



To: David Twa, Contra Costa County Administrator
From: Kathy Gallagher, EHSD Director
Subject: Community Services Monthly Report
Date: February 2016

Camilla Rand, M.S.
Director



I. Good News Update/Accomplishments:

- CSB Director, Camilla Rand, and several managers, site supervisors and teaching staff attended the California Head Start Association's (CHSA) Annual conference the week of February 22, 2016. Participants received updates from CHSA's director and had the opportunity to attend several education workshops and exhibit halls, which provided developmentally appropriate practices, taught critical new skills, broadened one's awareness and disseminated valuable resources that related to children ages zero to five.
- On February 3, Katharine Mason, along with CSB's Mental Health & Disabilities Manager, Ana Araujo, and representatives from First 5, Zero Tolerance for Domestic Violence, and the Health Department attended a workshop in San Francisco to Create Trauma-Informed Communities. Government and community leaders from around California shared strategies and learning around preventing and responding to violence incorporating trauma-informed care. CSB will continue working closely with our local collaborative group to strengthen and expand trauma-informed prevention and intervention in Contra Costa.
- CSB hired two consultants to resume Practice Based Coaching (PBC), a cyclical process for supporting teachers' use of effective teaching practices that lead to positive outcomes for children. PBC will implement the Teacher Learning & Collaborating (TLC) approach, designs to assist teachers in their professional growth and development by enhancing and identifying individual practices and goals, meetings in small and safe peer groups, exchanging positive feedback with each other, and experiencing constructive self-reflection.
- On February 12, CSB participated in the annual and nationally recognized Give Kids a Smile Day promoting oral health care for children. Community Services Bureau collaborated with the Contra Costa Dental Society, six local dentists and fifteen Diablo Valley College (DVC) Dental Program students to provide dental checkups at six sites, to 483 Head Start preschool children. Each child received a visual dental exam and fluoride varnish application. DVC students also provided oral health education to parents, children and staff. A huge thank you to all of CSB's staff who helped make this day successful. A special thank you to the ongoing support of Patricia Conley and the Contra Costa Dental Society, the amazing volunteer dentists and our great dental student partners from DVC! What a successful event!
- Deborah Polk and team from REadingADvantage, Inc. provided an interactive training on February 17, 2016 at CSB's parent Policy Council meeting. The



training focused on the magic of reading for 20 minutes a day and how this correlates with school success. Tips for reading to children at birth through eight years of age were shared. Each participating family received a folder with reading resources and guidance along with a free book to take home and read with their children.

- On Saturday, March 5, John Heath, Executive Director of California Community Action Partnership Association, and Sylmia Britt, Deputy Director of California Department of Community Services and Development, will be training CSB's Economic Opportunity Council on their roles and responsibilities in relation to the Community Action Program and oversight of the Community Services Block Grant funds.
- Comprehensive Services staff and site supervisors are participating in this month's Asthma training provided by Debi Marsee, CSB Comprehensive Services Manager (CSM), at various locations. This training is provided to staff to support their ability to look for the signs/symptoms of children who may have asthma, to learn about documentation that needs to be completed by the child's parent and child's doctor, administration of the medication if applicable, and conducting case managements as needed.

II. Status Updates:

a. Caseloads, workload (all programs)

- Head Start enrollment: 94.44 % *(Enrollment is low due to families taking extended leave during the holidays resulting in drops and a lack of eligible 4 year olds on the wait list)*
- Early Head Start enrollment: 101.04%
- Head Start Average Daily Attendance for December: 82.7% *(The majority of absences are due to child illnesses, i.e., cold, flu, fever, etc.)*
- Early Head Start Average Daily Attendance for December: 87.2% *(The Majority of absences are due to mother and child illnesses, and doctor appointments)*
- Stage 2: 356 families and 570 children
- CAPP: 78 families and 111 children
- In total: 434 families and 681 children
- Incoming transfers from Stage 1: 28 families and 45 children
- LIHEAP: 189 households have been assisted
- Weatherization: 20 units

b. Staffing:

- During the month of January the Bureau conducted filling vacant positions within various classifications. Interviews were conducted and the Bureau hired an Intermediate Clerk-Project, a Clerk Experienced Level, a Teacher –Project, a Site Supervisor II –Project and a Comprehensive Services Assistant Manager-Project.

c. Legal/lawsuits

- N/A

d. Union Issues:

- A Step 2 Grievance has been scheduled with PEU Local 1 on behalf of an employee requesting to be paid for performance in a higher classification. In addition, a former CSB employee withdrew his Appeal from rejection on probation to the Merit Board and his hearing scheduled on March 3, 2016 was canceled.

III. Hot Topics/Concerns/Issues:

- CSB is working closely with Supervisor Gioia's office, Public Health Dept., Public Works, parents and other community organizations to ensure the safety of children and staff at our Brookside facility as environmental health testing resumes on this County property as directed by the State's Water Board. Air Quality tests will be conducted the weekend of March 4 to ensure that no off-gassing from the old gas pipes in the area of leaked into the building.
- The Community Action Program will receive a full review by the state this year, sometime between April and October. New to the review process are a set of 56 organizational standards against which the program will be evaluated. The state has informed agencies that the organizational standard portion of the review will not be conducted on-site, but instead in the form of a desk audit. CSB has submitted its self-assessment of its compliance with these standards and poised to be successful with this audit.

IV. Emerging Issues/New Challenges:

- Several pieces of legislation that will or have impacted CSB have been introduced:
 - Assembly Bill No. 1897 was introduced in the State Assembly last week, if passed it will require CDSS, Community Care Licensing to, in consultation with community stakeholders, adopt regulations on or before January 1, 2018, to develop and implement a birth to five license option for child care centers.. This will alleviate CSB having multiple licenses at our childcare centers where we serve children in differing age groups.
 - Senate Bill No. 277 relates to vaccinations, which was signed by the Governor in 2015 and took effect January 1, 2016. This bill would eliminate the exemption from existing specified immunization requirements for children based upon personal beliefs, but would allow exemption from future immunization requirements deemed appropriate by the State Department of Public Health for either medical reasons or personal beliefs. This bill has no fiscal implication to our department/Bureau.
 - Senate Bill No. 792 relates to Day Care Facilities: Immunizations/Exemptions will take effect on September 1, 2016. This bill would prohibit a person from being employed or volunteering at a

day care center or a family day care home if he or she has not been immunized against influenza, pertussis, and measles. This bill has limited provision of exemptions under certain circumstances. The implications to our department/Bureau is that we will need to ensure that all our employees and childcare center volunteers are immunized and we will maintain documentation of such, as set forth in this bill, in the employee's personnel record. The immunization records of the childcare center volunteers will also be maintained by the Bureau.

- The National Community Action Foundation (NCAF) reports that Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) reauthorization is underway and currently has 85 co-sponsors; a total of 125 co-sponsors are needed (a majority of Republicans) for it to pass. NCAF is conducting hill visits to generate excitement and support, with hopes of getting it passed this year. Reauthorization in the form of H.R. 1655 is positive in that it supports funding at current levels with no cuts and with 90% of the funding placed under local direction. A major concern with H.R. 1655 is that it establishes a preference for private non-profit local agencies as opposed to local governments in future designations of sub-grantees by the state.

cc: Policy Council Chair
Family & Human Services Committee
Maureen Burns Vermette, ACF

