



## Head Start / Early Head Start Board Report July 2023

### General:

- During the month of July, 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 (10/16/23): Overall, it was a very good review. We received an impressive report from this review which noted that staff has sufficient knowledge, training, experience and competencies to fulfill the roles and responsibilities of their positions as well as having a policy council that is engaged in the direction of the program.
  - 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.
    - Having several meetings to address the above issues and developed a Corrective Action Plan.
- We have presented to our Regional Office our 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.  
(Scheduled trainings August 2, 21, 22, 23, 24, 28 and October 31)
- Most staff will be completing the BELAY training
- Plans being made for the PRT team retreat to review this year's Self-Assessment

### Education:

- Technical assistance provided to Early Head Start classrooms at Merrick. Two of the teaching teams have new children in their classrooms this summer so support given to the teachers answering their questions. Follow-up is planned for these rooms on a regular basis this summer to assess progress and to adjust classroom activities/materials as necessary.
- Coaches met to design a Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) training, which they will present to all Early Head Start and Head Start education staff at August pre-service training. For August. CLASS is the tool our program uses to assess teacher-child interactions and implementation of best practices in our classrooms. It is used to guide professional development for our education staff. The workshop will address what CLASS is, why we use it, what the observation entails, how it is scored, and how it ties into our curriculum and developmentally appropriate practices.
- A math survey being developed by coaches was finalized this month. Teachers will complete the survey during August preservice. The survey is designed to poll teachers regarding their professional development needs specific to implementation of math activities in their classrooms. Coaches will use the survey results to guide training about specific math topics to be offered to education staff.

- Meetings held this month to address a number of child development matters including: identifying the teachers who will be participating in our Practice Based Coaching model in the 2023-2024 school year, Development of the Child Development Calendar was begun this month.
- Webinars and trainings completed amongst the coaches this month included: Belay Food Allergy recertification course; Overview of Child Care and Development Funds (CCDF) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking; (NPRM) – Child Care and Development Funds (CCDF); Primer for Leaders – Touchstone – 5 hours; Building Professional Learning Communities – Teaching Strategies; Look Back, Plan Forward: In Pursuit of Equity - Bright Morning; BabyTalks Series: Fostering Inclusive Play for All Infants and Toddlers – Office of Head Start National Center for Early Childhood Development, Teaching and Learning adjustments to classroom activities/materials made as necessary.

### **Home-Base**

- Completed 101 Home Visits and two socializations with seven families in attendance.
- Home based Supervisor met with Danielle Lamson, Fellowship Coordinator with Onondaga Health Dept. To review Krystal Curry, fellowship intern experience with Mommy Group. Maternal Health Nurse and Krystal Curry attended three community outreach for recruitment. Purpose for recruiting families for HS EHS centers and homebased. They attend Doula for a Queen (Community Doula), One Group Educational Center event for teen and single moms and Sankofa Community Give Back event.
- Home visitors and maternal health nurse has been helping families transition whose children may be attend kindergarten, head start centers or other preschool programs.

### **Health:**

- Fall Lion's Club Clinic dates scheduled for CAP-Cathedral at Pompei -new this year, Genesee, Sumner, Merrick and Liverpool.
- Fall Gebbie hearing Clinic dates Scheduled for Cab Horse and James Street.
- CPR schedule completed for new program year.
- Staff currently on site are completing their recertification of the Belay allergy and anaphylaxis training course. New staff Belay allergy training ongoing each month
- Approval to bring the Mobile Lead testing unit to the PEACE Head Start sites. Planning first Lead Clinic for EHS children at Merrick and Sumner later this month
- Still awaiting news on approval for Cab Horse to be added as a Chompers Dental Clinic site from NYS.
- Chompers schedule has been submitted for fall clinics- awaiting approval from Dentist/Hygienist .

### **Nutrition:**

- July 2023 Diet Statistics: Merrick kitchen feeds approximately 64 EHS children at 2 centers: Sumner and Merrick; as well monthly meals for Home Base socializations. 16 EHS children require a modified diet.
- Nutrition Coordinator- reviewed special diets and infant formulas of incoming EHS children.
- Provided guidance to Atonement on appropriate substitutes for a child with multiple allergies.
- Nutrition Specialist - coordinated food preparation and delivery for classroom activities and socializations.
- Reviewed equipment needs for the new Baldwinsville HS site.
- Reviewed and revised the "Medical Confirmation of Food Allergies, Intolerances, and other Special Dietary Needs" form as well as the "Nutrition Concern" form.

