

May Liaison Call Minutes 5/18/18

1. Launched the Keystone Scholars pilot program at Luzerne County Head Start with the PA State Treasury in the last of the six counties - Luzerne County - where it is currently available. Those counties are Elk, Indiana, Westmoreland, Mifflin, Delaware, and Luzerne. This is a 529 account set up with \$100 for each baby born in these counties in 2018 and 2019. The parents only have to go online and claim the funds. They are able to add more to it if they wish. The funds become available when the child graduates from high school and remains available until the child turns 29. This allows them plenty of time to decide what kind of post-high school education they wish to receive. The funds can be used at community colleges, 4 year programs, trade schools, and vocational programs. Legislation is currently being drafted to make this a permanent program across the state. For more information, go to <http://www.pa529.com/keystone/>.
2. Parent call yesterday was successful. Four parents called in and many of the parents who received texts responded either to the text or emailed whether they would be on the call or not. I talked to them about helping out with budget advocacy right now by making phone calls or writing letters to their legislators asking them to support the Governor's proposed increase for Pre-K Counts and HSSAP funding. I will provide a script for them to use when sending letters and making phone calls.
3. Sara Gray-Bradley (PHSA Assoc. Exec. Dir.) asked for feedback on getting parents to sign up for the Pre-K for PA campaign. Requests were made for step-by-step instructions and handouts to give to parents to help them understand the campaign. Michelle briefly explained our sign-up reimbursement - \$.50 per electronic sign-up and \$.30 per paper sign-up. More information will be sent out that goes into greater detail. We are working on fine-tuning the handouts and will make them available as soon as possible. This is something that parents can do as well as teachers/home visitors.
4. Sara introduced our partnership with Aetna Better Health and the Latino Connection to develop a Latino cookbook and set up cooking demonstrations of recipes in the cookbook with programs around the state. We are looking for recommendations for community chefs and locations. Call to action is to get 133 cooking demonstrations set up throughout PA. Spanish/English translations of the cookbook will be provided and the target date is this Fall.
5. Michelle and/or Sara will be happy to come and visit any program and talk to policy councils/family meetings. We like being able to meet staff and families, and get familiar with programs, as no two programs are the same. Especially when it comes to advocacy efforts, what works for one may not work for another and some programs may need fresh ideas when reaching out to communities and legislators.
6. If any program is in need of translation services, Michelle has used International Service Center to have some print forms translated into Spanish at a reasonable cost. For more information, the form to fill out to request a quote is here: <http://www.isc76.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Customer-Request-for-Interpretation.pdf>.
7. The next liaison call is 6/15/18 11a-12p and the next parent call is 6/21/18 9:30a-10:30a.

Thank you,

Michelle Smith