



Head Start / Early Head Start Board Report June 2023

General:

- During the month of June, no staff or children had tested positive for COVID.
- The Office of Head Start Focus Area 2 Monitoring Review send their report with the following results which we have 120 days to address:
 - Area of noncompliance was hiring of staff prior to receiving their clearance letter. Meetings have begun to create a correction action plan.
 - Area of concern was staff qualifications and supporting teachers in school readiness.
- We are currently working on presenting our Regional Office with a plan to reduce our numbers of slots due to being unable to open some rooms due to being short staffed and have no qualified applicants.
- Plans being made for pre-service training which will be held when staff returns from layoff.

Education:

- Each year our coaches must renew their certifications in order to maintain their status as a Certified CLASS Observer (CCO). In June, two of our coaches were due for their annual renewal of their certification in the Preschool CLASS. Both prepared for and passed the recertification test. All of our coaches are Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) certified which means they are qualified to reliably observe and measure the quality of classroom interaction. This is important to our program as CLASS is the tool we use to assess teacher-child interactions. The assessment results guide both individual professional development goals as well as, inform the program of broader professional development needs of the education staff in general. This in turns guides topics chosen for training such as pre-service training. Hence having CCOs on our staff plays an integral role in driving quality improvement in areas that matter most to children's development and learning.
- Head Start Program Performance Standards require programs to implement a research-based intensive coaching program as part of its plan to support the professional development of its teachers. The goal is to support effective teaching practices that lead to positive outcomes for children and families. To meet this need our program uses the Practice-Based Coaching model which is carried out by our Coaches. In June, the Coaches wrapped up their Practice Based Coaching (PBC) cycle activities with their Head Start coachees for this school year. In September, the coaches will resume PBC with the teachers chosen to participate in the program.
- June 5th through 9th one of the coaches attended the Learning & Leading with Equity Institute in Dallas, Texas. The Coach reports many significant take-away from the institute including: self-reflection is critical in regards to Equity; Equity consists of race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexuality, socio-economic status, ability/disability, citizenship, religion, health and pay to name a few; and that the Goal of learning about equity and doing something about it is liberation for all. The goal is to share with staff over the coming program year some of the resources she learned about at this institute and then have forum style discussions.
- Webinars which the coaches viewed this month included: Special Education Is a Service, Not a Place – presented by Teaching Strategies; Coaching Emotions: How to Invest Others! – The Bright Morning Podcasts; Disrupting Racism in Coaching Conversations – The Bright Morning – Elena Aguilar; What do you mean by “every conversation is an equity conversation?” – The Bright Morning –Elena Aguilar.

Home-Base

- Home visits total for June 140 and held four socializations with 16 families in attendance. One new baby was born in July.
- Offer Pajama Program on Zoom for families, sharing healthy sleep information and importance of setting a bedtime routine. Participants then receive pajama and a book for their child.
- Home visitors, family advocates, CD/Health Services Mgr. and Onondaga Health Dept. fellowship, Simone Curry attended the first half of Think Health Plus training. This training is through Upstate Psychiatric Dept. to support mom's experiencing perinatal/postnatal depression. The program was developed and used in Pakistan, used by front line care workers. The manual has been adopted in other countries. Peace, Inc. Head Start/Early Head Start Home based program was asked to train by Dr. Seetha Ramanathan, and we will be first to use this model in the United States. We will finish the training in a week in August.
- Home Based runs through the summer and will continue to focus on school readiness for those children attending kindergarten, head start centers and other pre-k programs. Focusing on placements for the fall.

Health:

- Nine staff completed CPR/FA and one new staff member completed the BELAY Training and one new staff is pending completion of course. New staff Belay allergy training ongoing each month.
- Still awaiting news on approval to add Cab Horse as a Chompers Dental Clinic site from NYS.
- Three classes for CPR Certification scheduled for the end of August to accommodate staff returning from break.

Nutrition:

- May 2023 Diet Statistics: PEACE HS/HS feeds approximately 428 HS/EHS children in 8 centers: Sumner, Merrick, James St., Genesee, Liverpool, Baldwinsville, Jordan/Elbridge, LaFayette; as well as weekly or monthly meals for Home Base socializations and Children's Consortium. 99 children require a modified diet. 34 children have documented food allergies to food ingredients that include milk, egg, soy, wheat, peanut, tree nuts, fish, shellfish, sesame, strawberries, pineapple, peaches, oranges, blackberries, cranberries, rice, millet, rye, barley. One child has G6PD deficiency; one child has celiac disease. One child is monitored for blood sugar/ketone imbalance. One entire center requires a substitute for fish due to staff allergy. Two children have 12 or more allergies. One HS child is on a pediatric formula due medical history.
- Nutrition Coordinator- Reviewed Fed Review Conclusions: Strengths/Concerns
- Self-Assessment Monitoring on Performance Standards: Nutrition, Health, Safety, Special Diet Mgt, Support of Families/Parents
- Nutrition Specialist Assisted with nutrition activities and parent functions at various sites throughout the month as well as food activities centered on the same book: "Ice Cream Face."

