

Executive Director's Report May 26, 2016

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Speech and Language Program

May is Better Hearing and Speech Month! This year's theme is "Communication Takes Care." The CAIU's youngest children, ages 3-5 in our Early Intervention program, receive speech and language services to increase their language skills and to expand their speech skills, such as articulation, voice volume and pitch, and fluency.

In addition to the Early Intervention Speech and Language services, the school-age speech and language pathologists provide assessment and intervention for students in our area's public and nonpublic schools, charter schools and cyber charter schools. Therapy focuses on disabilities of language, articulation, voice, fluency and social skills that are present to such a degree that educational performance is affected. Consultation and coaching, specialized assessments, and discipline-specific professional development are some of the services provided to school districts. In addition, we host a network for district speech-language pathologists, which provides a forum to share ideas and inform best practice in the profession.

In conjunction with the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, the School-Age Speech and Language staff is celebrating Better Hearing and Speech Month. Melissa Lyon, a school-age Speech/Language Pathologist at Hill Top Academy, prepared an interactive bulletin board for students with a focus on social language skills.



Additionally, the other Speech/Language Staff assigned to Hill Top Academy (Kimberly Cain, Jodi Rineer, Laura Wanenchak and Alisha Foster), prepared and distributed information to the teaching staff regarding proper use of the voice.

The School-Age Speech and Language staff was challenged by their supervisor to use a wordless book as a therapy tool in place of commercially available materials, apps and computer programs. They chose from

approximately fourteen different wordless books and developed activities and created materials to target specific articulation, language and social skill targets. The activities and associated materials developed for use with the wordless books will be uploaded as a resource for all staff on the departmental wiki.



During the 2015-16 school year, seventeen school-age speech-language pathologists screened 830 students and provided direct services to over 700 students in 64 locations.

The CAIU also provides Audiology services. Audiologists are licensed professionals who evaluate and treat hearing loss. Diane Graybill, the CAIU Audiologist, provides services in the Audiology Program Lab at the CAIU or out in our districts. Services may include assessments, audiometer calibration, FM Listening System evaluations, hearing screening follow-ups and direct and consultative services for students and staff in IU classrooms and school districts.

NEWS

"My Bike" Presentation and Parade Event

Variety-the Children's Charity provides children with disabilities unique programs, experiences, and equipment, so they may live life to the fullest. Specifically, Variety's "My Bike" Program provides adaptive bikes individually customized to eligible children with disabilities. The CAIU hosted Charlie LaVallee, CEO of Variety Pittsburgh, Kelly Lieblein, VP of Highmark Blue Shield, and



Mickey Sgro, AFSCME District 83
Director and Variety Board Member on
May 9th as seventeen children from the
south central Pennsylvania area were
presented with their bikes. We were also
honored to welcome Pedro Rivera,
Secretary of Education, and Cindy
Dunn, Secretary of Natural Resources.
As you can imagine, there was lots of
excitement from both the children and

their families as they rode their bikes for the first in a parade through the Enola office. More information about the "My Bike" program can be found at http://www.varietypittsburgh.org/.



Student Services School-age Contracted Services

- We design and deliver school-age programs and services in collaboration with our member districts/schools in order to meet the needs of the districts and their students. We seek and use feedback from our districts to refine and develop programs and services that meet their needs. There is a Regional Special Education Planning Committee, comprised of district representative superintendents and special education directors. In addition to that group, we regularly reach out to district special education consortia groups as well as individuals to solicit input and feedback.
- In planning for 2016-2017, we review district feedback, identify initiative goals, review our
 program profiles, staffing and caseloads, and create a plan to meet all of those needs. We
 are recommending some shifts and changes in roles and responsibilities of some of our
 consultative and administrative staff so we can provide initiative support to our teachers as
 well as maximize communication and transparency with our districts.
 - Change the internal role of program consultants to coaches in the following initiative areas: curriculum/instruction/assessment, behavior and classroom management, IEP compliance and case management, transition to adult life, and instructional technology



- Maintain one program consultant for our internal, district-based programs
- Maintain the specialized behavior consultants at Hill Top Academy
- Assign a curriculum and a IEP coach to Hill Top Academy and have a curriculum and IEP coach for the district-based classes
- Remaining coaches would be shared across all programs
- Maintain our consultative and direct educational services to school districts
- Add a ten-month, assistant principal at Hill Top Academy
- These changes maintain the amount of staff support for our internal programs and are budget neutral to our rates and tuitions. We have shared and received support and positive feedback from the Regional Special Ed Planning Committee, Superintendents and the Special Ed Advisory Council.

Blind/Visually Impaired Support (BVIS)

 Two CAIU BVIS teachers, Marianne Smith and Mary Daubenspeck, hosted two visitors from France, a teacher of the visually impaired and an occupational therapist. The visitors received a grant to observe teachers of the visually impaired in the USA in order to develop standards for preschool Braille instruction in France. They were particularly interested in The Primary Braille Literacy Program – Pattern Series used by our staff and materials available through the American Printing House for the Blind.

Blind/Visually Impaired Support, Deaf/Hard of Hearing Support: Optimist Olympics 2016

• The 24th Annual York County Optimist Olympics was held on May 13, 2016. Several hundred students, staff and family members from IUs 12, 13 and 15 attended. CAIU had approximately 15 Visually Impaired students, 50 Hearing Impaired Students, and lots of staff and family members attending. The parade of students was led by the York Catholic High School Band. The York Revolution Baseball Mascot 'Downtown' was there to greet students and participate throughout the event. Students from Red Lion Area Football Program, Central York School District Octagon Club Volunteers, and the Optimist International Clubs of York, Adams, Dauphin and Lancaster counties staffed the event. Activities included basketball, scooters, inflatable bowling, soccer and football, kiddie-tunnels, mini-golf, face painting, rope run and Goalball.

