

## General Information

- The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Home-Based Training Institute “We Heard You Knocking” (a collaborative effort between Action for a Better Community, Inc. in Rochester, NY and PEACE Inc. Head Start / Early Head Start) was held June 3 in Rochester, NY. This very successful one day training opportunity was attended by 85 Home-Based visitors throughout Region II.
- Head Start / Early Head Start is holding a Poster Contest in celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Head Start. The winning poster will be copied and hung at all sites.

## Early Childhood Development

### Education

- Education coordinators met to review and update Child Development policy and procedures.
- Completed Toddler CLASS Observations at UUMC and Atonement.
- Education coordinators met with Holly to discuss CLASS, pre-service staff trainings, and UPK updates for next program year.
- Same Book, Parent Guides, and Teacher’s Guide distribution and lesson plan support.
- Completed the Spring CLASS observations.
- Attended a learning community meeting for the Community Foundation

### Health

- Health Advisory meeting on May 27th Topic Farm to School grant.
- Joint meeting of nurses and family workers on May 7th to discuss recruitment
- Participated in webinar offered by the Office of Head Start on interviewing techniques with parents, excellent training video presented.
- Attended the Lemoyne Nursing School National Honor Society induction ceremony.
- In process of reviewing health data in PROMIS for accuracy for upcoming PIR

### Mental Health

- Children’s MH committee held at Sumner. We discussed becoming a Zero to Three Infancy Leadership Circle and members shared pertinent articles with the group.
- 3 RICs, 1 alert to MH this month, 1 postpartum home visit

### Disabilities

- The Disabilities Coordinator watched a webinar sponsored by Head Start on Dual Language Learners and Disabilities. It was reassuring to know that as a program we are already utilizing appropriate strategies and techniques for these children. We currently use a lot of pictures in our program to help all children, and we often individualize for those with special needs as well as those who do not have English as their native language.
- Attended two CPSE meetings this month. One was for an EHS child with many special needs. We were able to help the parent understand that her child would be best in a ½ day special education placement in the fall, rather than full day. It is so wonderful when we are able to help families understand and advocate for their children's needs. The second meeting was for a child who is hearing impaired. After working with this family extensively with the help of Hear2Learn, an agency that has been working closely with her and

who specializes in hearing impairments, we were able to help the family decide what placement would be best for the child in the fall. The parents have decided to send their child to Jowonio in a full day placement for the fall. She will still receive her special education services in the home over the summer. In addition, at this meeting it was recommended to do a physical therapy evaluation on the child which the parents were on board for. Again, when parents are fully engaged, we can always help the families as a whole so much more effectively.

- Spent time in classrooms this month where there were some challenging behaviors occurring. I was able to provide some strategies and support to help the individual children as well as the classroom as a whole.
- Attended the socialization for Children's Consortium. This is always a wonderful opportunity to meet and interact with parents and their children in such a warm and pleasant atmosphere.
- The Disabilities Coordinator attended the Preschool Coalition of Young Children with Special Needs meeting this month. It was at this meeting that the group as a whole discussed the true mission of our group and how we want to proceed in the future in the fall.
- We currently have 134 preschoolers who are designated as a preschooler with a disability and 56 who have been referred to the Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) for an evaluation. We currently have 21 children in EHS who receive early intervention services and 1 who has been referred.

### Nutrition

- Worked on USDA Farm to School 2016 Grant application with Melissa Hidek. Decided that we will prepare a work plan to apply in 2016 for the next grant.
- Facilitated Farm to School grant meeting to engage community reps in planning process.
- Implemented new plan for 'picnic day' and field trips to address health department regulations and food service management issues pertaining to end of year food requests.
  - 6/10, sites will receive end of the year 'picnic' meal for children, and families.
  - Bag lunches will be provided to children and staff only for classroom field trips.
- Nutrition Program Specialist continued working with staff to implement grant from *Share our Strength's Cooking Matters at the Store*. During the month of May, 27 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 June. Nutrition Program Specialist led grocery store tours for families at Jordan/Elbridge, Children's Consortium, and the James St. ESL class.

