

June 2016 Board Update

It was nice to see you at M.A.S.S. The following is a brief overview of key achievements during the past year and an update of activities since we last met. If you would like additional details or to discuss anything in this update please do not hesitate to contact me.

2015-2016 Year in Review

Special Education Programs

- Classrooms 19
- Student enrollment 109

A special thank you to Ashland, Franklin, Medfield, and Medway for housing our programs and supporting our classrooms and staff.

Consultation and Evaluation Services

- Districts contracting for services 24
- Number of engagements 109
- ACCEPT continues to expand consulting staff to meet growing needs. Contracted services included behavioral consultation, transition and vocational consultation, curriculum consultation (for students with intensive needs in district substantially separate programs), and related services consultation (SLP, OT, PT).

Home-Based Services

- Families served 66
- Member districts served 13
- Non-member districts served 3
- Of note, 20% of students receiving home-based services were able to reduce the number of hours they receive such services.

School-Based Medicaid Group

- School districts served 18
 - Direct Service and Administrative Claiming 14
 - Administrative Claiming only 4
 - On-site Medicaid training 5
- Administrative Claiming - Filed 70 original and 57 amended administrative claims (due to a retroactive rate change) totaling \$1,166,565 returned to school districts during the fiscal year (up from \$1.13 million in FY2015).
- Direct Service Claiming: Returned over \$2.1 million to school districts during FY16 for Direct Service Claiming.

- Introduced reimbursement for Autism Services to school districts participating in program. Currently 7 districts out of the 18 have at least one ABA provider with Medicaid-eligible credentials, and we are expecting this to increase in 2017.

Professional Development

- On-site workshop participation 1,390
 - Participants in on-line or hybrid offerings 1,075
 - “Mental Health in the Schools” series
 - Workshops 5
 - Attendees per workshop 125

Transportation

- Students 545
- Locations 151
- The new time and attendance system fully implemented

The ACCEPT/Virtual High School Partnership

- High school students enrolled 675
- On-line courses offered 133
- Middle school students enrolled 39

July Update

Transportation

- John Gaucher has assumed his new role as Transportation Manager. John comes to ACCEPT from First Student and brings with him a wealth of relevant experience. In his first few weeks he has identified opportunities for improvement and is addressing them prior to the start of school in the fall.
- All drivers and monitors participated in a Summer Kick Off Training session

Programs

- We received the Mid-Cycle Review from DESE and I am pleased to report the Collaborative was found “to be in compliance with all the criteria monitored.”
- The Extended School Year Program is well under way with a total of 101 students enrolled. Our theme this summer is “Go ACCEPT Go.” The curriculum and activities are focused on the Olympics.

Professional Development

I am pleased to report ACCEPT was awarded a multi-year grant from DESE to conduct the New Special Education Leadership Institute. This year's process was totally revamped and highly competitive. The Institute will take place August 8 – 10 at the Hampton Inn, with 5 follow-up sessions scheduled throughout the year.

Facility Update

At the RFP deadline one proposal was received. Garry Holmes submitted a comprehensive proposal for the property at 4 Tech Circle, Natick. Per our discussion at the June meeting, Dan reviewed the proposal and agrees this property is a viable option to house programs, professional development, and office space. There is also adequate, on-site parking. The location in MetroWest is perfect in terms of proximity to our member districts and provides convenient access to a number of highways. I have arranged a tour of the building for members of the ACCEPT leadership team on August 4 at 1:15 and invite you to join us. Please let me know if you plan to attend. I am excited about moving forward and the promise this holds for the Collaborative's future.

Other ED Activities:

- As part of the Community Action Partners (CAP) application process a team interviewed various ACCEPT stakeholders; a special thanks to David Lussier and Dan Gutekanst for participating. As a reminder, CAP is a volunteer organization of Harvard Business School (HBS) and Harvard Kennedy School alumni helping Boston-area nonprofits apply management skills to their business challenges. More than 100 alumni volunteers serve 13-16 nonprofits each year. A final decision on our application will be made in the fall.
- Interviewed architects in preparation for moving forward with the building project
- Toured other collaboratives that have their own facilities for information gathering
- Interviewing, hiring, and orienting key staff
- Updating manuals and handbooks
- Attended the M.A.S.S. EI

Respectfully submitted:



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