated setting (SCIS) that are on waitlists but will be attending our center based program in the meantime.

The Disabilities Coordinator worked closely with the Data Story Teller to finalize her google document to track children with disabilities in our program. The goal moving forward is to use this google document, rather than the old access database.

The Disabilities Coordinator is working to collect as many updated IEP's as she could in an effort to get ahead of things. The goal is work with the sites in the first month or so of school to gather the remaining IEP's that we need.

Children with Disabilities (numbers are cumulative)

note: July and August represents Summer program numbers



Applications / Referrals / On Wait List 2021 - 2022

