

SPECIAL STUDENT SERVICES

Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education

October 2017

Monthly Board Report

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Hillsboro Early Childhood Center had a successful open house on September 28th. Several agencies came and talked to parents about the library services for students with disabilities, the Hillsboro Park and Recreation Services, and Swindells about parenting and other classes for families.

Tualatin Early Childhood Center hosted Back-to-School night on September 26th. Approximately 60 children and family members were in attendance. Several parents commented on how grateful they were for the services provided by the caring professionals at the Tualatin site.

Tualatin Early Childhood Center will be hosting bi-monthly Play Café events throughout this current school year. This event is held for an hour on alternating Friday mornings. These are designed so that parents may enjoy watching their children play in a safe environment while meeting other families. This structure was piloted in the spring with strong parental support for it to continue. The flier for this event has been shared with both Tigard Tualatin and Sherwood School District Family Resource Managers to be extended to families of typically developing children to promote an inclusive environment.

A speech language pathologist at our Beaverton Early Childhood Center initiated a parent support group for families who have children under the age of 3 who have hearing impairments. She has several families on her caseload whose children have been diagnosed with a hearing impairment and the parents have expressed interest in meeting other families dealing with similar experiences. The group met a couple weeks ago for the first time. Five families attended and they connected immediately. They all indicated they would be back and a couple families exchanged contact information.

A speech language pathologist (SLP) at our Hillsboro Early Childhood Center is offering a similar opportunity for the Latino families on her caseload. She is collaborating with Oregon Child Development Coalition (OCDC) to offer parent groups about once a month. The express purpose of the group is to help families connect with each other and help them recognize resources available to them in their community. So far three families are participating consistently, but the SLP is hopeful the group will grow as families learn to trust her and OCDC.

During a recent collaborative meeting with the educational coordinators at OCDC Head Start, the group shared a success story that clearly exemplifies the commitment both ECSE and Head Start exhibit in supporting families with children with special needs. The ECSE specialist relayed a story about a very upset father who was dead set against his son attending a Head Start classroom. He clearly did not trust that his son's needs could be met at Head Start but after talking with the group, he was excited about the opportunities and felt he had been heard. In addition, an administrator from Head start was talking with the father about serving on one of their advisory councils since he was such an effective advocate for his son.

Beaverton Early Childhood Center is hosting a Back to School night on October 17th. This has historically been a well-attended event and the staff is looking forward to seeing many families that evening.

On October 20th, Beaverton Early Childhood Center staff (both EI and ECSE) has been invited to participate in the Tualatin Hills Park Recreation District (THPRD) Pumpkin Hunt at Garden Home Recreation Center. THPRD has created a special one-hour event for children with special needs that has more sensory friendly for those children who struggle to participate in large group or overwhelming activities. Staff are invited to attend to lend support, and the event will be promoted on the sites FaceBook page, email blast, and lobby fliers.

To continue supporting Beaverton School District's preschool goals, Stacy Rager, principal, will attend the *Preschool for All: Investing for Equity* event with Megan Irwin, Administrator for Early Childhood Education

with Beaverton School District. We are especially interested in participating in the working group, whose focus is to move *Preschool for All* from theory to community implementation.

As Tigard Tualatin School District (TTSD) searches for a teacher candidate for the Metzger preschool that will be housed at Beaverton Early Childhood Center, teacher demonstrations will take place in ECSE classrooms. Teachers will conduct a typical circle-time lesson/routine as a part of the interview process using Beaverton Early Childhood Center classrooms. The circle time will live-stream to a separate conference room so that everyone on the interview panel can observe without flooding the classroom with adult observers. The ECSE staff looks forward to helping TTSD find the best teacher for their classroom.

Several members of Tillamook’s EI/ECSE team attended a full-day training by “*Hungry for Love*” author Charles Slaughter, MPH, RD. The Circle of Security Parenting program was sponsored by Year of Wellness (YOW) and Columbia-Pacific Coordinating Care Organization (CCO). The training is designed to teach information and skills to build resilient children as they develop.

Tillamook’s ECSE staff is working with Community Connections Network to provide parents with a multi-disciplinary team to review a student’s strengths and needs. They will develop a care plan in coordination with the family, school and medical staff to support the child both in home and at school.

The Washington County Evaluation Team is gearing up for performing additional evaluations in preparation for the December 1st census. They are offering several full day and evening evaluations totally almost 50.

The Washington County Evaluation Team has determined to work together on a long-term Student Learning and Growth goal to develop their skill in writing routine goals for early intervention students. They will measure their outcomes by tracking student progress and interviewing early intervention providers.

A Hillsboro Early Childhood Center family from the Social Academic Intensive Learning (SAIL) program donated \$1,000.00 to the Northwest Regional Foundation. The program provides intensive interventions for children needing a higher level of one to one instruction. The family has asked the funds be used in Kathy Andre’s early childhood education specialist, classroom

Mary Akin, Columbia County EI/ECSE administrative assistant, represented the NWRESA & EI/ECSE program at the Clatskanie Health & Safety Fair on September 23rd. There was a great turnout; Mary gave away EI/ECSE brochures and early literacy information to parents & books to young children. Over 200 attendees and 39 vendors with approximately 50 different activities were present. Kathye Beck, long-time organizer of the event, commented that vendors declared it to be the best event they have attended this year. They made great connections with prospective clients and enjoyed fantastic networking opportunities, including facilitating a connection for Clatskanie School Elementary to have head-trauma training and access to bicycle helmets.

A mistake was discovered in the data reported last month about numbers of children served in Clatsop County. Corrected data below:

| | August 2017 | August 2016 | August 2015 |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| EI (birth – 3 yrs) | 64 | 56 | 37 |
| ECSE (3 – 5 yrs) | 89 | 95 | 75 |
| Total | 154 | 151 | 112 |

Clatsop Kinder Ready is a group of representatives from early childhood education, school districts and local agencies who meet regularly to strengthen our Preschool to 3rd Grade (P3) alignment. Funding is provided through the Oregon Community Foundation and in-kind donations. One of the subcommittees is working to develop Welcome Baby baskets for newborn children in Clatsop. ECES’ Tiffany Hall is coordinating the effort, which also involves our new ECES, Bree Schmoll and our part-time translator/interpreter, Diane Dieni.

Painting with cars! ECSE teacher, JoLea Ulschmid led a high-interest art activity with the children in her classroom, ages 3 to 4 years. Using color & creativity as a base, they were taught pre-kinder skills such as sharing and collaborating by taking turns with the cars. Through this lesson, children practiced identifying colors, and using fine motor skills, with the end result being a colorful mural for the classroom.