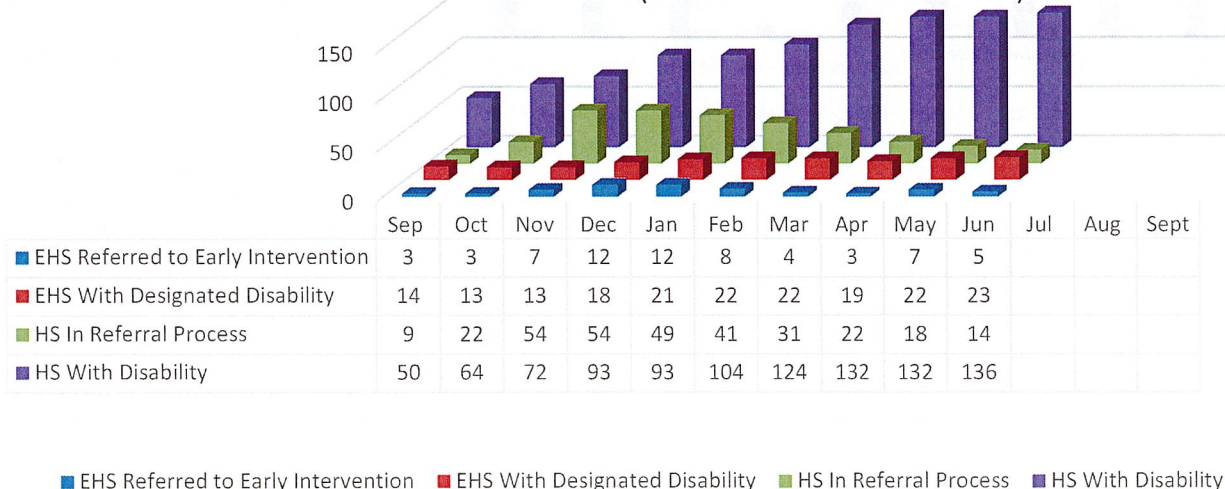
Family & Community:

- June enrollment we have 138 EHS in a seat, with six vacancies within 30 days. Total enrollment was 144 (67%). We have 618 HS in a seat, with two vacancies within 30 days. Total enrollment was 620 (75%).
- June attendance for EHS was 80.93% and HS was 66.76%.
- Distributed Kindergarten transitions packets to elementary schools.
- Utilized interpreter services 21 times for the month.
- Syracuse University family therapy referrals as of June for the school year: 23 families were referred.

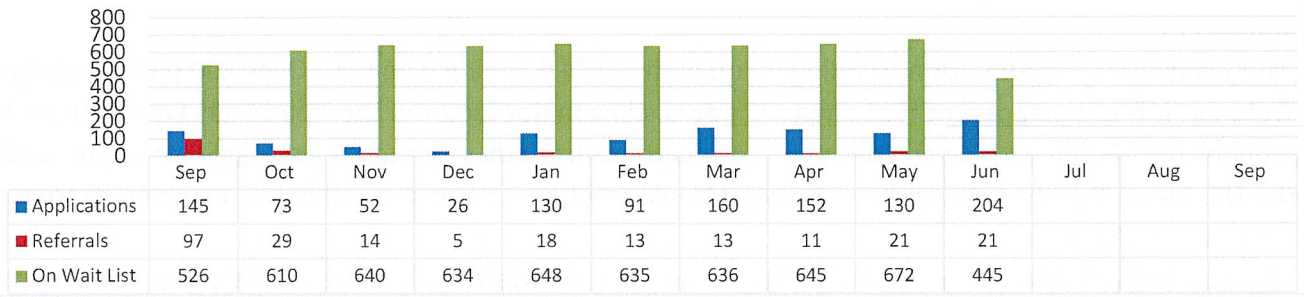
Disabilities:

- The Disabilities Coordinator attended the Learning and Leading with Equity Institute for Head Start in Dallas Texas. It was a wonderful experience and a lot was learned. One true interesting fact learned is that our county is extremely advanced when it comes to including children with disabilities in a typical setting. A documentary "Forget Me Not" was shown in which a family had to go to the Supreme Court to try and have their 3 year old with downs syndrome included with his typical peers. Here in Onondaga County we do not even offer self-contained classrooms for preschoolers with disabilities. Even our highest level of service the Special Class Integrated Setting (SCIS) allows children with disabilities to be in the same classroom with their typical developing peers.
- The Disabilities Coordinator also followed up with a JEDI listening webinar. Over 200 participants were on the webinar. It is quite apparent that equity in pay is still a major factor in the Head Start world. In addition, the high needs of children with disabilities and those with trauma still seem to be a struggle for all Head Starts across the US. Head Start has always been forward thinking when it comes to inclusion; however, more funding needed to make it effective.
- The Disabilities Coordinator continued to attend annual reviews for children to help support children and families around the area of disabilities. This is especially relevant to those children who will be returning with disabilities in the fall. In addition, began reaching out to agencies around services for children and letting them know about possible caseloads that will be at certain sites, so that as they hire new therapists, they can try to assign them to a particular site to pick up a group of children.
- The Disabilities Coordinator met with the Child Behavioral Specialist to create some universal visuals that can be used in all classrooms. The goal for August to reach out to all classrooms and ensure that they have visuals in their classrooms, specifically visuals relating to Conscious Discipline and visual schedules.

Children with Disabilities (numbers are cumulative)



Applications / Referrals / On Wait List 2022 - 2023



FEDERAL MATCH - SITE HOURS 2022-2023

