



Head Start/Early Head Start Board Report October 2021

General:

Received approval on 9/30/21 from the regional office on the carryover in funding for the next program year for the Operating Budget funding in the amount of \$1,071,054.85 and Training funds for HS \$52,041.39 and EHS \$53,221.15.

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

We entered into a contract to provide services to 7 EHS services with Elmcrest Northside Education Center. 84.53% of our staff (153 out of the current 181 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.

Education:

Coaching for Early Head Start/Head Start has begun for the new program year. Coaches have met with this year's coachees explaining the coaching process and relationship building. Coaching contracts have been signed and short term goals have been made. Our focus is social/emotional development and mental health, talking openly about stressors and ways to address them.

To stay current with CLASS Observations, coaches are required to recertify. This yearly process is to keep our observation skills through a CLASS lens, to within one point in either direction of master codes. This assures quality CLASS observations for teacher's professional development and the coaching program. Two coaches recertified on Preschool CLASS this month.

Coaches are currently taking on various responsibilities in addition to the Coaching Program: Coaches are actively involved with The Wellness Committee. The first action plan was Job Opportunity nights at Sumner and Genesee. Sumner generated an application for food service, and Genesee gained a substitute teacher.

Currently working on a second goal of staff retention. Intend to send out a survey to staff to assist in this goal. Coaches are actively involved in supporting Home Based taking on caseloads. They completed Final Registration paperwork at home visits in COVID safe ways. Zoom socializations are also being done for current and new families. Lastly, using COVID funding, educational materials and activities were ordered in a variety of age levels, 0-18 months, 18-36 months, 3 years, and 4 years old, to make take home bags for children and families in case of a classroom closure due to COVID protocols.

Observation Training for teaching staff to explain the why behind the importance of taking objective vs subjective observations; an informational vs basic observation; and ways to successfully collect observations. Improved observations in TSG will improve the data collected to rate children's' progress on TSG Checkpoints. Home – Base conducted 70 home visits, there isn't any socializations schedule until October.

Attend Talking is Teaching Committee Meeting (the campaign and HB participation with Talk, Read, Sing for families on caseload) and ECA Pregnancy Parenting Committee Meeting (focus on mapping out all services for home visiting in region.)

Three parent educations supported the walk with Diaper Drive campaigned. In October I will begin coaching three parent educators.

Health:

Belay Allergy and Anaphylaxis training -large groups completed -Approximately 220 staff trained/certified

All PEACE Head Start locations are now equipped with Emergency Epinephrine auto-injectors. In the event of anaphylactic emergency for child who is undiagnosed, each site has three (3) different doses of Auvi-q epinephrine to be given based on the child's weight.

Gebbie Hearing Clinic at SU completed hearing screenings on children at: LaFayette and James Street.

Lion's Club vision screening completed at Liverpool and Merrick.

Healthplex dental screening clinics completed at OCC; Atonement; Our Lady of Pompei; Grant Pre-k; Lydia's; Vincent House and Cab Horse.

Two CPR/FA/AED and Stop the Bleed classes scheduled in October.

Two RN's will take the Instructor Medication Administration Training course in Albany- October 19th to 21st.

Belay Allergy and Anaphylaxis training will resume each month as new staff come in. This training will be part of their orientation.

Lion's Club coming up at Sumner and Gebbie Hearing Clinic upcoming at Liverpool and Genesee and the Chompers Dental clinics begin October 12th starting at Merrick.

Mental Health:

Webinars Attended: Prevention over cure: supporting employee mental health and wellness (Make a difference webinars); DASA- Dignity for all students Act training and School violence prevention training.

Completed Conscious Discipline training with newly hired James Street teachers and provided tools/strategies that can be utilized in the classroom.

Visited the Genesee site and observed in a room providing support throughout the morning. Provided suggestions based off of need- spoke to caregivers of individual children to provided support and/or referral services to outside agencies.

Became a member of the wellness committee and discussed next steps within the committee. Committee will present suggestions to the exec team on 10.5.21.

Met with ERSEA Coordinator and Syracuse University MFT department to discuss this year's partnership.

Discussed placement, caseloads and referral services to begin work with identified children and their families.