### Program Operations

- Program Operations meeting was held on 5/21 with Site Supervisors. New OCFS regulations handed out and all revisions were highlighted to begin implementation on 6/1/15. Also discussed was the concern that children are running down hallways at sites ahead of their parents at pick up and drop off times. Next program year, parents will be informed at registration prior to start date that all children must be accompanied by an adult whenever at the center. Supervisors were asked to submit to Associate Director any training topics they think their staff could benefit from so we can begin to plan pre-service training in August.
- Child Development held a mtg. on 5/27 for Site Supervisors. IMIL training was discussed and a few coordinators attended the training to hopefully bring this back to our classrooms next program year. UPK training was discussed and in July, the Associate Director and Child Development Manager will meet with Martha Rodriguez, from the SCSD to discuss training ideas for next program year.
- All sites reported site visits from content area coordinators for the month of May ranging in reason from technical support to CLASS observation, classroom assistance, kitchen assistance, and meetings with mental health and families.
- James Street playground has finally opened for children to use. Wood chips were delivered and spread by maintenance. The new equipment still needs to be installed although children are enjoying the pieces that are currently there.

- Liverpool also has a beautiful new playground and the fence has been installed although a few finishing touches are still needed. Children, staff and parents are delighted.
- OCFS Visits:
  - 5/4/15 – Liverpool – visit to verify hot water issue resolved. No violations.
  - 5/4/15 – Jordan – Unscheduled visit. No violations.
  - 5/7/15 – Merrick – Annual Fire & Safety Ins. Need internal sprinkler system Ins.
  - 5/17/15 – Rockwell – Unscheduled quarterly visit. No violations.
  - 5/20/15 – UUMC – Annual site Ins. Need to change emergency light. Corrected.
- Vacancies:
  - Manos – Teacher Aide
  - Merrick – Teacher Assistant, Nutrition Aide
  - St. Brigid's – Teacher Aide
  - Sumner – Site Supervisor, Classroom Specialist, 2 UPK Teachers, UPK TA, Teacher Aide, 2 staff on disability.
- Transportation:
  - HS Children Transported
 

5/4 – 5/8	367
5/11 – 5/15	366
5/18 – 5/22	366
5/25 – 5/29	367
  - Self-Transports
 

5/4 – 5/5	1 run at Liverpool
5/6 – 5/7	1 run at Merrick
5/18	1 run at Sumner

## Family and Community Services

- For May we did not meet full enrollment in HS (down 6) and EHS (down 2 slots). It is just before the end of the program year and the program did not fill the slots.
- May attendance for HS was 82.56% and was below due to illness and transportation. There were some classrooms that have had some significant attendance issues; Cab Horse room 5 was at 50%, Liverpool room 4- 68%, Merrick room 102- 70% and room 206- AM 67%, OCC PreK1-67%. EHS attendance was 85.55%
- Same book was distributed across the program on 5/6
- 5/20 was the Volunteer Brunch with top volunteers across the program about 35 parents attended
- 5/21 was “MILK” day many of the sites had very good parent turnout and events for parents to participate in
- New EHS Family worker at Merrick started on 5/26

## Trainings and Staff Development

- Both MHCs attended a local NAMI conference; “New Options for Treatment, Research, & Education on Mental Illness in Children”.
- MHC attended Conscious discipline training in Long Island presented by Kim Hughes.
- Attended a Trauma Resilience Model presentation to the monthly MFT meeting.
- MHC attended evening presentation by Dr. Alice Honig; “The Emotional Life of Babies: What We Need to Know to Promote Secure Attachment”.
- Provided staff/supervisors with e-DECA information and tools as well as information on Conscious Discipline and its theories.
- Training and support to Family Workers and Home Based Visitors who will be taking families on grocery store tours during the months of May and June.

- Assessed kitchen staff needs and workflow to consider best practices to achieve goals.