



Julian E. MacDonnell, Jr., Executive Director

## **1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report**

**July 1, 2014 – September 30, 2014**

It is my pleasure to present to the Regional Board of Superintendents the 1st Quarter Report of the Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative as mandated by the new Collaborative Legislation adopted July 1, 2012.

The Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative was established in 1978 as an Educational Collaborative servicing regular and special education students and families. Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative services students ages 3-22 in a small, structured therapeutic and academic learning environment, paced to meet the needs of its students on an individualized basis. The Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative program offers a strong academic component designed to accommodate the learning needs of our students and to encourage their motivation to achieve. The Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative's mission is to provide programs and services to meet the unique educational needs of its member districts through programs and services designed and best served by a collaborative effort.

### **The Grow School**

#### **Program Overview**

The Grow School, established in 1978, is a Therapeutic Public Day Treatment Program that services children, adolescents, and families within the Southern Worcester County Community. Grow services students in grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12) in a small, structured therapeutic and academic learning environment, paced to meet the needs of its students on an individualized basis. The Grow program offers a strong academic component, clinical counseling, social skills development, career development, and crisis supports designed to accommodate the learning needs of our students and to encourage their motivation to achieve.

## **Program Philosophy/Features**

The Grow School views maladaptive student behavior or impaired achievement as a manifestation of social, emotional maladjustment, or physiological/mental health disorders. We provide child-centered, evidence-based programs and clinical interventions to help students access the curriculum; gain confidence, skills, and knowledge; and enjoy satisfying interpersonal relationships which lead to independence and self-actualization. The Grow School offers social/emotional and academic programs with clinical supports to prevent substantial regression between school years, or to enable high school students recover lost academic credits.

## **Summer Programs**

### **Grow Elementary/Middle School**

The focus this summer for the early elementary program students centered on a multi-disciplinary study of the New England states. Through a partnership with Old Sturbridge Village's educational resources, students were immersed in weekly units covering each state. Students read stories, learned essential math skills, and explored core academic learning strands through thematically designed lessons and hands-on learning opportunities. Off-site field trips included a trip to Old Sturbridge Village where students could actively explore traditional buildings and cultural standards from colonial New England.

The 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, Ready, and Social Skills program students worked effectively at our Dudley campus. The vernal pool was home-base for the study of wildlife and wetland ecology, and the mountain bike track and trails the students rode gave them an opportunity to apply their understanding of simple machines, principles of geometry, and certainly the laws of motion! Working with GPS units and geo-caching gave students hands-on experience in local geography, and, during our field trips, the students were very successful at demonstrating what responsible community citizens they are capable of being. It was also remarkable to witness the focused attention, following of directions, and sustained effort that students applied at our Archery range. Activities such as these, combined with the enthusiasm and professionalism of an outstanding staff, have helped to make our successful summer possible.

### **Grow High School**

The Grow High School Summer Program provided students ages 14 to 20 with on campus and community-based experience to develop prevocational and transitional skills. This year, The Grow School was awarded grant funding which allowed the students to participate in a paid work program. Students received functional academic lessons from the classroom teacher, as well as a presentation delivered by Southbridge Savings Bank. The students performed basic maintenance and landscaping jobs on-site as well as assisting with landscaping at the Dudley Town Hall, Dudley town beach and Corbin Cemetery. The students also worked at the Sturbridge Host Hotel, Nichols College, and Old Sturbridge Village. Through their hard work and commitment, the students earned admission passes for the elementary students to attend three class field trips to Old Sturbridge Village. Through grant funding and donations from general contractor Peter DiPadua, Home Depot, and Aubuchon Hardware Store, the students gained hands-on experience working with tools in the construction of a shed on the school

property. This project assisted our students in their development of important work habits, team building skills, and confidence to prepare them to be productive members of our community.

