



Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director's Report April 2015

General Information

- Finalizing the 1st Annual Home-Based Training Institute “We Heard You Knocking” will be held June 3 in Rochester, NY. This will be an extensive one day training opportunity for Home-Based visitors with workshops designed specifically for them. This event is a collaborative effort between Action for a Better Community, Inc. in Rochester, NY and PEACE Inc. Head Start / Early Head Start

Early Childhood Development

Education

- Education coordinators met with Janette McCord, ECE to discuss Coaching framework, align school readiness, teacher practice, and professional development.
- Completed CLASS Observations at Baldwinsville, Liverpool and Sumner
- FACES Spring Data Collection
- Discussed CLASS, professional development plans, coaching and next program year’s calendar with Child Development Health Services Manager.
- Developed Same Book parent and teacher’s guide.
- Attended NYSAEYC, three day conference, attended workshops including ECERS, Yoga Palooza, Hands on Art, and STEAM.
- Presented to Exec team about continuity of care for infants and toddlers and some of the ideas/concerns and have begun training at UUMC on this.

Health

- Dental Program in process, currently at Sumner. James St. Children being transported for exams. In process of designating James Street HS as a Chompers dental site for next year. .
- Health Coordinator participated in a panel discussion at Lemoyne College about community health nursing on April 19th.
- Health Coordinator attended Regional Health Cluster in Cayuga County on April 30th. Topics included oral health, bed bugs and Health Advisory meetings

Mental Health

- MHC presented aggregate DECA (social emotional assessment) data on the program as a whole and with site detail for the mid-year ratings on children. The total number of children with a “mid” rating was 823. This would be the children that had a “pre” rating earlier in the year and were still in the program at mid-year.
- Attended County Quarterly Planning Session where topic was addressing the needs of veterans in our community. Various personnel from the community shared what services they offer. The question was raised for programs to look at how they ask at intake whether someone has served in the military. Military service qualifies one to be a “vet”, no matter age, nor whether they served in a war zone.
- Attended Touchpoints Reflective Practice session where the trainers reviewed TP guiding principles and assumptions.
- Communicated with site supervisors regarding mistakes found in the DECA system and corrections needed.
- HSAC members met to discuss topic for next meeting with community members. Topic of farm to school grant was chosen.

- Children's MH committee held at Sumner. We discussed becoming a part of the NYS Zero to Three leadership circles as well as the possibility of holding a community conference for professionals that work with children age 0-5.
- 9 alerts to MH this month, 1 postpartum home visit

Disabilities

- The Disabilities Coordinator continues to support the Home-Based program by doing a weekly visit with a child with special needs. She was able to connect with the child's teachers from Liberty Post (her special education program) and shared her thoughts about the child as well as gaining some great ideas to use in the home that will definitely support what they are doing in her special education program with her.
- Attended a CPSE meeting for a high special needs child. The CPSE meeting was very successful and we were able to support mom in understanding that her child will need a different program to meet his needs in the fall. Having a previous case conference on this child where all team members were on the same page in how we were going to proceed with the child and mom proved to be very successful. Communication and planning is key in helping families understand their children's needs and advocate appropriately for their children.
- Entered Head Start disabilities information into PROMIS 12. Although, there may be some minor errors, this is progress since PROMIS 12 is new and the agency is still working on figuring things out as we move forward.
- Attended a case conference/team meeting for a classroom at Sumner. Since they have a new teacher and there have been a lot of changes in the classroom this year, it is always important to meet as a team to support the staff and help everyone communicate and all is on the same page when working with children in the classroom.
- The Disabilities Coordinator spoke with providers in an effort to help the children with special needs in our program. She also advocated for children to get services by working with various agencies and school districts in an effort to stream line caseloads for providers. We had two children at Lafayette from two different school districts that were both having trouble finding a SEIT teacher. The Disabilities Coordinator was able to work with an agency and the two school districts so one SEIT teacher could service both children in one classroom.
- We currently have 124 preschoolers who are designated as a preschooler with a disability and 54 who have been referred to the Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) for an evaluation. We currently have 18 children in EHS who receive early intervention services and three (3) who have been referred.

Nutrition

- Nutrition Coordinator: met with Melissa Hidek to work on a Food to School USDA Grant Program.
- Organized community agencies to attend a Food to School Grant meeting on May 8th.
- Researched quotes and arranged for repairs and equipment replacement for sites.
- Nutrition Program Specialist continued working with staff to implement grant from *Share our Strength's Cooking Matters at the Store*. During the month of April, 15 parents attended grocery store tours and participated in the \$10 grocery store challenge. Family Workers and Home Based
- Visitors are working to recruit families and schedule tours for the month of May.

Family and Community Services

- April enrollment for HS and EHS was 100%
- April attendance for EHS was 86% and for HS was 83.2%. Some of our HS classrooms had very poor attendance; Liverpool 3 AM 70%, Liverpool 4 AM 57%, Merrick 206 AM 75%, and Cab Horse 7 56%. Transportation and illness were the reasons for low attendance.
- Our program received 37 referrals and 154 applications
- New family workers at Merrick and Cab Horse started on April 27th
- F&C Coordinators have been supporting Merrick by helping with Midday and late day and with caseloads with no family workers

- Family workers are completing 3rd home visits and 2nd family assessments
- Same book was ordered for next month

Trainings and Staff Development

- AMHC attended a training in Long Island on Conscious Discipline given by Kim Hughes
- MHC & NC attended TED Talk at SU; “The Self-Organized Team, One of Core Principles”. This presenter talked about how places of employment can increase empowerment, which leads to increased productivity and increased morale. A book he recommended is: “ZAPP! The Lighting of Empowerment. How to Improve Productivity, Quality, & Employee Satisfaction” by Byham & Cox.
- MHC met with HB supervisor to train her on use of the DECA and met with 2 new teachers at Sumner and a TA who had moved into a teaching position and an Atonement teacher to train on the DECA / E-DECA system.
- MHC continues to work with staff and develop tools and strategies given by the conscious discipline curriculum and theories.
- Cavity Free kids training at Healthy Families on 4/9
- PROMIS training on PIR data input for nurses on April 20th
- CPR/FA on April 24th
- Training and support to Family Workers and Home Base Visitors who will be taking families on grocery store tours during the months of May and June.
- Met with Teacher at Manos to review procedure for calibrating food thermometers.
- Nutrition Program Specialist became recertified as CPR/First Aid/AED instructor.
- 4/16 PROMIS training for Children’s Consortium, and on 4/20 for Nurses
- Training for the new family workers on expectations, confidentiality, record keeping, family assessments, and home visits was completed 4/29

