



Head Start / Early Head Start Board Report September 2023

General:

- During the month of September 11 staff; 5 children and 1 foster grandparent tested positive for COVID. In August, two staff and no children had tested positive for COVID.
- Many staff are working on updating our reapplication, which is due November 1, 2023.
- The PRT team is currently working on the Self-Assessment and Community Assessment Plan.

Education:

- During the month of September when we began a new school year, Early Childhood Specialists (formerly referred to as Child Development Coaches) were engaged in many activities that support education staff in establishing positive learning environments for our program children. One of the essential building blocks in this foundation is implementation of the Conscious Discipline (CD) philosophy in our classrooms. Early Childhood Specialists (ECS) along with the Child Behavior Specialist and Disabilities Coordinator visited all of the classrooms in both Head Start and Early Head Start to support teachers' efforts in creating a classroom family, a key feature of CD rooted in the principles of social emotional learning (SEL). The SEL process helps children learn self-awareness, self-control and interpersonal skills that are vital for success in school and later on for success in work and life.
- In addition to supporting implementation of CD in the classrooms, in September ECSs began implementation of the Practice Based Coaching Model (PBC) coaching cycle with the teachers assigned as coachees for this program year. This included conducting weekly observations in the coachees' classrooms as well as, spending time reflecting with the teacher. These reflection times offer the coaches an opportunity to discuss their observations with the coachees; set teaching practice goals; provide information/ resources; and engage in problem solving discussion and other actions that will support implementation of best teaching practices. The PBC model focuses on intensive individual teacher professional development. However, we assessed that coaching support for classroom teams is also a need in our program. Therefore, this program year, one of our ECSs will focus on providing a coaching model to teaching teams. Many of the principles of PBC will be brought to this model including classroom observations; reflection times; setting best practice goals in collaboration with the teaching team; role modeling, and providing resources. Meetings were held with several Site Supervisors to explain the new role of the ECS and to discuss how this technical support approach of coaching classroom teaching teams will support classroom implementation of best teaching practices. The ECS has created a form that Site Supervisors may complete to request this team coaching approach for a specific classroom at their site.
- During September, ECSs participated in or completed the following professional development activities. 1 ECS completed the Toddler Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS®) recertification process. This means she is qualified to reliably observe and measure the quality of classroom interaction in our toddler classrooms. The assessment results guide both individual professional development goals as well as, identifies broader professional development needs of the education staff in general.
- Another ECS is taking part in an on-going 6-week webinar series in Building Your Bounce presented by the Devereux Center for Resilient Children. Building Your Bounce focuses on the importance of taking care of and promoting the social emotional health of the caregivers of children

- ECSs also engaged in the following activities during September: Updated School Readiness Goals 2023; Updated the child development section of the Training and Technical Assistance Plan 2023; Updated the child development section of the Continuation Grant Application; Prepared for CLASS Observations; Assembled Creative Curriculum Study bins for use in toddler classrooms.

Home-Base

- Conducted 92 home visits for September and one socialization that 4 families attended and we completed health screenings during this socialization.
- 6 Pregnant moms home the Maternal/Child Health Nurse caseload
- Home visitors started doing final registration paperwork with families and started health screenings and 45 day requirements.
- Simone Curry, Onondaga County Health Fellowship Intern, participated with the Diaper Walk, to connect with other programs.
- Maternal Health Nurse, Simone Curry met with Family Workers and Site Supervisor to talk about home based and the Mommy Wellness Group to promote and answer any questions. This is to recruit both for home based and the Mommy Wellness Group.

Health:

- 269 Children attended Lion's Club from Sumner; Merrick; Genesee; Liverpool; Cab Horse and Our Lady of Pompei.
- 72 Children attended Gebbie Hearing Clinic from Liverpool; James Street and LaFayette.
- Still awaiting news on approval for Cab Horse to be added as a Chompers Dental Clinic site from NYS.
- New staff Belay allergy training ongoing each month
- MAT class scheduled for 10/6; CPR class scheduled for 10/20 and Cavity Free Kids HS training scheduled for 10/31.
- Health Services Advisory Committee Meeting scheduled for 10/27

Nutrition:

- September 2023 Diet Statistics: Pickard kitchen and Merrick kitchen feed approximately 552 HS/EHS children at 8 centers: Merrick, Sumner, Liverpool, Genesee, James St., LaFayette, Baldwinsville, and Jordan/Elbridge; as well monthly meals for Home Base socializations. 106 HS/EHS children require a modified diet due to allergies, intolerances, and/or cultural preferences. 30 of those children have diagnosed food allergies; many of them having more than one allergy. One child has up to 12 food allergies
- Nutrition Coordinator participated in daily meetings, conversations, communication with nurses and Health Service coordinators to address special diet concerns.
- Food Service Coordinator worked with maintenance staff to coordinate coolers and freezers being moved out of Merrick kitchen. Assembled and installed all shelving for walk-in cooler and freezer. 1 refrigerator and 5 freezers still need to be moved out of Merrick gym. Have possible locations for 3 of the units; working with maintenance to determine where others can go.
- Completed ServSafe Food Manager 6 hour online course; will complete 2 hour exam on 10/31/23. This certification is good for 5 years.

