



Community Services for Children Provider Link Newsletter ~ ELRC Region 11 July 2022

Serving Bradford, Sullivan, Wyoming, Luzerne, Columbia & Montour counties

Region 11 Updates



The ELRC is celebrating it's 4th anniversary on July 2nd. We thank you for partnering with us over these years to serve the families in our community.

WE MOVED!

ELRC Region 11 is now located at
41 South Main St., Unit C-100,
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701



We are located in Midtown Village, next to the Boscov's Dept. Store.

Our phone, fax and email information remain the same but please use the new address for any correspondence.

570-704-5333 - phone
570-235-6949 - fax
elrc11@cscinc.org

Kick Off Meetings

The ELRC will be holding it's annual Kick Off Meetings in September & October.

Your attendance is highly encouraged as we will discuss updates to Keystone

STARS standards, CCW changes, grant opportunities and review the plans for provider supports during the 22-23 school year.

Several options will be offered per region and dates will be coming soon!



Move up to STAR 2

Quality Coach, Dana DeVito facilitated a “Move Up to STAR 2” cohort group for Family and Group Day Care Homes that wanted to raise their STAR level. The group met Thursday evenings from January through May. These evening Zoom meetings made it convenient for the programs to participate without interfering with their busy work day.

The cohort meetings provided the group the opportunity to review the STAR 2 indicators, ask questions and review the evidence needed to move up. It also gave everyone the opportunity to network and build relationships with others sharing the same goal.

Congratulations to the 7 programs that participated and have already raised their STAR level. Thank you for your commitment to quality child care.

If you are interested in raising your STAR level, contact your Quality Coach.

Region 11 Provider Supports

Director's Network Roundtable

The Region 11 Director's Network Roundtable meets monthly to share ideas and resources and to build partnerships in the child care community. Join us on July 21st, either in-person at our new office or via Zoom, to discuss business practices. Click the link below for details on registration, location and time.

- [Director's Network Roundtable](#)



Successful Strategies Series

The Successful Strategies Series is a monthly networking opportunity for teachers to share strategies that help support social emotional learning, guide behavior, build relationships and decrease stress. Join this webinar the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

- [Successful Strategies Teacher Roundtable](#)

Quality Coach Monthly Calendar

Print out a copy of the Region 11 Quality Coach Monthly Calendar for a quick reference of all regional support activities.

- [Calendar - July 2022](#)

Healthy Minds

Join us for guided meditation every Monday at 1:00 pm

- [Healthy Minds flyer](#)
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2022 Keystone STARS Performance Standards Recorded Webinar

The Keystone STARS 2022 Performance Standards take effect on July 1, 2022. A recorded webinar is now available to help providers understand the updates and edits that have been made to these standards. [Click here](#) to view the recording.

You can also visit the PA Key website for additional supporting documents and download a copy of the performance standards and STARS manual. Click [here](#) to access the resource page.

CCW Reminders

- The school-age flip from part-time to full-time enrollment for summer took place on 6/13/22. Please review your June invoice carefully before submitting to ensure accuracy especially with all the summer enrollment changes. Report any errors to your Provider Specialist.
- Continue to report COVID absences on your invoice. If you complete the paper invoice, write “C/A” for COVID absence. For those who complete their invoice on Provider Self Service, please make a note under the child’s name for any absences due to COVID.
- COVID exposures must still be reported to your certification representative
 - o Northeast Certification: 1-800-222-2108
 - o Southeast Certification: 1-800-346-2929
- CCW children have a 40 day absence cap each year (with the exception of COVID absences). This cap resets for all children as of July 1, 2022
- Please see the payment schedule for the 2022-2023 school year. It is essential that providers submit their invoice by the due date to ensure prompt payment for your CCW enrollments. Click [here](#) to view the payment schedule.

Professional Development Opportunities

- Better Kid Care has recently launched a new course “Active Play for Preschoolers with Autism - We Play”. Click [here](#) to view the flyer with additional information.
- STARS 101 and 102 have been replaced with a new module “Overview of Keystone STARS: Pennsylvania’s Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)”. All STAR designations that occur after 10/1 will need to have all staff, whom have been employed over 90 days in the program, complete this updated training. It is a free, one-hour module and is available on the PD Registry.



