

PHSA Monthly Update Call – May 18, 2016

Federal

- FY 16 Funding
 - OHS released two Program Informations (PI)
 - COLA
 - Came out April 27
 - Programs, including EHS-CC Partnerships eligible to apply for 1.8% COLA
 - Funds to increase salaries, fringe benefits & pay for higher operating costs
 - Extended Duration
 - Came out on April 25
 - \$294 million for programs that don't offer full day/full year for 40% or more of their program
 - NHSA has an Extended Duration webpage - <https://www.nhsa.org/duration-expansion-head-start>
 - OHS conducted a webinar that they have archived – can find on ECLKC - <https://drive.google.com/a/paheadstart.org/file/d/0B2J6ToqIFXqDYzB2Mml4bGNuc1l5TGdWM29VTzhweDcwbVVJ/view>
 - EHS-CC Partnership Expansion
 - OHS is pushing back the PI so that it doesn't overlap with Extended Duration
 - Expect it on June 30th
- FY 17 Funding
 - Not much happening
 - NHSA expects CR that will fund HS at this year's levels until after the election
- Performance Standards
 - NHSA reports that OHS will be sending the standards to the Whitehouse and the Office of Management & Budget (OMB) in the next couple of months
 - NHSA is working on a letter campaign to Congress around concerns with duration and family/parent engagement
- MIECHV
 - Money is set to expire in a little less than a year
 - NHSA working with a national coalition
 - Hoping that they can get an extension of the funds but probably not a reauthorization of program
 - Looking for policy issues that should be addressed when they do reauthorize

State

- FY 16-17 Budget
 - Hearing that the Republicans in the House and Senate are hoping to put together a “veto proof” budget to give to the Governor prior to Memorial Day
 - Believe that they have enough Democrats lined up to override any veto the Governor would try

- HSSAP & PKC expansion
 - Still hear bi-partisan support for the increase
 - Concern is where the money is going to come from
 - Need legislators to hear that they would be supported if there was a revenue increase
 - Encourage programs to contact legislators in their district offices
 - Invite them to end of the year celebrations where they can see families/kids ready for kindergarten
 - Remember that it is a \$90 million ask
 - \$30 million of that will be used to take the 6,200 slots added last year to full year
 - \$60 million for about 7,400 additional kids
- Home Visiting Line Item
 - Blair & Karen working with ELPA and members from the other 3 eligible models to do joint legislative visits with leadership
 - Pleased with the positive reception we're getting
 - They are impressed with how well the models are working together
 - Hearing that there is an interest in getting the line item in, if not at the full amount requested of \$10 million
 - Need to make sure that you are reaching out to your legislator
- STARS Revisioning
 - Work continues
 - Wrapping up the town halls/input sessions on the larger vision put together by the Think Tank
 - Think Tank will meet again June 10th to revise the larger vision based on the feedback collected over the last 3 months
 - OCDEL will then work with stakeholders to begin to develop the structure of the new system based on the larger vision that the Think Tank develops

PHSA Updates

- Will be hosting an EHS-CC Partnerships meeting June 1st
 - Information and registration available on the PHSA website
- Website
 - New website is progressing
 - Really pleased with the work that the TIU 11 is doing for us

Issues from the Field

- Medical Marijuana
 - Program is interested in how other programs are approaching the recent Bill signed into Law making the use of Medical Marijuana legal in PA (by Governor Wolf on April 17).
 - As a federal and state grantee program acknowledge that they have a drug-free workplace; however, if an employee has a valid prescription, how does that fit into the law?
 - How are programs dealing with this in their drug and alcohol policies?

- Other programs on the call hadn't been thinking
- Reached out to Program Specialist
 - They didn't know but would research what guidance they could put out
- Karen will reach out to the Executive Directors Consortium and ask what other State and Regional Associations have seen in their programs in the states that have legalized medical Marijuana already
- If any PA programs have begun to think about that and are willing to share information with others, please forward it to Karen to share with the group
- Transgender
 - Programs are also interested in hearing if anyone has begun to look at their policies in light of the Whitehouse's directive to schools around transgender youth and facilities
 - Thinking both from the perspective of children and adults that programs either employ or serve
 - Karen will also send this out to the Executive Directors Consortium and ask that any PA programs who have begun to look at their policies share their thoughts as well.

Next Call: Wednesday, June 15th from 2:00 – 3:00
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