

March 9, 2018

December/January/February Highlights

CASE/ICEC Collaboration

Mary and Cindy met with Sherie Huber who is the incoming president of the IL chapter of the Council for Exceptional Children. We are co-sponsoring their annual conference in November and a number of CASE staff will be presenting and conducting workshops.

IASA/IAASE Lobbyist visit

Shannon Bellini who is the lobbyist share by IASA and IAASE spent the afternoon at CASE on January 29. We visited a student and hearing itinerant teacher at Glen Crest, observed PT and a meeting with a CASE IST member and a teacher at Manor Hill, observed a OT session at the J. Schroeder Center and then went to CIS for part of the Vision meeting and to meet with Tricia Sharkey to learn more about assistive technology and role of the IST.

Glenbard Curriculum Council

Cindy coordinated and facilitated the first meeting of the Glenbard Curriculum Council. Assistant Superintendents for Instruction/Curriculum were invited to participate. This group will continue to meet with a lot less formal structure than the former curriculum council and will work together on supporting the work of the superintendents in the Township meetings.

Prevention Initiative Grant

The Prevention Initiative Grant was completed and submitted to ISBE by Jeanine Woltman. Participating CASE districts are Districts 15, 16, 41, 44 and 89. The length of the grant is 5 years and would provide for the staffing of seven home visitors and a supervisor to provide services to families.

Prevention Initiative Grant - Expansion

The Prevention Initiative Expansion Grant was approved by ISBE. Participating CASE districts are Districts 15 and 89. The grant begins immediately and ends in August. CASE anticipates hiring two home visitors and a supervisor. Positions have been posted.

CASE Itinerant Services

The most recent low-vision clinic was held at Morton West High School and was fully attended. CIS is evaluating the value of coordinating the clinics (which are held approximately every other month) as Dr. Jordan will be retiring at the end of the school year.

Kathy Sledz, Terra Knowles, Samantha Beck and Christina Mora as well as several CASE Occupational Therapists recently attended a presentation by a local ophthalmologist about Vision Therapy in the schools. Vision therapy is not a service that teachers are trained to do and must be done under the

direction of ophthalmologist. Both Vision teachers and OTs have expressed a desire to learn more about this so that they can better assist the districts in responding to requests for school-based therapy.

Lindsey Siegel did a presentation in December to all 4th grade students at Scott Elementary School in Melrose Park about sound and noise at . Students were going on a field trip about sound and noise so presentation was a pre-teaching opportunity.

Kyle Murbach, a former D89 and D87 student recently graduated from the National Technical Institute for the Deaf and secured a position with the Department of Defense. Kyle received CASE support as a student with a hearing impairment throughout his elementary and high school experience.

Professional Development

Barb Layer and Wendy Barickman presented *Paraprofessionals: Heart and Soul of the Classroom* on Friday, December at Hadley in District 41 to approximately 25 attendees. Discussed a variety of disabilities, accommodations, and activities to demonstrate the struggles students have in the classroom and how instructional aides can help students.

Barb Layer and Wendy Barickman presented *Teaching all Students: Resources, Support, and Opportunities to Learn* on Monday, January 8th at Glenside Middle School in District 16 to approximately 64 attendees. Discussed a variety of disabilities and how teachers can adapt and modify assignments for the variety of disabilities in their classrooms.

Rosanne Ingersoll and Wendy Barickman presented *Sensory Processing Activities for the Five Senses* on January 12th at Manor Hill in District 44 to approximately 30 attendees. Demonstrated a variety of tools for instructional assistants to use when they work with students with sensory processing deficits.

The following CASE staff members in District 16 prepared and presented on the January 8th School Improvement Day:

Mary Bell (Psychologist) and Wendy Stephen (Speech Pathologist) – Executive Functioning

Kim Borri (Social Worker) – Conflict in the Classroom

Maureen Quirk (Psychologist) – MTSS Refresher

Mary Bell (Psychologist) & Maureen Quirk (Psychologist) – Goal Writing

Dawn Stewart-Walker (Social Worker) – Trauma Informed classrooms

Debbie Catanese (Social Worker) - SAEBRS data

Maureen Quirk (Psychologist) and Amy Carrera (Social Worker) - Recalibrating for SAEBRS screening

Needs Assessment

IDEA requires an annual Needs Assessment. After soliciting their input from the Directors and Assistant Superintendents, it has been sent out to participating districts and they send it to staff & parents. We will share information with CASE Board this summer and use this information to plan Professional Development.

Parent Night

Stephanie Belmonte (D16 SLP) held a parent information night for parents of children who are placed in Specialized Academic Classrooms that focused on communication. This event was well attended and parents appreciated the information.