

April 6, 2018

March Highlights

District 89 presentation

Beth Obremski (OT) and Mo Wahlman (D89 SLP) gave a speech/OT presentation to the preschool teachers and preschool aides. The topics were self regulation, sensory processing, verbal behavior, making requests and the importance of going through the different levels of play. They discussed the developmental pyramid and the importance of a solid foundation in the sensory systems and sensory motor development, behavioral responses associated with difficulties in sensory processing, and connecting the "why?" with the supports and strategies we ask them to follow through with each day.



IL Teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Conference



Melinda Smith's presentation "Developing Auditory and Discrimination Skills in a Fun and Engaging Way" was well attended and provided a wealth of information. Melinda provided specific strategies on auditory development and discrimination skills as well as information about how to track and measure data to the group.

IL Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired



Christina Mora and Lauren Witt presented a workshop entitled "What I Wish I Knew – A First Year Teacher's Experience." This workshop included tips and tricks that they have learned in their first and second years as vision itinerant teachers. The role of an itinerant teacher is often different than that of a classroom teacher and they discussed supports needed for itinerants as well as resources they've found that have made things go smoothly.

D41 Paraprofessional Training

Barb Layer and Wendy Barickman presented in District 41 on Friday March 23rd. This workshop was the 2nd in a 3 part training for paraprofessionals. During these workshops, Barb and Wendy present best practice strategies as well as the research behind them. Their goal is for the paraprofessionals to not

only understand how to increase their effectiveness in working with students but to also have them learn and understand why they are asked to apply specific strategies for each student.

Administrative Assistant Meeting

CASE hosted its semi-annual administrative assistant luncheon. All Student Services administrative assistants were invited to discuss common issues and share information. The meeting covered topics such as transportation for next year as well as ESY, My Service Tracker reports and referral forms, grant fund expenditures, ISTAR, Personnel reporting and transition process between elementary districts and D87 and ESY. All CASE districts attended.

Wellness Committee

As part of EBC, CASE has an opportunity to participate in a 3 Tiered Wellness Program. Our Wellness Screenings were held March 2nd and March 19th and we have reached over 75% of our eligible staff. CASE has been working hard to achieve the 2nd Tier of the program by implementing three Wellness Weeks to promote overall staff health. Participation in our first week was great! We are looking forward to our next Wellness Week April 16th-20th.

NIRT Business Meeting

The March 15th NIRT meeting began with a conference call with Tim Imler and Robert Wolfe of ISBE. This call was to get the input from cooperative business managers regarding the Part 130 proposed changes. Basically, the proposed change involves maintaining the \$9,000 (certified staff) and \$3,500 (non-certified staff) reimbursement levels on the ISBE Program Tuition Sheet 50-66A, even though districts and cooperatives no longer receive Special Education Personnel Reimbursement, as this allocation was rolled into the General State Aid calculations. This is, in practice, not a change but rather a clarification and continuation of past practice. We will discuss this at our next Business Manager's meeting.

Psychologist/Social Worker Learning Team

Dr. Patrick McGrath from Amita Health attended the meeting and talked with the group about anxiety, school refusal and anxiety. This interactive conversation included discussions about various scenarios that arise in school settings, attendance and early intervention systems and parent meetings. The group also discussed how to best work with anxious students and their parents and how to work within societal systems that send "average is not good enough" messages to them.

CASE Technology Update

Jeff Zimmerman has been hard at work on diverse projects, including bringing tech training to CASE staff directly in their fields and producing training videos on topics such as security awareness, phishing, and Microsoft Excel and OneNote. He has been helping CASE to fully leverage its investment in new systems such as Frontline AppliTrack, Dynamics CRM, Wordpress, and Jamf Mobile Device Management. Jeff is working with SolidState to upgrade our server infrastructure in preparation for Windows 10, and he is working to improve security and privacy protection through full disk encryption and iPad management.

Hot Topics in Special Education (Legal Update)

On March 21, 2018, CASE hosted “Hot Topics in School Law/Student Issues Roundtable” with Teri Engler, partner at Engler, Callaway, Baasten & Sraga, LLC. Participants were able to ask questions and engage in discussions on current issues. Topics discussed included child find and the MTSS process, addressing general exclusionary factors, bullying as related to special education, the important role of the general education teacher at IEP meetings, 504, and addressing accommodations.

Maintenance of Effort

CASE and its member districts are in great shape for Maintenance of Effort this year. Six of the seven districts met MOE on the preliminary calculations. The district that has not yet met MOE has a very small shortfall of \$14,020. We are very confident this will be easily met with exceptions.