July 2016 PHSA Monthly Update Call

Federal Level

- Budget
  - Appropriations committee did mark up a bill that included a slight increase for Head Start
  - Is a positive thing that shows continued by-partisan support
  - Don't think that anything will come of it at this point because there most likely won't be a final budget passed until after the election
    - Believe some kind of CR will be passed to continue funding at this year's levels until the next Congress can take it up
- Performance Standards
  - Continue to hear that they will be out for use during the next program year
    - Believe that will be some time in September
    - Thinking that they will be released at the same time as the CC regs
  - Have heard in different settings that programs will have 60 days to implement the majority of the standards
    - OHS indicated that they are working on a year long plan to support programs in implementation
    - Know that they have revised the monitoring schedule for next program year in response
  - PHSA's Plan
    - Plan on doing some calls shortly after their release to give programs an opportunity to talk about what they are seeing with one another
    - Will be huge agenda item for the HS/EHS Leadership Track at the Summit that will take place on Oct. 18th
    - Plan to look at other places that professional development would be helpful
      - Recognize that there will be a process that the National Centers and Regional/State Based TA team will have to go through prior to rolling out training
      - Hoping that there will be things that PHSA is in a position to roll out more quickly but won't know until we see the final standards
- NHSA
  - Head Start Re-authorization
    - Hired a new staff person to begin working draft language for re-authorization
    - Working to position themselves ahead of things so that their language can serve as a place to build from, vs. responding to proposed language after it's been written
    - Good chance that Senator Casey will be position to be a lead author on the bill
      - Good in that he has always been a friend to HS
      - Also puts PA in a position to positively influence the bill

- DRS
    - There is currently an evaluation of the DRS taking place
    - NHSA worked to get a by-partisan sign on letter asking OHS for a moratorium on using CLASS as a trigger
    - Again, see this as a very proactive thing and will keep programs posted

State Level

- Budget
    - Final spending and revenue plan were passed
        - Saw a $50 million increase for early learning
            - $5 million for HSSAP
            - $25 million for PKC
            - $20 million for EI
        - Means that the slots that were added in March as part of last year's budget can be annualized
            - At one point there were serious concerns that that wouldn't happen and that programs would have to cut children that they just added
        - Many programs were cut or flat funded
            - CC saw a $20 million decrease
- STARS Re-visioning
    - Think Tank finalized the core pillars/principles
    - OCDEL will now move into the phase of developing a logic model, theory of change and components of the system
        - Have indicated that they will continue to include representatives from across the early learning systems to provide input
        - Won't just be focusing on those that have traditionally participated
        - Goal is to have a system that everyone will see themselves in
- Early Intervention Policy/Suspension and Expulsion
    - OCDEL is still looking for input on these policies
    - Want to build on the work that was done in February at the State-wide EI Policy Forum
    - Have scheduled regional Policy Forums and are looking for participants from all of the early learning systems
    - PHSA strongly encourages programs to send staff and parent representatives
        - Only way to ensure that our issues/interests are looked at
    - Dates:
        - **August 16** - Park Inn by Radisson Clarion, 45 Holiday Inn Road, Clarion
        - **August 17** - PaTTAN, Pittsburgh
        - **August 19** - PaTTAN, Harrisburg
        - **August 22** - The Woodlands, 1073 Highway 315, Wilkes-Barre
        - **August 23** - PaTTAN East - 333 Technology Drive, Malvern
        - **August 24** - Sheraton Philadelphia University City Hotel, 3549 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia
    - Register at www.pattan.net Please use the registration key RFEC2016 (ALL CAPS)

- PHSA Asks from OCDEL
    - PHSA Board has had a couple of productive conversations with Dept. Sect. Michelle Figlar
        - She asks us to put together our "asks" of OCDEL
    - Board worked with our Policy group and directors to draft our ask
    - Small group met with Michelle and her staff to review them
    - Focused on the following:
        - Cost of Quality and need for continued COLAs in HSSAP and PKC
        - Continued Expansion of HSSAP and PKC
        - Coordinated, locally designed, integrated recruitment for Pre-K (PKC and HSSAP)
        - That OCDEL not apply for EHS-CC Expansion and instead work to support grantees through policies related to subsidy and licensing
        - Continued inclusion of HS/EHS in STARS Re-visioning including the ability to demonstrate quality by meeting HS Performance Standards and equal share of supports
        - Continued inclusion of HS/EHS in discussion around Suspension and Expulsion including allowing HS/EHS programs to utilize their extensive internal policies and procedures to support children with mental health needs and their families and ensure services in the best setting for everyone
        - Continued inclusion of HS/EHS and other model programs in discussions around a state funded line item for evidenced based home visitation and process for soliciting and awarding grants along with minimal monitoring requirements from OCDEL and a utilization of current Federal standards that programs must meet, much like what is done with HSSAP programs.

PHSA

- Summit
    - Registration is currently open
    - Program is being developed and workshop selection should be available in mid to late August
    - Thank you to everyone who submitted proposals, we got a great HS/EHS turn out
- Website
    - We are in the final stages of our website re-design
    - Will be contacting program directors with information/instructions/passwords to log in and make sure that program information listed on the site is up to date

Questions from the Field

Any progress on getting better information on the impact of the changes to the Fair Labor Standards Act?

- Not at this time
- Have asked Michelle Figlar how the state will view Head Start programs
- She indicated that they are in the process of doing a DHS wide impact analysis and will share results when they are available
- Also looking to NHSA for guidance

Next call: Wednesday, August 17th from 2:00 – 3:00, dial **717-836-1406**. No need to enter an access code or ID#.