ARPA Reporting



Before submitting your ARPA Reporting in the PD Registry, please make sure you are entering all reporting amounts and care level capacity. Once you submit, you cannot make changes. Do not click “Yes” at the bottom of the screen until you are sure all information is complete, as this will submit and lock your report.

For more information, visit the [ARPA Stabilization Grant page](#).

If you received a message regarding unspent funding when trying to submit and finalize your program's spending report for the ARPA grant, please go back into the spending report after Friday, June 17 to submit and finalize. Please remember to add the capacity care level before submitting.

The Tip Sheet for ARPA reporting can be found [here](#).

Questions with reporting should be directed to the PD Registry at registry@pakeys.org or 1-800-284-6031.

Workforce Support Grant Payments

Workforce Support Grant applications are being approved and finalized by the ELRC. Payments will be sent to providers via direct deposit or check prior to 9/16/22.

Some helpful reminders:

- Do not submit your final expense report until after payment has been received and all money has been disbursed.
- Should a staff person leave your program after you had requested an amount in their name, those dollar amounts need to be added into the “Other Staff Supports” bucket and be spent accordingly. This bucket can be used for sign on bonuses, staff training, onboarding expenses, etc. If you are unable to spend those funds, they must be returned to the ELRC.
- Staff must be paid their full award within 30 days of receipt of the funding.
- Please read through the award letter once received and follow up with your Quality Coach with any questions.

Updated: Provisional Hiring Practices Pertaining to Act 12 of 2022

OCDEL has updated it’s provisional hiring requirements, specifically for new hires within their first 45 days.

As of 5/27/22, providers can hire a new staff person and allow employment to begin prior to all clearance paperwork being received as long as guidelines are met.

Please read thoroughly the announcement and direct any questions to your certification representative. Details of the announcement can be found on the PA Key website [here](#).





How to Talk with Children After a Traumatic Event

In times of community or world-wide crisis, it's easy to assume that young children don't know what's going on. However, children can sense worry or fear from their parents, see disturbing images on TV or hear adults talking about a crisis.

Dr. Brian Allen (PhD), a clinical psychologist and director of mental health services at the Center for the Protection of Children at Penn State Health Children's Hospital and Brandy Fox, Director of Cross Sector Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Initiatives with the Pennsylvania Key, recorded a discussion about how to discuss these events in a developmentally appropriate way.

Listen to the recording [here](#) and share with staff and families.

Oral Health - Encourage Children to Drink Water

Water is important for good oral health and overall health and well-being. Drinking water every day helps move nutrients throughout the body, gets rid of waste, gives skin a healthy glow, keeps muscles moving, and promotes a healthy weight.

Here are some reasons why drinking water helps keep teeth healthy:

- It strengthens teeth. Drinking water with fluoride is one of the easiest and best ways to help prevent tooth decay. Water with fluoride makes it hard for the bacteria that cause tooth decay to create acid. Fluoride also strengthens the outer layers of the teeth, making them more resistant to acid attacks. If the local, county, or state health department says not to drink water from the tap, make sure the new water source contains fluoride.
- It keeps the mouth clean. Drinking water washes away the bacteria that cause tooth decay and also washes away food left in the mouth after eating. Water also dilutes acids made by the bacteria that cause tooth decay. Even though drinking water helps keep the mouth clean, it is still important to brush the teeth with fluoride toothpaste twice a day.
- It fights dry mouth. Water helps create saliva, which is the mouth's first defense against tooth decay. Saliva contains calcium and other minerals that work into the outer layers of the teeth to keep them strong. It also keeps food moist so it can be swallowed easily and clears away food left in the mouth after eating.
- It does not contain sugar. Water is sugar-free, so drinking it doesn't allow the bacteria that cause tooth decay to make acid. Drinking water instead

GETTING YOUR CHILD TO
drink more water



of beverages that have natural or added sugar lowers the risk for developing tooth decay.

For tips to share with families to encourage children to drink water click [here](#).

For a toolkit that explains why you should serve water to the children under your care and information on how to do it, click [here](#).

Want to add staff or other members of your team to this newsletter? Email estair@cscinc.org and specify which Regional Newsletter you would like and requests will be added to next month's distribution.

[Visit ELRC Region 11](#)

Community Services for Children | elrc11@cscinc.org | www.cscinc.org

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