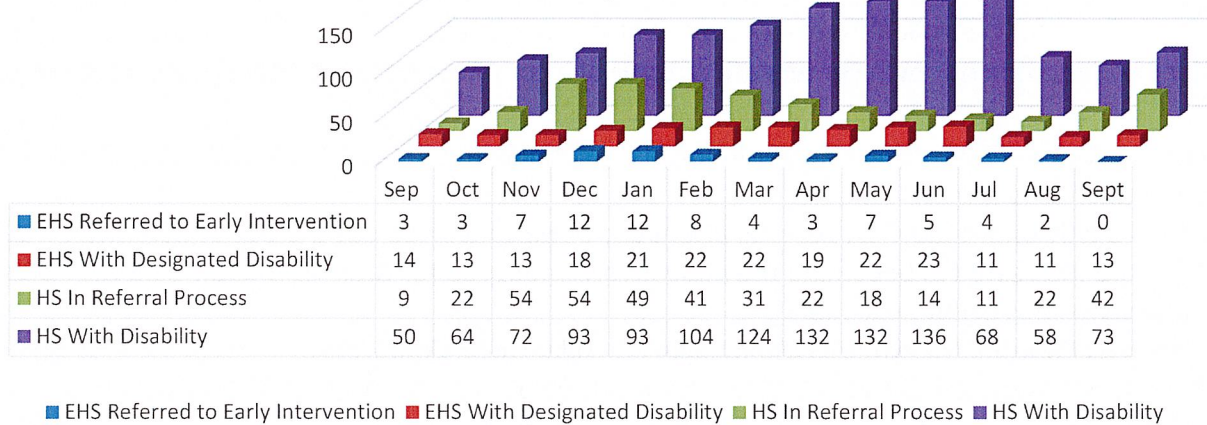
Family & Community:

- Enrollment for September EHS had 153 in a seat, with 0 vacancies within 30 days. Total enrollment is 153 (71%). Head Start had 610 in a seat, with 3 vacancies within 30 days. Total enrollment is 613 (74%). SCSD and Catholic Charities are not fully enrolled themselves yet which is contributing to are under enrollment in those locations. Under enrollment in our own centers are a result of a combination of lack of children and staffing shortages.
- Fatherhood with PEACE Meetings: Each Monday is a planning meeting. We currently have an intern working with the fatherhood group.
- 9.15.23 Dad's only orientation- 24 parents attended, 14 parents filled out the evaluation after, 7 out of 14 dads said they are interested in becoming the male involvement rep for their sites and 7 said they'd be likely to want to help plan for this event next year.
- Family Services Coordinator attended Stand against Child Abuse Conference.
- Transition Coordinator reviewed the files at Elmcrest, Lydia's, and Atonement.
- Attended the McMahon Ryan Child Abuse Training. Obtained resource handouts to share with Family Workers. Keynote speaker Carlotta Taylor's book is "No More Flinching" and she stated that flinching is 1 of the top 8 examples/symptoms of abuse, we can have McMahon Ryan train our staff in mandated reporting on a deeper level, and McMahon Ryan has many resources at their center. Really enjoyed the last session with author Laura Jack, her book is "The Compassion Code".
- Three staff enrolled in FDC program (Family Development Credential).
- Viewed trainings: Staff Orientation and Onboarding; Improving Staff Wellness and Job Satisfaction; and Head Start ERSEA Boot Camp (2 days)

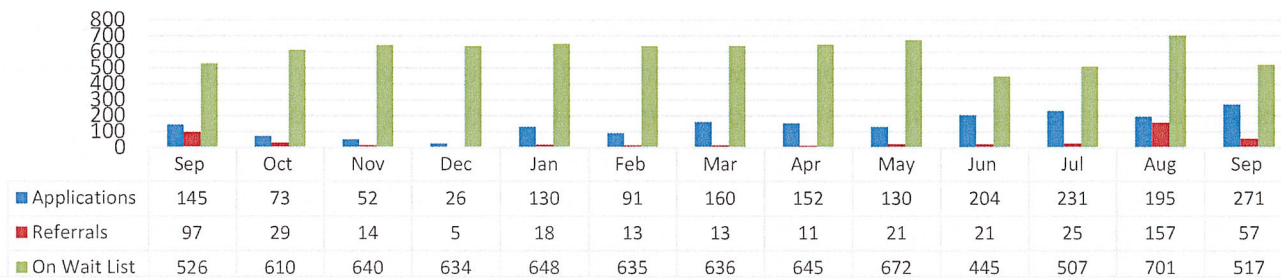
Disabilities:

- The Disabilities Coordinator continued to work with the Behavioral Specialist on delivering and meeting with staff regarding visuals for the classrooms. It was beneficial to meet individually with classrooms to see where they were at in the understanding how visuals are to be utilized in the classrooms.
- Worked with Classroom Specialist and the Behavioral Specialist conducted a Training on Individualizing for Preschoolers for the Merrick Head Start Staff on September 28. After observing in many classrooms throughout the various site, the Disabilities Coordinator saw there was a strong need on revisiting individualization and setting clear concise expectations early on from day one, even with the developmentally delayed kids in our program.
- Created a short video demonstrating basic sign language words that teachers could use with all children in their classrooms, especially those with low language. This was created in an effort to assist the many children that the Disabilities Coordinator has observed since the beginning of the program year.

Children with Disabilities (numbers are cumulative)



Applications / Referrals / On Wait List 2022 - 2023



FEDERAL MATCH - SITE HOURS 2022-2023

