



Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director's Report October 2014

General Information

- The new Liverpool site has progressed. Contractors finished the work at the end of October. Our maintenance staff now have to install door handles, move in all furniture and equipment, install sinks in classrooms to name a few. Once all has been inspected by the Town of Salina and local fire dept., then OCFS can come and do a check to complete the license process

Early Childhood Development

Education

- Attended Education Cluster meeting in Wayne County. Topics included Core Knowledge Literacy Curriculum, CLASS assessments, and new grantee information.
- Assisted FACES Mathematica representative at selected sites, LaFayette and Jordan Elbridge, to obtain parent consents from families to participate in this national survey.
- Met with Director of Grant Development and Transition/Parent Engagement Specialist about the Community Foundation Grant. I am putting together a spreadsheet similar to the one last year. It should be completed by the first week in November so we can request screenings/assessments from local school districts.
- Participated in the Jamesville socialization on October 22.
- Met with CD Manager and Coordinators to put a plan in place for getting out to the sites their CLASS results, create a goal sheet that ties into professional development and plan mini trainings based on any trends we see. Will look for trends from the CLASS data and create mini trainings.
- CLASS observations were performed for the following classrooms: LaFayette, Rockwell, and James Street. Onondaga Community College Preschool 2 and Merrick 108, 102, 201, 202.

Health

- Dental Program in process, currently at Summer.
- Lead testing schedule has been put on hold due to a staff issue at the county. Hopefully will start on 11/12. County continues to provide results from their data base.
- Health Coordinator planning Regional Health Cluster Meeting for 11/6.
- Health Coordinator participated in planning of the Wellness Fair.
- Two Lemoyne nursing students completing nursing clinical hours.

Mental Health

- Attended Wellness fair committee meetings to coordinate the fair
- Helped sites sort out children in DECA system and assign new staff
- Suggested use of DECA forms for classroom support and offered replacement forms for unsafe behavior observations. Offered input on streamlining the alert form.
- Attended SS/CD meeting. Asked SS to let us know new staff that needs DECA assignments.
- Attended Syracuse Healthy Start Postpartum depression committee meeting. PPD screenings are done at OB and PCP offices, but there is a lack of appointments with doctors that will see these mothers and will prescribe if needed. Crouse is designated a "Spirited Woman Hospital" and has committed to doing better at offering MH services. They offer a free support group for families of NICU babies. This is for any parent whose child spent time in the NICU, current or past. It is on the 9th floor, Thursday evenings from 6-7:30, adults only, & dinner provided. There is also a PPD support group soon to start at the Hens & Chicks store in DeWitt.

- HSAC planning meeting. Will allow time for discussion of alcohol/drug usage during pregnancy.
- 1 Postpartum visit

Disabilities

- The Disabilities Coordinator visited classrooms and followed up on alerts. It is helpful to spend time in the classrooms and in addition, follow-up with the classroom team as well as any itinerant providers who may be involved with a specific child that the staff needs support with in the classroom setting. The team approach seems to be very beneficial in helping classrooms as well as the parent and the child in our program.
- Attended two socializations the Liverpool site this month. It is great to get her name and face out there so that parents are aware that there is someone that can help them with it comes to concerns about disabilities.
- Made a conscious effort to contact all families when referring their child for a preschool special education evaluation. In addition, have had many conversations with parents whose children are already receiving services. This has proven to be extremely meaningful and beneficial. The parents overall seem very accepting and grateful for help and support.
- Watched a webinar this month on Hearing Loss and children in EHS. This proved to be very helpful and informative since we currently have a child enrolled at Manos that is hearing impaired.
- We currently have all but 2 of our LEA agreements with the school districts in Onondaga County. We have sent out another copy to those districts who have not yet returned them to us.
- The Disabilities Coordinator met with several parents throughout her travels to the various sites. She has spent significant time this month working with a mom who is blind and her child attends James Street Head Start. The Disabilities Coordinator is trying to help give her ideas to do while she is at the site while her child is in program.
- We currently have 80 children in HS entering as a preschooler with a disability and 44 who are in the referral process and 11 children in EHS who have a designated disability and 1 child that has been referred to early intervention.

Nutrition

- Nutrition Coordinator met with facilities and site staff to assess equipment needs for James and Liverpool sites.
- Accompanied our Syracuse University Intern as she provided nutrition education, interactive food demonstrations, meals and support for Liverpool family socializations.
- Collaborated with REACH and Prevention Partner agency representatives to discuss the community health issue of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome and consider interventions.
- Engaged in observations, conversations and case conferences with coordinators, teachers and site supervisors to address individual infant/child psycho-social nutrition concerns.
- Nutrition Program Specialist participated in Wellness Fair planning meetings throughout October. The Wellness Fair was held on October 31st at Sumner Head Start.
- Met with Nutrition Coordinator and Kathy Dischner (Issue Leader for Cornell Cooperative Extension) to discuss collaboration between Cornell Cooperative Extension and Head Start to provide shopping tours to parents of HS/EHS children. CCE celebrated World Food Day by holding free shopping tours at Price Chopper on Erie Blvd on Oct. 24th. Thirty-two families participated in this event; they received information on purchasing nutritious foods on a budget and received a \$10 gift card.

Family and Community Services

- October enrollment for Head Start was 98% and for Early Head Start was 100%. The program still has vacancies in the HS program for the Liverpool site and Sumner UPK classroom 110. It has been difficult to maintain enrollment due to the late start of both of these areas. The UPK classroom opened late and we lost 4 year olds to other community programs. Most 4 year old children have slots at this time of the year. The intake team is following up with every 4 year old application and referral. We are handing applications to parents to offer to a friend or family member. Community presentations are being scheduled to seek referrals
- October attendance was 88.28% for HS and 87.41% for EHS.
- 10/21 Parent Committee Officer training was offered and 20 parents attended.
- Three sites participated in a Positive Discipline Class; 10/14 Atonement with 10 parents, 10/16 St. Brigid's with 8 parents, and 10/24 at LaFayette with 16 parents.