### **Program Locations**

Grow Elementary, 121 Ashland Ave., Southbridge, Ma – 47 Students

Grow Middle/High School, 185 Southbridge Road, Dudley, MA – 44 Students

Grow Career Development Program (HS), 185 Southbridge Road, Dudley, MA – 13 Students

FY 2015 Budgeted Enrollment: 110 Students

1st Quarter Enrollment: 104 Students

### **SWCEC Developmental Program**

The SWCEC Developmental program services students ages 3-22 years old, in self-contained classrooms located within our member public schools. These students have a variety of developmental disabilities ranging from moderate to severe, including mild behavioral needs, moderate to severe developmental, cognitive and physical disabilities and students identified within the Autism Spectrum disabilities. This summer we focused on some of our community helpers. We set up our classroom like a little community. We had a mock library, bank, post office, supermarket, and grocery store. Each week, we focused on one community helper and learned about what they do, where they work, the duties they perform and what skills are needed for that job. Each student had a turn to work as each community helper and a turn to be a customer. They worked on using a schedule to find out when they had to work and picture matching to find where they were working. We learned community signs (Open/Closed). We also learned our address and made an address book with our classmate's addresses. We used the address book to write letters to our classmates, practiced addressing envelopes, buying a stamp and mailing the letter at the post office. We ended our summer program with a big outdoor carnival which consisted of games, music, water balloons, parachutes, popcorn and hotdog machines and a clown!

Program Locations: Two classrooms at Bartlett High School with a total of 13 students

Two classrooms at East Brookfield Elementary with a total of 10.384 students.

FY 2015 Budgeted Enrollment: 19 students

1st Quarter Enrollment: 23.384 students

### **SWCEC Life Skills and Work Experience Programs**

The SWCEC Life Skills and Work Experience Programs service students ages 14-22 in need of transitional educational and vocational services to support their transition from academic services to adult services. The transition services and the planning for those services are required under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Under IDEA 2004, the Collaborative will develop a transition plan starting at the age of 14 for all students as they prepare for adult services. Transition planning is important and it is our goal to make this transition as seamless as possible for all students.

We are thrilled that the program has returned to the Dudley campus. At this location, the students have access to a full kitchen to have cooking lessons and develop life skills. They also have access to a full garden where they can plant, maintain, and harvest. This produce can then be used in their cooking lessons or the students can gain additional life skills and vocational experience by selling their product at The Grow School farm stand.

In our program, students gain on-site work experience such as basic maintenance and lawn care. They also attended a variety of vocational sites including Old Sturbridge Village, Job Lots, and Sturbridge Host Hotel. Members of the community rely on our students to deliver Meals on Wheels for the Webster and Southbridge programs. Over the summer months, our students assisted with Project Bread, a federally funded program providing free lunches to school aged children at the Jacob Edwards Library.

In addition to the Work Experience Program on our own campus, the Collaborative assists member districts with the development of their own programs. We have established vocational/life skills programs in Auburn, Northbridge, Dudley-Charlton, and Grafton. In these programs, we provide trained job coaches and, in some cases, 7-D registered vehicles for transportation. The job coaches provide job readiness training, community access, vocational experience, job coaching as well as life skills training. We are very excited that Quaboag has contracted with us this year to provide these services in a new program at the Quaboag Regional High School. At this time, we also provide vocational consultation services to Southbridge and Grafton as well as vocational assessment testing when requested.

FY 2015 Budgeted Enrollment: 6 students

1st Quarter Enrollment: 9 students

### **SWCEC Therapeutic and Contract Services**

The SWCEC provides therapeutic and contracted services to our member districts to support them in the provision of related services to their students as required under their Individualized Education Plan (IEP). These services for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter include Adaptive Physical Education, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy, Vision Services, Orientation and Mobility Services, Deaf Services (added 2 full time Teachers of the Deaf to meet district needs), Job Coach/Vocational Programming Services (added 3 days services for Grafton and added 2 days services for Quaboag), and Consultation Services in addition to Psycho-Educational services. The number of students serviced by the SWCEC within our member schools is approximately 300 students, but this number changes as the individual student IEPs change. The SWCEC also adds services as requested by its member districts when approved by the Regional Board of Superintendents.

