



CAPS Collaborative

Director's Report

February 10, 2016

Health Insurance and other benefits: This past month we have met with our broker and reviewed options for health insurance renewal. It appears that going out to bid would not net us any better offer than was presented by Harvard Pilgrim, our current provider, for a no bid option. They have locked in at an increase of 8% which is significantly lower than the current market trend of 13%. CAPS has changed insurance carriers several times in the last few years and it was felt that this rate increase coupled with staying consistent for another year would be in our employees' best interest. February is open enrollment month and two informational sessions will be offered for all staff. Not only are these sessions geared to new members but will review the current options available through our plan and help staff take advantage of some Health Care program benefits that they don't seem to understand or use to their fullest advantage.

Potential new Member District: I have been meeting with several area Special Education Directors with the emphasis on showcasing our programs, gathering information on district needs and explaining our additional services. In two cases, I have also explained the advantages for fiscal savings for member districts. I have reviewed the process for bringing a new member district into our organization and while a bit cumbersome it would be worth pursuing. I will keep you updated on this status and may reach out to you to speak to a superintendent or special education director about your experience as a Member District.

Marketing Materials: Closely related to seeking new members is a real need for current, attractive and appropriate marketing materials. While most inquiry about our programs can be addressed through our website it is clear we need to create other materials to highlight CAPS

Collaborative programs and services. Justin and I have met with a woman who does this work as a side business and she is going to create a sample of several types of marketing materials for us to review. While this will cost a little bit of money I think the cost will be well worth the exposure it will create. One of my focus goals for the year is to expand our program catchment area. These marketing materials will help me reach out to the western part of the state as well as southern New Hampshire.

Recycling Program: Justin Nussey, our Business Manager has made a connection with the Green Up our Schools Program. This group has awarded CAPS Collaborative \$1000 in grant money to start up a recycling program in our Gateway School. This student organized program is up and running and is a giant step to making our school more green. Students have reached out to other tenants in our building and everyone is involved. Students collect recycling from classroom and office bins weekly and the landlord has supplied a recycling dumpster. This group effort is very motivating for our students and Justin should be recognized for the efforts he has put into seeing this project happen. Thanks Justin!!!

School Resource Officer: We have been working with the Westminster Police Department around establishing a partnership. Our Gateway program would greatly benefit from a positive relationship with the police. We are working on creating a plan to have an officer here several days a week to establish relationships and support our program staff around working with our unique population. The Chief is very receptive and we are working on a MOA to define what this might look like in the Gateway Program. The staff and several of the police officers are very excited about this possibility.

Respectfully Submitted:

Cindy Landanno
Executive Director
CAPS Collaborative