

HEAD START

Monthly Report January 2021



Health: The health team was able to screen children for vision and hearing at the Luling, Lockhart, A. Washington and Henry Bush Centers. This is still a work in progress due to the pandemic barriers we are encountering. We are following all CDC guidelines as our team visits the centers.

ERSEA & Transitions: We saw a dip in attendance and enrollment after the holidays as families do transition during this time of year. We started out the semester with virtual learning due to the dangers of COVID after holiday family gatherings and this, too, impacted our attendance dip. Enrollments continue to take place and will do so until the year ends. We implemented a new Application Tracking Module this month to streamline our applications process. We are preparing for school year 2021/2022 and have begun planning a recruitment drive.

Our current enrollment is 415 of 502 available slots.



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Mental Health and Disabilities: During the last 30 days, the Mental Health and Wellness Coordinator participated in training on best practices for children transitioning to Special Education after Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Services in the Head Start Program. The information gained was communicated to Family Advocate staff to ensure our families are preparing for transition 6 months prior to the child's 3rd birthday. Parent training was provided on Language Development and understanding what is typical development versus what could potentially be a red flag signifying a concern. We are at the beginning stages of our SELF-ASSESSMENT and are working with the Self-Assessment TEAM to ensure we are in compliance with Head Start Performance Standards and are effectively meeting the needs of our children and the families we serve.



**EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS
COMMUNITY ACTION, INC.**
of Central Texas

Community Action, Inc. of Central Texas

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Head Start Operations & Safety: We sold 4 older Community Action vehicles through the bidding process this past month. These were replaced by two brand new SUVs that were purchased during the month of October with roll over funding from the previous year's budget.

Estimates from contractors have been submitted for the porch ceiling repair that is needed for Luling Early Head Start.

Center closures have taken place due to several staff out on quarantine or positive for COVID and we have assisted staff as they thoroughly sanitize the facilities using First Responders Technology Equipment. We have had to purchase more Shield Sterilization Solution for the backpack sprayers.

Operations Coordinator is currently working on getting 3 agency school buses appraised in preparation to sell them since we no longer provide transportation. Janitorial supplies are being ordered/ purchased to stock centers.



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Nutrition: Kitchen staff continue to bounce back and forth from in person meal service to virtual learning meal service. While head start centers across the agency vary in size, the weekly grab and go distribution and the food that is provided to the families is the same.

A goal that was achieved recently was the full implementation of Hemphill food services van. The commercial van helps make meal service run more smoothly while decreasing the physical strain that is put on the food service staff.



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Family Services: During the month of February, the Family Advocate Team will be following up with families regarding the family goals they set in the fall and establishing new goals as needed. We recently conducted a parent survey and are now analyzing that data to see how we can improve our services. We continue to support distribution of food and diapers for those families who are temporarily receiving virtual instruction due to COVID.

Head Start Office Manager: We have been busy supporting our Health Director in getting Vision and Hearing screenings completed. We have also supported the Nutrition Coordinator to ensure meal counts are accurate. We have spent considerable time covering classes and supporting centers in a million little ways as they try to operate short staffed due to COVID.



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School Readiness: In the area of school readiness, we have been working on analyzing the data from our first round of assessments and observations while also preparing for the next round that will start this month. We also revamped our procedures for our staff files to align more with Childcare Licensing Minimum Standards and held a training for our Center Directors on the Minimum Standards for Childcare, which was very well received. Several of our staff members(including teachers and center directors) also participated in the fourth module of an ongoing Conscious Discipline book study.



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