Transition

- Project SEARCH held an Open House for Hershey Medical Center department staff to recruit other areas where interns might be assigned. As a result we have increased from 12 departments at the hospital to 20.
- One of our students in the Multiple Disabilities program was accepted into Project SEARCH for the 2016-17 school year.

<u>Autism</u>

- Ms. Bahn's Autism Support class at East Pennsboro Middle School continues to use "The Great iReady Race" to increase motivation, active engagement, and participation in iReady. It has been very successful in supporting time on task with individual skills sessions.
- Ms. Forsythe's Autism Support class at Hershey Middle School continues to work as a team toward increased academic rigor through connections to curriculum standards and grade level vocabulary.

OTPT Program

The last School Age OTPT Networking meeting was held April 19th. Greer Aukstakalnis,
OT, presented on information regarding strategies and approaches in working with students
with Autism Spectrum Disorder in the classroom. The group expressed interest in learning
more about Mindfulness and other self-regulation programs next school year.



Preschool Program

- Spring round of Transition Meetings for children who will be entering Kindergarten was completed with the 24 school districts in early May. This year we had approximately 650 children go through the transition process.
- Preschool Program participated in a "Literacy Night under the Lights" event sponsored by Mechanicsburg School District at Memorial Park in Mechanicsburg. Hands on activities were available for children with a focus on building literacy education in the community for parents and children from birth through Kindergarten.
- Preschool Program continues to reach out to Legislators and Senators to educate them about the work we do and the need for an increase in early intervention funding. Meetings are scheduled at the Capitol on May 25.
- Patti Merrill, Teacher, and Marty Bloser, EPP, at Delbrook completed their Competent Learning Model course of study work and received their CLM Implementer certificate.

Loysville Youth Development Center

- The Transition Office, led by Elena Taylor, organized Mock Interviews that were conducted on May 4th. Interview teams conducted over 40 interviews of students, who were dressed up for the event through donations from Men's Warehouse. Interview teams consisted of staff from OVR and local businesses. One Harrisburg student was offered a position when he gets released! Feedback from the interview teams was very well received by students and the team expressed a desire to return for this event if we hold it again.
- Big Spring High School Honors Psychology class, taught by Mr. Miller, visited and toured the facility on May 11th. They are always well prepared and ask great questions about the services we offer here. This is an annual event for Mr. Miller's class. Great job Big Spring!

Hill Top Academy

- Hill Top Academy high school Emotional Support students participated in Math and Science Day at Hershey Park with other district schools in the area on May 6th.
- Hill Top Academy hosted their second annual Art and Achievement Fair on May 5th. Over 120 students had work samples on display at the Show.
- Ms. Chasteen's HS Emotional Support students will release the trout they began raising in the fall from eggs as part of the *Trout in the Classroom Program* into the Yellow Breaches on May 18th.
- Hill Top Academy has partnered with New Hope Ministries in Mechanicsburg to bring their Power Packs program to the School. Power Packs is a food and nutrition program, where students in need receive food in backpacks on Fridays to take home over the weekend.

Pupil Services/Hospital/ELECT-EFI/Diakon/Blended Learning

- Children's Miracle Network has again allocated over seven thousand dollars for educational services to take place during the summer for the Hershey Medical Children's Oncology unit and the Penn State Rehabilitation Center
- A nine (9) bed wing at Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute (PPI) inpatient is set to open fall 2016. This will require additional teaching staff to cover the students ages 5-11.
- A final agreement was established to allow Hill Top Academy to send students to inpatient at PPI beginning 2016-2017. This means those students with the greatest mental health needs will no longer have to report and wait in the Emergency Department but will be admitted immediately based on the assessment from our mental health team.
- A new program; Capital Area Mental health Program (CAMhP) is being created to serve those students needing additional intensive mental health programming. Districts have been involved in this initiative as they have been asking for additional supports in this area.



 Diakon/CAIU will again be offering summer educational programming to give students support and credits in English and Math. The program is 3 days a week from June 20 – July 27, 2016

NOTIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES

- Attended PASA Women's Caucus Conference in Hershey
- Attended PAIU Government Relations Committee meeting and the monthly PAIU Executive Directors' meeting
- Attended Derry Township SD Board meeting to share an overview of CAIU services
- Met with CAEA Leadership along with Theresa Kinsinger and Alicia McDonald for our quarterly meeting
- Attended the Harrisburg Chief Recovery Officer public meetings regarding the Amended Recovery Plan
- Attended Dauphin County Technical School's Open House for the new Dental Assisting Program
- Attended the annual Buskey event honoring 24 students from our region

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Deaf/Hard of Hearing:** On <u>Thursday, May 26</u> at 7:00 p.m., an awards program will be held at CAIU to recognize the accomplishments of our Deaf/Hard of Hearing students.
- **CAIU graduation** will be held on <u>Tuesday</u>, <u>May 31</u> at 6:30 p.m. at the Enola office. We will be honoring 9 students graduating from CAIU programs.
- **Project SEARCH Graduation** will be held in the Junker Auditorium at the Hershey Medical Center on <u>Tuesday</u>, <u>June 7</u> at 7:00 p.m.
- Early Intervention Family Carnival will be held on <u>Tuesday</u>, <u>June 7</u> from 5:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m. at the Adventure Zone Playground in Mechanicsburg (rain or shine). This is a free event open to families of children involved in Early Intervention or Head Start programs 0-5 years of age in Dauphin, Cumberland, Northern York and Perry Counties. Legislators and Senators will be invited to this event.