



Thursday Notes from the Northeast Key  
a program of CSC, Inc.



June 24, 2010

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Northeast Key News

**Second Friday Conference Call**



**Mark your calendar for the Second Friday Conference Call**

**July 10, 2010 – 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm**

If you have suggestions for a topic to discuss please feel free to email your suggestions to [bgambone@cscinc.org](mailto:bgambone@cscinc.org).

To register for these conference go to [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Second\\_Friday\\_Conference\\_Call](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Second_Friday_Conference_Call) and complete the information in the survey. You can register for one or for all of the Second Friday Conference Calls.

You can also register for the Conference Calls by emailing Beth Gambone at [bgambone@cscinc.org](mailto:bgambone@cscinc.org).

**Dial-In Number: 218-862-1000**

**Participant Access Code: 157031#**

Standard long distance charges apply when joining the Conference Call.

## **Please Welcome**

We have two new STARS Managers that have joined our Northeast Key team. They will be working primarily in Berks and Schuylkill Counties. They will begin visiting programs in July.

### **Nancy Maurer**

Nancy has worked in Early Childhood Education for 15 years. Her experiences include 10 years as a center director. In addition, she has taught toddlers and Pre Kindergarten, and she has worked in the children's department of a library, as their early learning specialist. She graduated from Penn State, with a degree in Elementary and Kindergarten Education.

### **Kira Boyle**

Kira is a graduate of Kutztown University with a bachelor degree in Elementary and Early Childhood Education. Her past experiences include teaching kindergarten and preschool. Most recently she was a lead teacher for the Head Start of the Lehigh Valley, where she worked with children aged six weeks to six years old.

Please join us in welcoming Nancy and Kira to the Northeast Key team.

## *Simply SACC*

### **Summer 2010 Issue**

\*\* Check out the Summer 2010 Issue of the Simply SACC Newsletter on the CSC website under the Simply SACC Newsletter section. \*\*\*

## *Professional Development Activities*

### **Professional Development At A Glance**

\*\*We have attempted to pull all of the Professional Development Events on the PA Keys website that are taking place June 28, 2010 to August 1, 2010. To view this list, please see the Professional Development Section on the CSC Website or visit [www.pakeys.org](http://www.pakeys.org) to see a complete listing of all upcoming Professional Development Events and to Register \*\* We have also heard your suggestions and have included the Knowledge Area and Competency Level for each of the events. Hope you find this format helpful.



## **Pennsylvania's families demand access to early education programs**

### **Budget update:**

There are 5 days left before the end of the fiscal year and a budget is due for 10-11.

The Governor is scheduled to meet with legislative leaders tomorrow (6/23) - leaders plan to propose a budget with NO new revenue sources - only program cuts. The Governor has agreed to review a "cuts-only" proposal and identify which cuts he accepts and those he does not.

**Now is the time to contact Governor Rendell and your state legislators and urge them to make Pennsylvania's early education programs a priority** - no cuts! If your legislators are not part of leadership but are supportive, you can encourage them to write their caucus leaders to support early education. Click here for a sample letter.

The biggest issue is the final "spend" number from which to base the budget - how much money will be available to spend next year. This depends on:

- FMAP extension by the U.S. Congress - equals \$850 million for Pennsylvania - to contact your U.S. Representative in favor of this extension, go to <http://paprom.convio.net/fmap>.
- State revenue bill to reduce the sales tax vendor discount, impose tax on cigars and smokeless tobacco, and a natural gas severance tax - equals approximately \$300 million for Pennsylvania. To contact your state representative in support of raising revenues, go to <http://paprom.convio.net/revenue>.

Reports indicate that the leadership intends to move quickly once a budget agreement is made - there may be no time to react! **Keep the letters, emails, phone calls coming!**

### **Today's building block: Pennsylvania's families demand access to early education programs**

Only about one-third (35%) of children from birth to age five have access to publicly-funded quality early education programs in Pennsylvania.

According to the 2009 OCDEL family survey responses of nearly 11,000 parents whose children participated in Early Intervention, Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts:

- More than 93% of parents felt these programs build upon their child's strengths and interests;
- Nearly 90% of parents felt these programs helped them feel more confident in their skills as a parent; and
- More than 90% felt these programs gave them ideas of how to support their child's development at home.

