

SPECIAL STUDENT SERVICES

Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education

April 2018

Monthly Board Report

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On March 19th, the Beaverton Early Childhood Center Collaborative Problem Solving (CPS) parent group met and continued the work of teaching parents how to use CPS effectively in the home setting.

On March 21st, Beaverton Early Childhood Center had 10 families attend a FACT Oregon presentation on the transition to Kindergarten process for children in special education. Christy Upton, the Beaverton School District special education representative, was on hand to provide district-specific clarifications and answer parent questions. The training was well received and appreciated by the parents in attendance.

The EI/ECSE mission to provide more inclusion opportunities continues. Beaverton Early Childhood Center will be working with Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District and the YMCA of Columbia-Willamette to secure additional community preschool spots for the 2018-2019 school year. The site is excited to have so many community agencies to partner with for inclusion opportunities.

The Bonny Slope Preschool has been up and running since mid-February. Stacy Rager recently had an opportunity to spend a class period observing the morning preschool, and was pleased to share that it is going really well. There are four students with Individual Family Service Plans (IFSP) in the class of 8, and the inclusion supports provided by the staff were observed to be very effective, in spite of the fact that they are all new to teaching and education! The amount of participation by all of the students with IFSPs is impressive, and the teaching staff did a wonderful job of responding to the needs of all of the children. As a result, the children on IFSPs are doing very well, with many meeting or exceeding their goals. We look forward to continuing with this partnership as the district expands to five blended-funding preschools, and are excited that there will have fifty students from the Beaverton site served in local elementary school preschool programs starting in the fall of 2018.

The Washington County licensed staff from the Intensive Preschool Program met last month for their first of three workshops for the school year. The next meeting is coming up later this month and will focus on addressing routines in the classroom to assist the students in building skills that will help them transition into a more least restrictive environment.

Tina Meier-Nowell, EI/ECSE evaluation team coordinator, and Intake Specialist, Kim Meacham, visited two local pediatrics clinics in order to explain more about our program, increase communication, and ways to ensure that EI/ECSE referral staff can get the information required to expedite children getting evaluated or into services via a Physician's Statements.

The Hillsboro Early Childhood Center is working hard to get all the transitioning kindergartners ready for elementary school and making sure they are evaluated with the proper school age eligibility. The site is also changing the themes in the library every month trying to make it a pleasant and happy place for children to come, select a book, and enjoy reading time with their teachers. Finally, the speech language pathologists are conducting some night training sessions for parents to practice skills to help children acquire language and articulation skills.

The SAIL teams from Beaverton Early Childhood Center, Tualatin Early Childhood Center and Hillsboro Early Childhood Center will participate in a workshop on April 13th that will address improving team communication and collaboration and equity.

Community Action Head Start is currently the placement for 176 children on Individual Family Service Plans. The ECSE program will be collaborating with Head Start in the spring to plan for children who will be re-enrolled in Head Start for the 2018-2019 school year.

The Washington County Early Intervention Advisory Council raised \$782.00 through a fundraiser at Papa Pizza in Beaverton. The money will go towards child care to support parent trainings.

On April 4th, Laura Germond, EI/ECSE Administrative Assistant and Elizabeth Friedman, Clatsop Service Center Administrator presented to the Clatsop County Department of Human Services (DHS) Child Welfare team about the EI/ECSE program and referral process. Elizabeth presented to the Self-Sufficiency team last fall. This training is part of our responsibility under our interagency agreement between DHS and NWRESA. They also took the opportunity to share information about the ESD in general, touching on our mission and the various programs and supports we provide across the region to children birth through age 21.

The Clatsop County Community Connections Network (CCN) team continues to meet and serve students. For 20 years, CCN was funded through The Oregon Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Needs through Oregon Health and Sciences University. That funding ended September 2017. In order to sustain this valuable service, the Clatsop superintendents allocated a portion of their county discretionary fund and our Clatsop County Department of Public Health took over coordination of the team. The CCN team meets monthly in support of children with special health needs. Referrals generally come through school nurses but can be made by any school personnel. This year, two children from our EI/ECSE program have been seen at the CCN clinic, helping their families connect with medical and therapy resources in our community as well as the metro area. At the April clinic, they were able to connect the mother of a child in our EI/ECSE program with a primary care physician and several referrals in consideration of her daughter's developmental challenges.

The Seaside School District recently received all necessary approvals to begin site preparation work on their new campus above the tsunami inundation zone. Site work is expected to start when school is out in June. Our Seaside ECSE classroom is located next to the hillside where heavy construction work will be done. EI/ECSE is in the process of determining where the program will be located this summer and possibly beyond until the new campus opens in fall 2020. The EI/ECSE program is thankful the Seaside School District will be providing classroom space at that time within the remodeled elementary school on the new campus.

Eating, playing and sleeping are all daily activities that children with sensory processing challenges may have trouble participating in. Studies suggest as many as 1 in 6 children have their daily routines impacted by difficulty processing sensory information. Julia Mace, EI/ECSE Occupational Therapist for Columbia County is providing training to preschool teachers and caregivers with a presentation titled, ***“Understanding and Supporting Children with Self-Regulation Challenges”***. Her first presentation was held February 28th and was attended by 8 caregivers that included community preschool teachers. A second presentation will be held on March 23, 2018 at the Columbia Service Center in St. Helens.

During a class nature walk with the initial level autism group at Clatskanie ECSE preschool—children worked on: following one step directions of holding hands, stop, go, and staying near an adult. Language that was stimulated included: counting stairs, shadows, colors: green grass, yellow bus, brown rocks and concepts included: wet grass, closed flowers, big and little bus, fast and slow feet.