## **SWCEC Transportation**

The Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative's Transportation Department provided services to 55 students attending the summer program in June, July and August. Summer field trips provided to SWCEC summer programs included outings such as Old Sturbridge Village, Dean Pond at Brimfield State Forest, and Purgatory Chasm in Sutton.

The start of the 2014-2015 school year started with SWCEC's 20 drivers transporting more than 70 students to schools throughout the Commonwealth.

The SWCEC was able to increase its service with a member district, providing daily transport to a school in Rutland and after school program transportation.

The SWCEC drivers have begun to receive a monthly transportation newsletter that will provide drivers and monitors with current school transportation news. *Around We Go* includes such topics as upcoming dates regarding school closures/dismissals, reminders about school policies, industry stories as well as other useful topics.

Drivers and monitors also attended the first transportation training session. This session, Behavior Management and the Bus, was facilitated by Justin Jarvis and Derek Sosnowski of the Collaborative and gave attendees helpful ideas and tips on how to handle certain situations while in a small confined space. All in attendance talked about how informative the session was and wished it was something they had known years ago. Future trainings are being designed using driver/monitor input.

The SWCEC provides transportation services to the following school districts: Auburn, Dudley-Charlton, Grafton, Northbridge and Webster. Our buses can be seen in Dudley, Charlton, Natick, Springfield, Southborough, Watertown, Webster, West Boylston, and Worcester as well as many other areas.

**SWCEC Professional Development  
1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Training Schedule**

Training Schedule:	Date:	Audience:	Training Hours:
Equal Education & Civil Rights: Discrimination, Harassment, ADA, 504 Plans, DCAP	8/25/14	All Staff	8:30-11:30 am
Bullying in School	8/25/14	All Staff	8:30-11:30 am
Anti-Hazing	8/25/14	All Staff	8:30-11:30 am
51A – Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting	8/25/14	All Staff	8:30-11:30 am
Physical Restraint Overview	8/25/14	All Staff	8:30-11:30 am
Student Records and Confidentiality	8/25/14	All Staff	8:30-11:30 am
Universal Precautions/Life Threatening Food Allergies	8/25/14	All Staff	8:30-11:30 am
Technology Acceptable Use Policy	8/25/14	All Staff	8:30-11:30 am
Drug-Free Workplace Policy	8/25/14	All Staff	8:30-11:30 am
SWCEC Professional Behavior Practices	8/25/14	All Staff	8:30-11:30 am
Conflict of Interest	8/25/14	All Staff	8:30-11:30 am
Concussion Law	8/25/14	All Staff	8:30-11:30 am
Good Samaritan Law	8/25/14	All Staff	8:30-11:30 am
Field Trip Policy	8/25/14	All Staff	8:30-11:30 am
Employee Handbook	8/25/14	All Staff	8:30-11:30 am
Bus Behavior Management	9/8/14 and 9/15/14	Bus Drivers	10:15-11:45 & 12:00-1:30
Educator Evaluation: Creating and Implementing an Educator Plan	9/22/2014	All Grow Staff	12:00-1:15 & 1:15-2:20
PBIS	9/22/2014	All Grow Staff	12:00-1:15 & 1:15-2:20
Admin Topics	9/22/2014	Tutors/Subs/Crisis/Admin	12:00-1:15 & 1:15-2:20

**1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Financial Update, provided by Ms. Sherry Holmes, Business Administrator**

**July - September, 2014**

<b>FY2015 Adopted Operational Budget by the Board</b>	<b>\$8,404,798.59</b>
<b>First Quarter Anticipated Revenue</b>	<b>\$2,101,199.64</b>
<b>First Quarter Actual Revenue Invoiced</b>	<b>\$2,252,983.08</b>
<b>First Quarter Anticipated Expenditures</b>	<b>\$2,101,199.64</b>
<b>First Quarter Actual Expenditures</b>	<b>\$1,519,652.41</b>
<b>FY2015 First Quarter Balance Sheet Income</b>	<b>\$733,330.67</b>