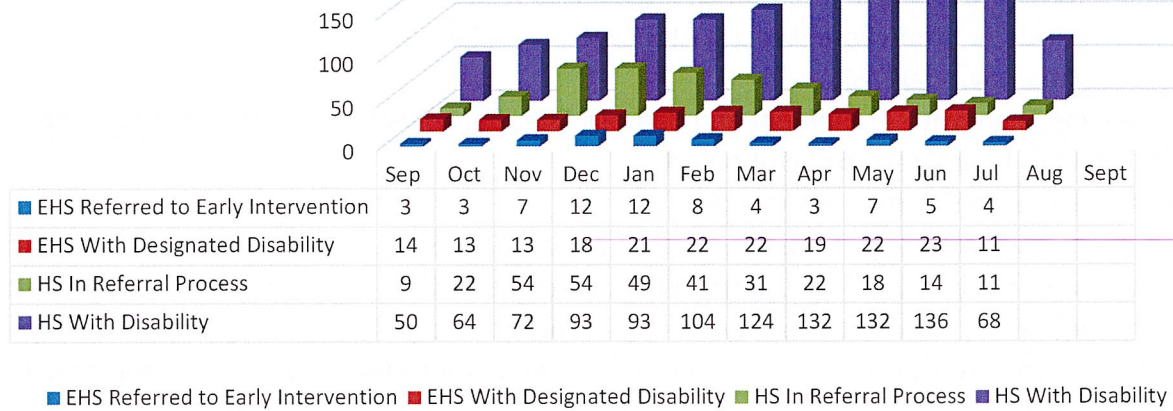
## **Family & Community:**

- July Enrollment for EHS was 145 in a seat, with 6 vacancies within 30 days- total enrollment was 151 (71%). For HS programs include Home Base, Lydia's, Atonement and Cab Horse. Total enrollment was 64 with 50 in a seat- total enrollment was 50 (78%).
- Director's Meeting Zoom with Atonement and Catholic Charities to discuss all content areas, enrollment, upcoming training, changes in program expectations etc.
- Interpreter services used six times this month.
- Fatherhood with PEACE Meetings: Each Monday is a planning meeting. We currently have an intern working with the fatherhood group and she reports to the coordinator every Tuesday/Wednesday and attends the meetings. Every Wednesday the PE/MI Coordinator co-facilitates two groups. Anticipated to have three parents graduating and two parents that facilitated the group. Set up for October 11th at Sumner- to coincide with Fatherhood with Peace
- Webinars - Media's Balance, what's your family's plan. Discussed the 8 priorities in the media plan. ATT and healthychildren.org have a resource to see if your child is ready for a phone. Set limits, talk about safety and appropriate usage. Webinar "Decoding "Natural" Herbal Remedies for kids". Natural is not a guarantee, no regulation, aromatherapy is best for essential oils, cough remedies, nausea remedies, melatonin use; Center for Grade Level Reading Documentary: The Right to Read. NAACP working for a reading curriculum that is supported by research, ditch old curriculums that do not work. Text/curriculum book companies make \$, not help children read, let's change that; Webinar from Healthychildren.org. "The Power of Play: How Fun and Games Help Children Thrive." Play has an enormous importance, open-ended, guided, keep play joyful, everyday activities as play, simple toys are best, limit screen time. Stress buster for all, attention spans develop, learn about the child, connect and interact; Webinar from 2nd Step, "Helping Children Feel Safe, Supported, and Ready to Learn with Trauma-Sensitive Practices". Committee for Children, mentalhealth.gov provides mental health information and service referrals. Went over Community ACES, Trauma sensitive practices. Hotchocolatetalk.org is another resource.

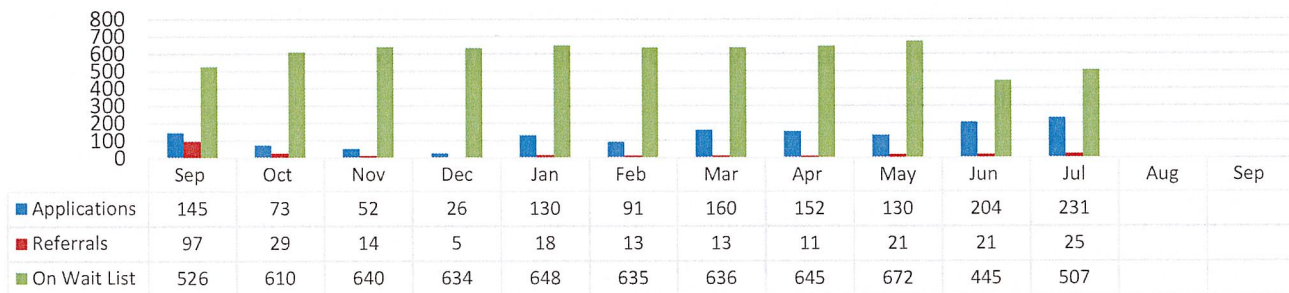
## **Disabilities:**

- As a result of the Belay training, the Disabilities Coordinator has added a page in the Itinerant Provider Handbook that lets providers know about our placemats that we use in the classroom around children's allergies.
- Attended a webinar as part of the Baby Talks Webinar Series. This webinar focused on individualizing and modifying play to allow all children to access all play materials. The term being used now regarding accommodating children with disabilities is UDL Universally Designed Learning. This is more of an inclusive term to include all learners despite abilities.
- Worked with the Behavioral Specialists in creating visuals to print and make available to all classrooms in August. It is important to start off the program year correctly, with all classrooms having a visual schedule for example to create expectations and consistency from the beginning.
- The Disabilities Coordinator attended a director's meeting for Catholic Charities. It is always important and crucial for our collaborations to understand and know about all of our comprehensive services.

### Children with Disabilities (numbers are cumulative)



### Applications / Referrals / On Wait List 2022 - 2023



### FEDERAL MATCH - SITE HOURS 2022-2023

