

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT
Department of Early Childhood Education
April 29th, 2020

As you are aware, all Early Childhood Education centers are closed at this time due to COVID 19. However, I want to commend the outstanding work of our staff for their efforts to modify our approach to providing support to families and children. I believe we all look forward to a return to a more traditional operation, but we will do our best during this difficult time.

The Early Head Start/Head Start COLA and Quality Improvement grant application is due May 15th. The COLA increase is 2% of base funding. Use of Quality Improvement funds will be focused on improving program responsiveness to families/children impacted by trauma. Casey will request permission to submit this application.

The Office of Head Start has made one-time funds available through a Head Start CARES supplemental grant application. With these funds, we will propose to operate a 4 week home-based program during the summer. Children that are transitioning to kindergarten and children with an IEP will be the target population. The intent of these funds are to mitigate the impact of the closure of Head Start for the target population. Office of Head Start has communicated that an expectation for provision of this programming would only come, if it is determined that this can be done in a safe manner for all involved. This application is due May 15th. Casey will request permission to submit this application.

The 2020-2021 Early Head Start/Head Start grant application was submitted prior to the April 1st due date. Casey and Jennifer have met and are planning for the 2019-2020 EHS/Head Start end of year budget management. It is likely that we will request a No-Cost Extension beyond the June 30th end of year.

The 2020-2021 request for waiver of 45CFR Part 1303.70(c) (paid bus monitors) is due for submission to the Region 5 Head Start Office. A request for permission to submit the waiver will be included on the Board agenda and within the packet.

We have received a letter of resignation from Christie Lofholm as Education and Child Development Coordinator/Disabilities Coordinator and Crystal Smith as Lead Coordinator (Home Base). Casey will request the Board take action on each of these items.

A Head Start Focus Area 1 Federal Monitoring event will take place April 21st – 24th. Staff will participate in interviews via Zoom meeting with the Monitoring Coordinator.

A total of 50 pregnant women/children were enrolled in Early Head Start in March and 195 children were enrolled in Head Start. We currently have 34 slots filled in Great Start Readiness Program for the 2019-2020 program year. Our recruitment efforts are now focused on the fall of 2020. A total of 2122 breakfasts, 2564 lunches and 1623 snacks were served in February, 2020.