




To: Monica Nino, Contra Costa County Administrator
From: Kathy Gallagher, EHSD Director
Subject: Community Services Monthly Report
Date: March 2021

News /Accomplishments

- In collaboration with Contra Costa Health Services, 53 teachers from directly operated Centers were able to access COVID vaccine appointments.
- Select Community Services Bureau (CSB) managers, teachers, and Site Supervisors participated in the first of a series of training sessions for the Office of Head Start's sponsored Community of Practice (CoP) in Advancing Equity series. The goal of the sessions are to begin to explore and understand issues of equity, racialized bias, and disparities and the impact on early childhood settings, reflect and share ways that we currently address issues of equity at the personal, professional, and institutional level(s), and learn how the CoP can help support efforts to intentionally embed equity into program policies and practices to create more equitable, culturally and linguistically responsive learning environments for children and families.
- The California Department of Education released a guidance indicating programs will receive a flat-rate one-time stipend payment in the amount of \$525 per child based on November 2020 enrollment. Use of stipend funds are for any allowable expense that would be reimbursable under a contractor's existing child development contract, to address COVID-19 costs or to ensure the programs are able to remain open or re-open. Stipend funds must be expended by June 30, 2022.
- The Economic Opportunity Council (EOC) awarded \$409,049 Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) dollars to 14 subcontractors who will be providing support services to the County's most vulnerable population. All 14 subcontractors are in the early stages of contract negotiations.
- The EOC awarded \$67,668 in CARES Act dollars to three subcontractors to address water debt for low-income Contra Costa residents who are experiencing hardship due to the pandemic.
- CSB and the EOC are preparing to schedule four Virtual Public Hearings throughout Contra Costa County. Feedback gathered from these public hearing will help determine the priority areas for 2022-2023. CSB staff will be providing outreach material including backpacks, blankets, socks, and snacks to the public.
- In collaboration with Diablo Valley College, CSB hosted an informational session for all teaching staff who may be interested in advancing their career with an Associate Teacher permit. The session supported potential participants with how to enroll in fall classes, how the program will look, and tuition and academic support available. This activity aligns with CSB's efforts to Grow Our Own and provide promotional and professional development pathways for teaching staff.
- The Comprehensive Services team surveyed families to determine the level of food security. This data will help us determine how to aid families if in need.


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- CSB will expand its current preschool book sharing program, Tandem, with all of our Infant/Toddler classrooms. The book sharing initiative allows families to take home age-appropriate books in a bag and then return them after reading for another set. Tandem also offers virtual story times for classrooms and families, as well as virtual workshops for families
- The Comprehensive Services Team focused on providing families resources on the California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC) and Young Child Tax Credit (YCTC) to aid them in filing their taxes and accessing these tax credits.

I. Status Updates:

a. Caseloads, workload (all programs)

- Head Start enrollment: 58.3%
- Early Head Start enrollment: 87.5%
- Early Head Start Child Care Partnership enrollment: 73%
- Head Start Average Daily attendance: 78.7%
- Early Head Start Average Daily attendance: 82.8%
- Early Head Start Child Care Partnership attendance: 82.6%
- Stage 2: 403 children
- CAPP: 272 children
 - In total: 675 children
 - Incoming transfers from Stage 1: 23 children
- LIHEAP: 643 households have been assisted
- CARES LIHEAP: 51 households served
- Weatherization: 14 households served

b. Staffing:

- In March, CSB hired an Administrative Services Assistant III, two Associate Teachers, one Master Teacher-Project, three Teacher Assistant Trainees, one Child Nutrition Transporter, and filled several Student Interns II and clerical support vacancies. The Bureau also processed temporary upgrades and extensions. For all other vacancies, the Bureau is working through the established process to fill vacancies permanently or by TU with support from EHSD Personnel and HR.

c. Union:

- One Grievance – Working with Labor on an Step 3 Grievance

II. Emerging Issues and Hot Topics:

- There are no emerging issues and hot topics to report.

cc: Policy Council Chair, Jasmine Cisneros
Administration for Children and Families
Program Specialist, Chris Pflaumer