

## Child Advocates of Blair County/Blair County Head Start

Director's Report to the Board of Directors

March 27, 2018

### Program Information:

- *Evergreen Manors:* A ribbon-cutting was completed on March 19 for the new classroom at Evergreen. Children participated by cutting through a crepe paper streamer and then parents, siblings and the Head Start children toured the classroom and enjoyed light refreshments. Some finishing touches in the form of wall cabinets and a panic bar on the entry door will be completed in the next few weeks. Sidewalk and playground improvements will be completed as weather permits. Additional Open Houses are scheduled for Thursday, March 22 3:30-5:00 Evergreen Community and Thursday, April 19 5:00-6:30 for the Community-at-Large.
- *Graystone:* Jeff Long sent a message that he will have the drawings for our classroom ready for review next month.
- *Greenwood Playground:* Weather has delayed the visit from the Beckers representative to review the plans for the playground. He has been in contact with the sidewalk contractor and they have developed a plan of action for coordinating job activities.
- *Greenwood Sidewalk:* The sidewalk repair will resume when weather conditions improve. Final completion plans should be determined this week.
- *Wright School Nehemiah Project:* Dan Hoover, Daryl Sarver and I met with the CEO and the BOD Chairperson for the Nehemiah Project at Wright School on Friday, January 19. We toured the facility and discussed what opportunities might exist for placement of Head Start services in the building. The building could house 6 classrooms but parking is limited and there is no outdoor space for a playground. We continue to talk with the CEO and will explore all potential options. **No updates at this time.**
- Brittany Evans, Health & Disabilities Specialist, and I with John Seely from Empowering Lives Foundation. We provided John with the USDA reimbursement rates and the actual costs encountered through Altoona Area School District for food service. He will determine if he can provide a wider variety of healthy food for our children at the same cost. **No updates at this time.**
- Healthy Blair County Coalition (HBCC) Dental Care Work Group: Amanda Lykens, Health & Disabilities Manager, Brittany Evans, Health & Nutrition Specialist, and I met with Dr. Novak on March 19 and completed plans for initiation of dental screening and ongoing care for Head Start children. Brittany will obtain the number of children without dental screening at each of our locations and we will develop a calendar for completion of the screenings. Dr. Novak will provide the screenings on-site and we will begin with the Greenwood Center in May. Parents will be an integral part of the process and information will be distributed at the beginning of April. This is an exciting opportunity for our program and we look forward to working with Dr. Novak and the UPMC Dental Clinic.

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#### Grants:

- *2017-2022 Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program (HSSAP):* The HSSAP continuation grant application is open for grantees and will close on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Grantees in good standing who are meeting at least 90 % enrollment by March 1, 2018 will be approved for funding at their FY 17-18 level. Upon approval of the state budget, OCDEL will review all requests for additional slots and award expansion funding which will be handled through the budget revision process.
- The Pennsylvania PreK Counts competitive five-year grant process has been announced. A Bidder's Conference was scheduled for March 21 at IU08 but was canceled due to the snow storm. It has been rescheduled for March 28. Mary Lee O'Harrow, PA PKC Director, and I met with representatives of the Hollidaysburg School District to determine their interest in having a PKC classroom in the district. The BOD approved requesting 17 slots with the location to be determined. I also contacted Betsy Baker, Spring Cove Superintendent, and their BOD approved requesting 34 slots to be located in the elementary building. We submitted a Letter of Intent to OCDEL requesting 102 full time slots. This will permit us to continue the classrooms located in Claysburg, W&J and Williamsburg and add the 3 new classrooms.
- *Federal Grants:* **No updates at this time.**

#### Personnel:

- The Behavior Resource Specialist position has been re-advertised and a second round of interviews will be scheduled.
- Advertisements for the part-time bus driver position were posted in the Altoona Mirror and Tyrone Herald as well as Facebook and Indeed. Depending on response, interviews will be scheduled.

#### On the Radar:

- *Website:* We received a quote for revision of the BOD and staff sides of the website. We are clarifying details and will make a decision on next steps.
- *Logo:* The awnings for the Greenwood location were installed last week and bids were requested for a metal roof over the back door entrance and for Classroom 9 entrance to the playground.
- *Parents As Leaders Training:* Our parents, Candace McQuillen, Casey Croft and Rachel Wilt will present their advocacy training for parents of children enrolled in Blair County Head Start at the end of April. In conjunction with the training we will schedule a Legislative Breakfast for area candidates at which time the parents who attended the training will advocate for the importance of high quality early childhood education.

- PHSA is recruiting members for the Board of Directors and have openings for representatives of program staff and parents. Koelle Williams, FCP Supervisor, and Casey Croft, parent, have agreed to apply for a position on the BOD.

**Action Items:**

- Approval for submission of the Pennsylvania PreK Counts Grant requesting 102 full time slots.
- Job descriptions for Transportation & Facilities