- 10/21 Parent officer training was conducted by the Parent Engagement Coordinator and Parent/Transition Specialist about 23 parents attended representing Liverpool, MANOS, Merrick, St. Brigid's, Baldwinsville, Jordan, and Rockwell. Trainings for Partnerships, Home based, and James St will be conducted when elections are complete.
- We received 28 referrals, 170 applications, and we have 226 children on the waiting list.
- We are working with Cleverex to develop reports so that reports on in-kind can be run and reported.
- 10/15 Transition Specialist, ERSEA Coordinator, and Child Development Coordinator met to discuss changes to current Transition policy.

Program Development Management

- On 10/10/14 all Site Supervisors attended a parent officer training given by the Family Partnership Specialist. This was beneficial to not only newer supervisors but served as a refresher to all.
- On 10/30/14 Site Supervisors had a program operations meeting attended by Transportation Director who spoke about transportation requests for children as well as field trip requests. She discussed the importance of getting in requests on time, and together the group came up with a better plan to ensure all requests have been received by fax at the garage.
- Many SS are experiencing frustration due to lack of staff and the lengthy hiring process. The shortage of Teacher Assistant applications has had a direct impact on classroom Teachers and other support staff. A meeting will be set up with HR dept., Director and Associate Director to brainstorm solutions.
- The Sumner phones have re-routed all calls to the intake department. An automated system will now transfer calls regarding enrollment directly to intake. This will be helpful to the administrative assistant at Sumner in time management and will allow her to focus more on calls pertaining to the Sumner site.
- The new James Street site opened on 10/14/14. Both classrooms opened although we are still in need of a Teacher Assistant in one classroom.
- The Wellness Fair was held on 10/31/14 and all sites were represented by many staff. All SS attended and encouraged staff to attend.
- OCFS visits:
 - 10/2/14 – Jordan had an unannounced visit. No violations.
 - 10/2/14 – Baldwinsville had an unannounced visit. No violations.
 - 10/21/14 – Rockwell had a scheduled health department inspection. Found an unlabeled bleach spray bottle in kitchen which was corrected on site.
 - 10/8/14 – James St. Visit to issue a license.
- Vacancies:
 - James St. – Teacher Assistant, FT Family Worker
 - Merrick – 1 UPK Teacher, 2 HS Teachers, 1 EHS Teacher, 1 Teacher Assistant & 1 Family Worker.
 - Rockwell – Teacher Assistant & Family Worker.
 - St. Brigid's – Teacher Aide.
 - Sumner – 3 Teacher Assistants, 1 EHS Teacher.
 - UUMC – EHS Teacher
 - Transportation - Administrative Assistant position still open at the garage.
- Children Transported:

10/6 – 10/10	251
10/13 – 10/17	308
10/20 – 10/24	313
10/27 – 10/31	317

Trainings and Staff Development

- Cabhorse received new UPK staff training, Beginning Teacher Series video training, beginning paperwork, Teaching Strategies Gold (TSG), inter-rater reliability training information, and lesson plans.
- Yearly CLASS PreK re-certification process completed to conduct valid and reliable classroom observational assessments.
- CPR/FA education staff 10/3/14 & Maintenance 11/24/14
- Emergency medication training class at Sumner 11/10/14
- Home base visitor meeting 10/6 to follow up on 45 day deadline for screenings and provide support as needed
- 10/9 & 10/23 Family Worker meetings were held the main issues covered were Tonia Thornton from Child Care Solutions presented on services that they offer parents in need of child care and how we can work together and Rollin Mincher presented from the DeFrancisco Center.
- 10/10 Site Supervisors Meeting discussion was about Transition expectations and Parent Engagement
- 10/17 The home based visitors and the staff from the Family Resource Centers held a meeting to make introductions and to re-establish working together to better serve families
- Training was completed with new family workers throughout the month of October. They received training on Parent Engagement, Individual Family Parent Agreement (IFPA), home visits, Family assessment, and general expectations
- Our Data team visited several sites to assist staff with the move to P-12. They helped set up home pages in the classrooms and set up frequently used reports.
- 10/21 The Director and Senior Data Assistant attended ROMA training
- 10/27 Two staff from Children's Consortium was trained on PROMIS
- 10/30 Data Assistant trained with Disability Coordinator on entering disability information in PROMIS 12
- 10/31 New James St Site supervisor was trained on PROMIS
- 10/16 Transition Coordinator, F&C EHS/HS Coordinator, F&C Manager attended the home based cluster meeting that was hosted by our agency
- Parent Engagement Transition Specialist has met with family workers throughout the month to help plan engagement activities
- MHC helped at Community Resilience Model training at Vera House and at a Trauma Resilience Model level 2 training as part of a Train the Trainer track. This method helps children and adults process trauma using a biological method. It also increases exposure of our HS/EHS program and lends to collaboration with other community providers for children and families.
- Both MHCs attended conference at OCC; ADHD: A Comprehensive Examination of the Current Science in Effective Treatments for Children and Families, Identification, & Potential Causes of ADHD Behavior. There were many professionals from across the nation disputing the validity of the ADHD diagnosis. They claimed the symptoms are normal childhood behavior and attributed them to children sitting for long periods of time in and out of school, inadequate amounts of physical activity, poor diets, exposure to trauma, and even rebound effects of medication. Research from the drug companies even has documented them questioning the validity of medications. The movie Generation Rx was shown. Many stimulant medications have suicidal tendencies as a side effect.