

Community Action, Inc. of Central Texas

HEAD START

Monthly Report April 2021

Community Action Inc. of Central Texas

Teachers of the Year 2020-2021



Mrs. Elisa Kacir
Head Start Teacher of the Year
Henry Bush CDC

Mrs. Monica Silguero
Early Head Start
Teacher of the Year
A. Washington CDC

Congrats!



EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS
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Teacher Assistants of the Year 2020-2021



Mrs. Ida Serna
Head Start Teacher Assistant
of the Year
Luling CDC



Mrs. Diana Aleman
Early Head Start
Teacher Assistant
of the Year
A. Washington CDC

Congrats!

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Education Team: April has been filled with learning about "Nursery Rhymes" for our Early Head Start children and "On the Go" for our Head Start children. Our Early Start Children have been learning about traditional nursery rhymes, like The Three Little Pigs and The Three Billy Goats Gruff. Children even tried "blowing" the house down using large blocks. Children compared blowing a feather vs. a large block. They learned quickly the feather was much easier to move across the table. Our Head Start children have been learning all about things that go, like cars, trains, airplanes, and boats. Many of the classrooms used these learning ideas to have discussion about modes of transportation, how each child gets to school, and talking about transportation safety.

This month EHS teachers continued making observations using the DRDP tool and HS teachers will finish their assessments using the CLI Progress Monitoring tool. Parents will receive a final report once the assessments are completed.



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School Readiness: Our second and final round of CLASS observations for Head Start are being conducted this month. The Ed. team also helped the Nutrition team with a monitoring review of the Child and Adult Care Food Program(CACFP) at each center. We also completed our instructional calendar for the 2021-2022 school year.

Professional Development: On April 12th we had an amazing professional development day! Teachers, Family Advocates, and Center Directors were all able to participate in a scavenger hunt and awards ceremony. This was very well received by staff, they were excited to have an opportunity to bond and team build with their co-workers. This month a person in charge training was conducted for staff members that are left in charge in a center director's absence. Family advocates received training from our Child Plus consultant on strategies and reports that they can pull in order to maintain compliance in submitting our Program Information Report (PIR) that gets turned into the Office of Head Start. Coordinators were also signed up for Child Plus Scramble this September in order to maximize our skills using Child Plus, which is our database management system. We want to ensure that we are getting the most out of the system and that we are using it to its full potential. In addition to this, the team analyzed all of our EHS teacher job descriptions and pay scales in order to ensure we are in compliance with Head Start Performance Standards.



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Mental Health and Disabilities: During the month of April, we celebrated the Week of the Young Child by hosting a scavenger hunt for our staff titled: Unleash Your Inner Child. They loved it! The focus was on problem solving, team work, and serving others. We also appointed a Teacher of the Year and Teaching Assistant of the Year for the first time ever in our agency. Our teachers work hard and very much deserve to be recognized. As the year winds down for Head Start, we are working with families and our local school districts to ensure children's needs are being met, planning with therapists for in person delivery of services, and reviewing and updating safety plans for all of our special needs children.



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Health: During the month of April re-screening of vision and hearing were conducted on students who had failed the initial screening. Center Directors are following up with parents and providing them with a vision spot report if their child failed the 2nd vision screening. Parents are being asked to have children screened by their physicians or request a referral by their provider to an ophthalmologist. The family advocates continue reaching out to families requesting proof of baby well exams and dental screenings along with any blood labs required by the Texas Health Steps.

ERSEA & Transitions: Applications are coming in! Now that the application for the 2021/2022 school year is open, we have seen an influx of applications for the current school year so we continue to process applications and make selections to fill vacancies. This month we had unforeseen construction issues at Lillie B. Townsend CDC but we are wrapping it up and will open a new classroom very soon. This new classroom allows us to serve eight additional babies and their families. Please spread the word that the agency is taking applications for both this year and next. You can apply online at www.communityaction.com/headstart or email headstartinfo@communityaction.com for questions and support.

Our current enrollment is 420 of 502 available slots.



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Head Start Operations & Safety: We sold our 3 buses! This saves the agency \$5,000 in insurance money that we were paying for buses that we were no longer using. This month we have been short-handed because our maintenance specialist has been out for medical reasons. We are working with a temporary maintenance guy who is helping to take care of as many of our minor work orders as possible. We also invested time trying to get the air conditioning fixed at LBT and getting them all the furniture they need to open up another infant classroom. All of our regular janitorial supplies have been delivered as usual.



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Nutrition: The beginning of April was the start of the new spring/summer menu. The children's menu and the infant menu are available to view on the Community Action website. The Program Nutritionist provided detailed nutrition education on the Nutrition Facts Label to Luling Early Head Start and Head Start parents. In addition, kitchen staff participated in team building and training on Professional Development Day, April 12th. We continue to work on our menus to ensure we are within the guidelines of our funding grant and serving meals that children will expose children to healthy eating choices.

Head Start Office Manager: My staff and I spent the month of April preparing for various celebrations such as the April 12th Professional Development Day for teachers, the Teacher of the Year and Teacher Assistant of the Year awards, and Teacher Appreciation Week. Our teachers work hard and we love showering them with treats and little gifts to let them know they are valued.



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Family Services: For the month of April, Family Advocates have been working very hard to update the Program Information Report to reflect the services that have been provided to the families during the school year. This includes physicals, dentals, referrals, parent meetings and the Parenting Curriculum that is provided by the program. The 3rd Family Services Home Visit is going to be completed this month for our Head Start sites including the post Family Needs Assessment. The last follow up with the Family Goal will happen during the month of May to make sure that parents have everything that they need.

Student Family Reviews were completed for all the sites by our Management Team, Family Advocates and Center Directors. During the Student Family Reviews, the entire team of professionals that supports each student gets together to discuss individual children's progress towards their goals as well as to determine whether or not any additional services are needed for the family to be Kindergarten ready.



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