



To: David Twa, Contra Costa County Administrator  
From: Kathy Gallagher, EHSD Director  
Subject: Community Services Monthly Report  
Date: March 2018

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### News /Accomplishments

- On March 7<sup>th</sup>, Maureen Burns-Vermette, Program Specialist, and Sonja LaCaze, Early Childhood Specialist, from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Regional Office visited three (3) of our Richmond Centers: GMIII, Crescent Park and Verde Children's Center before returning to Civic for lunch and our monthly ACF call/onsite visit. They both shared positive feedback about the centers that they visited and commented on how unique each center is.
- In celebration of the 10 years that CSB has collaborated with Bay Area Discovery Museum (BADM), Isabel Renggenathen, Pam Arrington, Ron Pipa and Ambreen Khawaja attended the BADM - Creativity Forum "Raising Brilliant Kids" in San Francisco on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Connection programs such as BADM makes quality, hands-on learning accessible for the community's most vulnerable children such as children from our Brookside, Las Deltas, GMIII and Crescent Park Children's Centers in Richmond. Children and families travel to the museum four (4) times a year and museum staff offer on-site training for the teachers and families at these centers. All of this is of no cost to our families and program.
- The Head Start / Early Head Start Health and Nutrition Services Advisory Committee Meeting was held on March 27<sup>th</sup> at CSB's Administrative Office in Concord. These meetings are held quarterly and provide an opportunity for CSB and community collaborative partners to come together to share resources, discuss health concerns facing our communities and develop strategies/systems to support the community.
- On March 17<sup>th</sup>, CSB teaching staff, administrators and parents joined educators from other programs, state legislators, local elected officials, and members of the community for the 14th Annual Young Children's Issues Forum to converse about the current movement to elevate the quality of Early Care and Education services for all children and promote increased compensation.
- CSB continues to offer Parental Financial Fitness Workshops to Head Start (HS)/Early Head Start (EHS) families. The trainings are co-facilitated by CSB Comprehensive Services Assistant Managers, and are offered to our families in East County at Marsh Creek Children's Center and in West County at the Brookside Children's Center. All families are invited to attend as childcare is provided. Additionally, a Financial Fitness Workshop was also offered to CSB employees. An award ceremony was held on March 8<sup>th</sup> for the twenty- four (24) staff participants who completed the workshop. The participants are looking forward to sharing this valuable information from with the families that they work with.

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- The teaching staff early closure days in April will focus on interactive science activities. Head Start and Early Head Start teaching staff will receive training about a variety of science material and tools that children can use in the classroom. Initially, this training was scheduled in March, but was moved to April to allow all site staff time to complete the Mandated Reporter trainings.
- On February 28<sup>th</sup>, all EHS and HS teaching staff participated in a circle time/movement training presented by Tandem. Teachers learned new strategies, songs, and hands-on activities to support their circle time activities with the children.

**I. Status Updates:**

**a. Caseloads, workload (all programs)**

- o Head Start enrollment: 100.15%
- o Early Head Start enrollment: 100%
- o Early Head Start Child Care Partnership enrollment: 100%
- o Early Head Start Child Care Partnership # 2 enrollment: 62.09% ( 100% to capacity at CSB centers/ adjusted for open rooms & staffing)
- o Head Start Average Daily Attendance: 82.6%
- o Early Head Start Average Daily Attendance: 83.5%
- o Early Head Start Child Care Partnership Attendance: 83.5%
- o Stage 2: 379 families and 607 children
- o CAPP: 145 families and 249 children
  - In total: 524 families and 856 children
  - Incoming transfers from Stage 1: 19 families and 33 children
- o LIHEAP: 244 households have been assisted
- o Weatherization: 17 units

**b. Staffing:**

- o During the month of March, CSB hired a Teacher, Associate Teacher, Business Systems Analyst, and two (2) Assistant Director-Project. Additionally, the bureau continues to recruit permanent and temporary employees within all teaching classifications. Targeted recruitments will be opened to fill two (2) vacant Comprehensive Services Manager and one (1) Comprehensive Services Assistant Manager positions, which became vacant due to upward mobility.
- o CSB continues to struggle with hiring qualified teaching staff, and currently has two vacant classrooms in West County due to the staffing shortage.

**c. Union Issues:**

- o CSB has scheduled a Meet and Confer (M&C) session with PEU, Local 1 to reach an agreement on a temporary contract with Child Care Career (Temp Agency supplying teaching staff). The contract will allow the Bureau to use temporary teaching staff provided by the agency to

ensure adequate teacher-child ratios in the CSB's child care centers as needed.

- The Bureau is working with Labor Relation to schedule a Meet and Confer (M&C) with Local 1 to negotiate wages for CSB employees represented by the Union effective July 1, 2018. Additional M& C sessions with PEU, Local 1 will be scheduled to discuss upcoming program changes that may impact staff working terms and conditions.

## **II. Emerging Issues and Hot Topics:**

- Effective June 30, 2018, the Brookside Children's Center will close for child care and comprehensive support services. Although this has been a difficult decision, the Brookside Children's center has experienced several significant challenges in recent years such as contaminants found in the soil and groundwater as a result of two (2) inactive oil pipelines surrounding the center 4-6 feet underground, the close proximity of two (2) active railroads tracks on either side of the facility resulting in exposure to diesel fuel exhaust, a growing homeless population and an aged facility that requires on-going repairs. CSB has been seeking alternative locations for this center since early 2016 in hopes of moving the location with no disruption to services; however, possibilities for appropriate site relocation have not been successful. CSB is choosing to wait no more in the best interest of the children, while we continue to seek an appropriate relocation site. Due to the timing of the planned closure, no children will lose child care services; all children continuing services in 18-19 program year will be individually case managed and transitioned to a near-by center of their choice. Due to staffing vacancies in multiple West county centers, no staff will lose employment. CSB is working with Local One to ensure staff have options for re-assignment to other West County Centers.
- The 2018 appropriations bill resulted in a 2.2% COLA increase for Head Start and new partnership funding for Early Head Start. We also learned that LIHEAP and Weatherization programs will receive a \$270 million increase.