

Child Advocates of Blair County/Blair County Head Start

Director's Report to Board of Directors

May 22, 2018

Program Information:

- *Evergreen Manors*: The classroom at Evergreen is complete and all of the outside work has been finished. The final project is the addition of some wall cabinets to provide storage space. The children are enjoying being in a classroom of their own.
- *Graystone*: **No updates at this time.**
- *Greenwood Playground*: Sidewalk work is complete and it looks great! We received a quote for completion of the poured rubber surface and for a few new pieces of playground equipment so I am waiting for some final details and a proposed installation date.
- *Wright School Nehemiah Project*: **No updates at this time.**
- Healthy Blair County Coalition (HBCC) Dental Care Work Group: Dental screenings have been scheduled for the end of May at Greenwood. Amanda Lykens, Health & Disabilities Manager, and Brittany Evans, Health & Nutrition Specialist, will be contacting identified parents with detailed information about the screenings. Special dental activities will be available in the classrooms to encourage participation.
- The year will be ending for children and staff between May 31 and June 7, depending on the program option.
- Family Services, Inc. is in the planning process for construction of a new 35 bed shelter for the homeless. It will also include transitional services and housing. I have contacted Lisa Hann to initiate a discussion of how we can become a partner in this venture.

Grants:

- *2017-2022 Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program (HSSAP)*: The grant application is due June 1. An overview of the grant will be provided for review and discussion.
- *Federal Grants*: We are waiting for instructions from the Office of Head Start for submission of the COLA application and to determine the availability of the Omnibus funding. The Management Team met to review program options and center locations for 2018-19 and in the process, determined that we want to explore the possibility of requesting conversion of Head Start slots to Early Head Start slots. I contacted our Regional Specialist to obtain information on the process for making that request.

- *PA PreK Counts:* The PKC Competitive Grant Application was submitted on May 8. We wrote for 5 classrooms of 17 children each for a total of 102 slots at a funding level of \$867,000. If successful, the classrooms will be located in Claysburg-Kimmel Elementary, Williamsburg Elementary, W&J, Spring Cove Elementary and Longer Elementary in Hollidaysburg. Applications are being reviewed with notification scheduled for late June.

Personnel:

- Behavior Resource Specialist is learning our observation system by shadowing Jami Sederes
- Bus driver has begun in Hollidaysburg eliminating the need for self-transport days
- Facilities staff began work on May 14. He will provide cleaning at the Greenwood Center and general maintenance work throughout the program.

On the Radar:

- Regional specialists will be on-site June 12 to provide T&TA related to our child supervision policy and staff training on everyone's role in ensuring no child is left unattended.
- *Website:* The final details for the revision of the BOD and staff sides of the website are nearly complete. Our last phase of the website revitalization will be a Parent Portal. Parents will be given a secure access to information related to the classroom in which their child is enrolled. This will include items such as a classroom calendar, lesson plan and individualized child progress.
- *Parents As Leaders Training:* The advocacy training and Legislative Brunch have been postponed until September/October.
- The Health & Safety Carnival scheduled for May 21 has been canceled due to concerns with vendor availability and staff availability.
- The final DST for the year was convened on Monday, May 14 at 12:30 at the Bavarian Hall. We completed a self-assessment activity that included data analysis and a staff survey. The results are guiding some of our grant requests and will be used in program planning for 2018-19.
- CDE Advisory is scheduled for Thursday, May 24 in Greenwood.

Action Items

- Submission of HSSAP Continuation application