Nutrition:

Participated in four day CACFP guideline concentrated training.

Discussed child nutrition related concerns such as placement of a child with PKU with site supervisors, intake workers, nurses, parent, etc. (Phenylketonuria). Children with PKU typically have to follow a diet that limits phenylalanine, which is found mostly in foods that contain protein. We were able to accommodate this diet several years ago in Baldwinsville, but it takes a great deal of planning and coordination to ensure the child receives the correct foods. One possibility we are considering is having the parent prepare and bring in all of the child's food. We would assist them with any food items or supplies needed.

Nutrition Specialist and Coordinator assisted with nutrition pre-service training on September 1st. Topics covered included changes to nutrition policies and procedures; Elijah's Law; HS/EHS Cookbook; nutrition activities in the classroom; review of the Try-Me program; connection between nutrition and early childhood development. Showed videos to demonstrate how these should look in the classroom. All classrooms will receive a nutrition binder, this will include nutrition policies/procedures, resources, recipes, food safety, allergy info, cleaning and sanitizing information.

Participated in a meeting with SU professor Maryam Yuhas to discuss results of the sugar-sweetened beverage survey that our HS/EHS families completed in the spring and to talk about what the next steps will be.

Worked with nursing staff and kitchen staff to ensure all children with allergies, intolerances, cultural preferences could be accommodated safely. Communicated with several parents regarding their child's dietary

needs.

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.

Received CACFP Management Professional Certification. This certification requires 8+ years of experience as well as 16 CEU hours in several categories including nutrition; program operations; training and technology; program administration; financial management; management; and civil rights and policy.

Staff Development, Plans for Staff Trainings: Sept. 1st Nutrition & Child Development training for Classroom; Staff, Site Supervisors, Classroom Specialists, Coaches, FW's, HBV's, & Nutrition staff

Updates to nutrition policies / Elijah's Law; Special Diet procedures; Classroom Nutrition/Food Activities - connection to child development; Family Style Dining and Head Start Cookbook - garden fresh, low sodium All HS/EHS Staff - CACFP online training- staff will complete on their own, sent email with links for videos and a quiz in google docs; will combine this training with health (shaken baby & blood borne pathogens). Staff have until September 10th to complete. As of September 22, 121 HS/EHS completed the CACFP quiz.

Statistical Information: September: Feeding approximately 500 HS/EHS children (in 8 centers; some classrooms have not opened yet). 87 of those children require a modified diet (as of 9/26/21) and 19 of those children have documented food allergies; several children have more than one allergy. Allergies include: milk, egg, peanut, tree nuts, soybean, fish, shellfish, sesame, coconut, red dye, blue dye, pineapple, strawberries. 1 entire center (James St. - 2 HS classrooms) requires a substitution for fish due to a child's severe allergy. Two children require modified diets due to feeding/swallowing issues.

Disabilities:

The Disabilities Coordinator assisted with some training of staff at Merrick prior to children starting program. It was great to touch base with staff alongside their new site supervisor to let them know that the Disabilities Coordinator is available to assist with any questions they have regarding children with disabilities, IEP's, referrals etc.

The Disabilities Coordinator has already begun to meet with some staff to review IEP's and discuss some strategies for children with IEP's. In addition, various referrals have already been generated on those children where it is apparent immediately that they are in need of further evaluation.

The Disabilities Coordinator attended the Preschool Coalition of Young Children with Special Needs meeting this month. Similar to our program, it was quite evident that a staffing shortage is prevalent throughout the county as well as an increase in behavior problems in early childhood programs.

The Disabilities Coordinator, along with the Transition Coordinator has sent out the annual LEA agreements to the various school districts in Onondaga County. To date, we have already had 8 returned back to us.

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES													
	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept
HS – with Disability	54	63	66	76	85	85	94	104	109	115	20	55	68
HS – in Referral Process	11	27	40	45	45	44	41	32	33	25	1	20	25
EHS – with Designated Disability	5	4	4	7	10	10	9	11	14	15	16	12	14
EHS – referred to Early Intervention	2	3	5	7	7	6	12	11	9	8	7	9	10

Family and Community:

September enrollment for EHS was 179 (845) and HS was 632 (77.6%).