Thousands of eligible families are interested in participating in Pennsylvania's early education programs but are waiting for services:

- The waiting list for Child Care Works has risen to more than 2,300 eligible children since April, when the waiting list was cleared.
- Even with more stringent eligibility requirements, more than 3,000 children are already on waiting lists for PA Pre-K Counts for the 2010-2011 school year this June, two months before many programs finalize enrollments and start waiting lists for the fall.\* Preschoolers in five of Pennsylvania's counties do not have access to PA Pre-K Counts; in fact, only 4% of Pennsylvania's three and four year olds participate in the program.
- At least 2,000 eligible children are on waiting lists for Head Start throughout the commonwealth.
- More than 200 expectant mothers are on waiting lists for Nurse-Family Partnership, although most NFP programs do not maintain waiting lists but refer clients to other services. Expectant mothers in 30 of Pennsylvania's counties do not have access to NFP - 12 of those counties have actively expressed interest in implementing the program.
- More than 360 families were on waiting lists for Parent-Child Home Program (PCHP) in January. Families in 42 counties do not have access to PCHP.

## **Pennsylvania's families demand access to early education programs (Continued)**

Too many children are without these vital services - now is not the time to make cuts. Please support continued investment in programs such as Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts, Keystone STARS, Child Care Works, Early Intervention, Nurse-Family Partnership, Parent-Child Home Program and Head Start Supplemental.

Please take a few minutes to share these fast facts with the Governor, your legislators, and a friend!

- Find contact information for your legislators at <http://paprom.convio.net/find>
- Email the Governor and your legislators at <http://paprom.convio.net/6-22-10>

### **You can share:**

- Examples of parent testimonials that love your program or programs in your community. What kinds of praise do you receive?
- Examples of waiting lists in your program or programs in your community. How many calls do you receive from parents asking for services?

### **Ask parents to share:**

- How important Pennsylvania's early education programs are to you. Did you learn about them from a friend? Would you recommend them to a friend?
- If you were or are on a waiting list for an early education program, share how difficult it has been to find reliable early education while you wait.

\* Many PA PKC providers have chosen to delay final enrollment and establishment of waiting lists until the Commonwealth has a FY 2010-11 budget. Last year's impasse caused significant disruption for programs that had to disenroll children, leaving parents scrambling for access to another early education program.

## **Office of Child Development and Early Learning Certification News**

The Office of Child Development and Early Learning recently combined the Central Region and the Northeast Region into one. They will now be serving 31 Counties as the Central/Northeast Region. If you are in Carbon, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne or Wyoming County you will now be with the Central/Northeast Region for Certification purposes. The Office of Child Development and Early Learning will still have their offices in Scranton and their contact information has not changed. If you have licensing questions you will continue to contact the Office of Child Development and Early Learning at 800-222-2108. If you are in Berks or Bucks County you will continue to contact the Southeast Regional office with any questions regarding licensing.

**This change is solely for licensing purposes.** Child care providers in STARS are asked to continue to call the Northeast Key if you have any questions regarding STARS applications or renewals, scheduling of designation visits or for professional development. The Northeast Key will continue to partner with the Central/Northeast Region and Southeast Region Certification offices regarding our work in Keystone STARS.

If you have any questions, please contact your STARS Manager.

**\*\*Please see the attached map which shows the realignment of the Certification regions. This map will also be available under the Certification section on the CSC website. \*\***

## Early Learning Network Training for Keystone STARS 3 & 4 Family & Group Child Care Providers July & August 2010

What is the purpose of the training? This training is designed to provide Keystone STAR 3 & 4 Family and Group child care programs with an understanding of the 1) ELN data collection system known as Pelican, 2) how to enter demographic information into the ELN Pelican system, and 3) how to enter child outcomes data into the Work Sampling and/or Ounce Online systems.

What will the training cover? The 6-hour training session will provide Keystone STAR 3 & 4 Family and Group child care program participants with the skills needed to use PELICAN, and the skills needed to enter child outcomes data into Work Sampling and/or Ounce Online. The training will be computer-based, allowing participants an opportunity to practice entering data into these systems. The sessions will also describe data collection requirements, ideas for talking with families about ELN, and strategies for efficient data entry. A number of resource materials including flyers describing ELN for families, frequently asked questions and responses, and tips for using computers will be provided.

What will participants learn? Participants will be provided with:

- an overview of the Early Learning Network;
- information on data collection requirements;
- hands-on opportunities for working in Pelican and in the Work Sampling/Ounce Online systems;
- strategies for managing data; and
- information on additional ELN, Work Sampling and Ounce resources and supports that are available to programs

Who should participate? These sessions are designed for owners and operators of Keystone STARS 3 and 4 Family and Group child care programs.

