Executive Director’s Report

October 2017

1. First Steps State Office – General Activities
   1. We have received our FY 2018 Renewal Contract from the State Office. The only areas for Conditional Approvals were:
      1. Quality Enhancement – We didn’t serve as many centers as we projected. This was primarily due to delays with the new Quality Counts Program.
      2. Board Governance - We have several Board Members and Officers that have either reached or exceeded their tenure on the Board. When we have our Board Elections in October, this will be resolved.
      3. A corrective Action Plan has been submitted, basically, the QE has been resolved with Susan providing technical assistance to six centers this FY, and our Board Elections this month will resolve the Governance issue.
   2. The transition with the new Regional Finance Manager has settled down. Several residual issues cropped up in the last couple of months that required effort to address.
   3. Continue to work with the State Office to improve support and systems that are used by the County Partnerships, especially as it relates to Financial Systems. There is a new requirement for each County Board to go through a Comprehensive Planning Process, which we will do in the Dec/Jan period. Most of the requirements we have in place, it will primarily be an exercise to bring these various plans together in a single document.
   4. Finalizing our Annual Report submissions that include the Childcare Training Plan and the Numbers served Report for FY 2017.
2. Parents as Teachers (PAT)
   1. Our partners, York, Clover, and Rock Hill School Districts are all involved in planning for the PAT State Conference this month in Columbia.
3. Child Care Vouchers
   1. We picked up with our Teen Voucher Program in August as school started. We currently have six Teen Vouchers in place with one also enrolled in NFP.
4. Quality Enhancement and Technical Assistance
   1. We have chosen six centers to provide Technical Assistance during this FY as we wait for the Quality Counts Program to work through scale up guidelines.
   2. We did receive the CCCC&D $2000 Scholarship again this year to assist with our Childcare Training Plans.
   3. The Early Childhood Conference has been set for March 24, 2018 at Dutchman Creek; we are working on securing presenters and a Keynote Speaker for the Conference.
5. Nurse Family Partnership
   1. We have 44 mothers enrolled as of now and a number of referrals that we are pursuing. We are at about 94% capacity with two Home Visitation Nurses.
   2. Referrals seem to have been steady recently with several partners strengthening their efforts. WIC in Lancaster has become a steady provider for referrals since the beginning of September.
   3. The NFP Staff has gelled well with the addition of Tricia to the team. As we have neared our current capacity limit of 50 first time mothers, we have been able to drop some clients that were not fully committed to meet with our nurses.
   4. We held a “One Year Celebration and Mini Retreat” with the NFP staff in late September. Several key highlights:
      1. Within the first year of enrolling clients, we have reached 94% capacity.
      2. We were able to work through a multitude of community challenges, DHEC, Palmetto Pregnancy, Northcentral, etc., to develop a robust referral network.
      3. We were able to maximize client retention as one of our initial home visitation nurse resigned to pursue an advanced degree. (Many thanks to the hard working Rebecca and Julie).
      4. Our NFP Program has reached the point of proven success and ready to plan for expansion.
   5. We have received word from the J. Marion Sims Foundation that we have been awarded $50,000 for an expansion nurse for Lancaster and Fort Lawn.
   6. We have submitted a request from The Springs Close Foundation for additional funds to complete the funding for this expansion nurse.
   7. We entered a Letter of Intent to the NFP National Service Office to request funds for expansion nurses in our Region. There are some funding challenges to make this successful, but we are reviewing possible avenues to make this a successful request.
6. Countdown to Kindergarten
   1. We had another successful summer of CTK, serving over 140 children and their families.
   2. The Celebration was a success at St. John’s UMC as we co-hosted with the Children’s Museum.
   3. Data entry for all the families will be completed this month and follow up Teacher Surveys are being requested of the Kindergarten Teacher to gain information regarding the CTK children’s transition into their classroom.
7. Early Head Start Sites
   1. We have hired Laura Driskell, Parent Educator from York SD #1, as our new EHS Family Advocate. Laura will start on Oct. 16 to serve the two EHS classrooms in York.
8. Miscellaneous Events and Focus
   1. Revised website will be launched around November 1 and there will be a new feature for Board Members to access all Board Meeting Packets, Standard Documents such as the Budget and By Laws and Calendar of YCFS events.
   2. I visited the York Comprehensive High School to speak with three Early Childhood Education classes to discuss YCFS and types of jobs in early education in addition to being a schoolteacher.
   3. Visited the Winthrop Early Education Special Needs Class as well to provide information on YCFS and carriers in early intervention.
   4. Attended the Early Learning Partnership Retreat at Bethelwoods.
   5. Attended a Grants Search Workshop at the State Library in Columbia.
   6. We continue to participate in Impact York County with other Community Organizations.