

Bi-County Collaborative Activities and Information

March 31, 2014

- Current student enrollment is slightly below the FY 14 projection of 190, with 183 students enrolled in Bi-County Collaborative school programs.
- The Collaborative conducted a survey in February asking member districts and sending school districts to rate BICO's referral process, 45 day assessment program, and general questions related to services and programs. 29 school districts responded and the results were reviewed by BICO's Leadership Team. Over 90% of respondents indicated that BICO is considered when students require more restrictive programming. The results of this survey will be used as a baseline for setting goals and improving programs and services which will be measured with a repeat of this survey next year.
- The revised Bi-County Collaborative Agreement has been under revision as requested by DESE. The Agreement is set for review by BICO's By-Laws Sub Committee and Budget Sub-Committee this month. After this takes place the revised document will be sent back to DESE before being reviewed by the full Board.
- The Bi-County Collaborative applied for and received 3 Grants this year. Two Grants are from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. One Grant focuses on Professional Development in Special Education. Funds were used to provide staff with training in Universal Design for Learning. Staff participated in a full day in-service on March 14th led by Dr. Edward Carter from Bridgewater State University.
- The second DESE Grant is providing funding for Transition Planning for students ages 14 and older. Funds are being used to develop a Collaborative wide resource guide and appropriate assessment materials in the area of transition for students with disabilities.
- A third Grant provides Music therapy for our most severely disabled students and was awarded to the Collaborative from Kate's Voice, a non-profit organization that provides music therapy and services to severely disabled students.
- Bi-County Collaborative is sponsoring a Professional Development two part series on changes in the Diagnostic Statistical Manual, 5th Edition, which is widely used by School Psychologists and other clinicians in the field. This program will be held on April 9th and May 21st from 1-2:30 and is open to member districts. Bellingham Public Schools is

hosting this presentation at the Bellingham High School media center. Staff can register on the Bi-County Collaborative website using Smart PD.

- BICO is part of a Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) proposal submitted to DESE on behalf of the Southeastern Regional Collaborative Organization (SCRO). If accepted, this would allow BICO to host trainings for member districts in the SEI Endorsement for Cohort 3. We have not received notification yet but are hopeful that we will be able to provide this service to our member districts for teachers and administrators.