What time are the sessions? Evening sessions are comprised of two back to back evenings, both 3 hours in length, 6:00pm – 9:00pm, for a total of 6 hours. Saturday sessions run from 9:00am– 3:45pm with 45 minutes for lunch, a total of 6 hours. Lunch is not provided.

How do I register? Visit the PA Keys website, [www.pakeys.org](http://www.pakeys.org), and access the professional development calendar to register. You will receive a confirmation e-mail indicating that you are registered for the event.

If you have questions or problems registering please contact Ashley Bricker: [abricker@pattan.net](mailto:abricker@pattan.net)

REGION:	NORTHEAST	SOUTHEAST	SOUTH CENTRAL
DATE:	<b>Saturday August 14</b>	<b>Monday &amp; Tuesday July 26 - 27</b>	<b>Wednesday &amp; Thursday July 14 - 15</b>
TIME:	9:00am – 3:45pm	6:00pm – 9:00pm	6:00pm – 9:00pm
LOCATION:	NE Regional Key	TBD	PaTTAN Harrisburg
DATE:		<b>Monday &amp; Tuesday August 23 - 24</b>	<b>Wednesday &amp; Thursday July 28 - 29</b>
TIME:		6:00pm – 9:00pm	6:00pm – 9:00pm
LOCATION:		TBD	York United Way
DATE:		<b>Wednesday &amp; Thursday August 25 - 26</b>	<b>Saturday July 31</b>
TIME:		6:00pm – 9:00pm	9:00am – 3:45pm
LOCATION:		TBD	PaTTAN Harrisburg

## ELN Update

PA Pre-K Counts and Early Learning Network Providers please do not end-date children who will be returning for the next school year and who will stay in the same classroom. Also, please do not end-date children whose assessments have not been completed.

For children who are changing classrooms in the next school year please be sure their assessments are completed before enrolling them into their new classroom. Children enrolled only in PA Pre-K Counts can be end-dated for June 2010 in the fall after the assessments are complete and entered into the system.

## Early Childhood Mental Health

### Early Childhood Positive Behavior Support Institute 2010

**Registration Deadline June 30th**

July 13 – 16, 2010  
PaTTAN Harrisburg  
6340 Flank Drive  
Harrisburg, PA

**Registration Deadline June 30th**

**Overview of the training:** The Early Childhood Positive Behavior Support Institute will provide the foundation of positive behavior support for individuals who support young children and their families using resources from the national Center on the Social Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL) and the Technical Assistance Center on Social Emotional Interventions (TACSEI).

#### **Presenters:**

Sharon Doubet, Ph. D.; Amanda Quesenberry, Ph. D.; Kimetta Hairston, Ph. D.; Gail Joseph, Ph. D.; Robert Gallen, Ph. D.; Linda Broyles; Early Intervention Technical Assistance Consultants, and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants

#### **Participants:**

Those interested in improving the social emotional development of young children using the Pyramid Model Framework of positive behavior support.

**Training Hours:** Up to 26 Act 48 clock hours; Up to 26 Infant Toddler Training Hours, and up to 26 PQAS

**Registration:** Please register online at: [www.pattan.net](http://www.pattan.net) or use the direct link:  
<https://www.solutionwhere.com/pattan/cw/showconference.asp?1455>

**You will need to register for each day and select breakout sessions for each day.**

**Registration Deadline:** June 30, 2010

If you have content questions, please contact: Julia Slater at [jslater@pattan.net](mailto:jslater@pattan.net)

If you have difficulty registering online, please contact: Linda Rhine at [lrhine@pattan.net](mailto:lrhine@pattan.net)

**\*\*For more information please see the Early Childhood Positive Behavior Support Institute flyer under the Professional Development Section on the website. \*\***

Here are this week's ideas to help engage families.

Use one or use them all!! You never know what could happen!!  
Check out more ideas in next week's Thursday Notes!

- ☺ Laughter helps! Post a cartoon or comic for your families to see
  - ☺ Post a poem a day, chosen by parents
  - ☺ Put up an inspiring quote in different languages
  - ☺ Got someone to thank? Do it on the bulletin board!
  - ☺ Make a suggestion box
  - ☺ Have a talent show

Source:

365 Ways to Partner with Families Page-A-Day Calendar For Every Year, by Jacqueline Lalley Communications. [www.strengtheningfamiliesillinois.org](http://www.strengtheningfamiliesillinois.org)

Watch for the NEW and Improved  
"THE KEY CONNECTION"

\*\*\* Thursday Notes will be renamed "The Key Connection".  
Same great information just with an new name\*\*\*

**Coming to a computer near on  
July 1<sup>st</sup>!!!**