<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGENDA ITEM</th>
<th>TIME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Call to Order and Introductions – Board Chair Dan Hayes</td>
<td>6:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Public Session/New Business</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Early Childhood Presentation – Desiree Lalbeharie-Josias</td>
<td>6:40</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Election of Officers (vote required)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Election of Chair and Vice Chair</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Election of At-Large Members of Executive Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Appointment of Secretary (vote required)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Appointment of Treasurer (vote required)</td>
<td>7:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Appointment of Finance Committee (vote required)</td>
<td>7:25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Establish Warrant Sub-Committee (3 members of Board) (vote required)</td>
<td>7:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Borrow a Line of Credit Loan from PeoplesBank (vote required)</td>
<td>7:35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Hires and Separations for July and August, 2016 (information only)</td>
<td>7:40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and Hires and Separations for September, 2016 (vote required)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. Vote that the Executive Director of the Collaborative for Educational Services (William A. Diehl) is authorized, empowered and directed on behalf of the Collaborative to sign, seal, execute and deliver any and all contracts, agreements and other documents on behalf of the organization, as allowed by law (vote required)</td>
<td>7:45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Executive Director Goals for 2016-2017 (vote required)</td>
<td>7:50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Updates: Union, P.R., Mt. Tom, CES Newsletter, Facebook, SJE Conference</td>
<td>8:05</td>
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<tr>
<td>14. Executive Director’s Report</td>
<td>8:25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Motion to go into Executive Session (M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21, Subsection 2) to discuss complaints brought against an employee (vote required)</td>
<td>8:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Motion to go back into Open Session (vote required)</td>
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<tr>
<td>16. Adjournment (vote required)</td>
<td>9:00</td>
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</table>
Call to Order and Introductions of New Board Members

The Board Meeting was called order at 6:30 pm by Dan Hayes. Introductions were made. Three new board members were attending their first meeting this evening.

Public Session – Stephanie Davella-Viens re: Charter Schools

Stephanie Davella-Viens from Belchertown spoke on lifting the cap on charter schools in the state. She stated that she was here to talk about a public policy decision which takes money from public schools and gives it to charter schools. This cause has been taken up in South Hadley because they are losing a million dollars to charter schools. Her opinion was that public school districts should not support the expansion of charter schools in MA. Stephanie stated her thoughts that charter schools are not innovative and honest like public schools. She stated she is here this evening to answer our questions.

We in western MA are with faced with declining enrollment in our public schools. She reported that she has met with State Senator Stan Rosenberg but nothing will change around this topic until the ballot initiative in the fall. There is a wide coalition of people who are against lifting the cap on charter schools, not just the MTA. This includes the NAACP, MASC and the MASS who have done work on this topic as well. Stephanie is willing to come speak to individual school districts on this ballot initiative.

Also, Jeff Gelbard announced that he is resigning from the Williamsburg School Committee and will no longer be our Board rep. from Williamsburg. And board member Trevor McDaniel voiced a concern about our Early Childhood Department. He stated that he had received a phone call about many employees who have left the department, and he stated that he needs guidance around why this has happened. Bill stated that he had spoken about this in the past. Bill stated that is partly due to a transition to a new Manager of the department and the other problem is soft money - when programs go away, the people who work under them go away. Bill noted that he would prefer not to discuss this in-depth in Open Session at this time.

Approve Minutes of May 25, 2016 Board of Directors Meeting (vote required)

Trevor McDaniel motioned to approve the Open Session Minutes of the CES Board Meeting of May 25, 2016 and Pat Smith seconded the motion. It was requested that the minutes be amended on page 2 to read, “The program will not be able to be at HCC next year due to renovations. An alternative place was proposed in Holyoke. It has not been finalized.” The proposed amendment to the Minutes was approved. Cara Castenson and Jennifer Curran abstained. The motion passed.
CES Fiscal Year 2016 Affirmative Budget Vote (vote required)

Per Collaborative Agreement Section VII. Finance. C.12: Once approved, the Treasurer shall certify and transmit the budget and related tuition rates, membership dues for fees for services for the upcoming fiscal year to each member not later than June 30, 2016. Dan Hayes motioned to approve the annual budget as presented and Hussain Hamdan seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mt. Tom Academy (vote required) - Bill Diehl/Barbara Siegel

Bill explained the history of Mt. Tom Academy to the Board members. He stated that districts send students to Mt. Tom Academy, one of our alternative schools, but that the students graduate with their sending district. Enrollment at Mt. Tom goes up and down. The numbers have dwindled over the years. Trish Colson-Montgomery stated that the board should have been given more information about this topic before this evening, and the fact that the program may be closing now should have been more thought out and planned, with input from the board. Dan Hayes said he will keep the board more informed in the future about topics which are controversial. Trevor McDaniel noted that he is a huge advocate of alternative schools. It was noted that CES needs $160,000 a year to fund the program. The number of students who attend do not come near the cost of running the program. A stronger PR presence is a possibility for this school. Could we collaborate with North Star Program in Sunderland? Could this program be under the auspices of HEC Academy? It was also noted that in the past the Director's salary of this program was picked up by our indirect rate. He has not been paid out of the program, but should be. Five students are guaranteed for the coming school year.

Barbara Siegel explained the financials of running the program. The break-even would be to include a teacher's aide in order to serve more students and to set our costs low enough to obtain as many students as possible. Many board members advocated for keeping the program open. Dan Hayes stated that his sense is that people find value in the Mt. Tom Academy and that people may have come up with some good options this evening. Before we vote, he noted that he thinks the board wants to see if we can make it more financially sustainable. He stated the idea of putting a small team of people together to iron out the financial piece and to look at the program as well. Bill noted he appreciates the rich discussion tonight and said if we look at HEC Academy and how it has turned around, perhaps this can happen to Mt. Tom too.

David Young motioned to continue to approve the continuance of the Mt. Tom Academy for 2016-2017. Janice Gibeau seconded the motion. Janice Gibeau then motioned to approve the tuition rate of $9,000 for member district students and $9,900 for non-member district students. She would also like to include a part time classroom aide in this motion. Or, could there be a sliding scale tuition for districts that can pay more?

Barbara Siegel then recommended that option one (given to the Board in a hand-out) is the only way to manage the tuition situation which is $10,040 per student (member rate). Bill Diehl then stated that $9,000 makes sense but must include a part time aide. David Young then seconded the original motion made by Janice Gibeau which was to charge $9,000 for member students and $9,900 for non-member students. Dan Hayes asked if there was flexibility for administration to look at this or do we want to use these solid numbers? The board agreed there was not flexibility. Also, a committee will be formed to look at this for this year and they will put any recommendations into place this year. The board needs to sell this to districts themselves stated Jan Gibeau. The board agreed that they should entertain a discussion in the future about member dues. Cathy Englehardt stated that we should wait on hiring an aide until we have more than five students. Jan Gibeau's motion passed with one opposition and one abstention.
Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey – K. Levesque

Kathy Levesque, Director of Marketing and Communications, spoke about our annual customer needs and satisfaction survey. She said that surveys were sent out statewide to all of our customers who have interactions with CES. The survey was mailed to 8-9,000 people. Responses ran in the past years from 400 to 500 people. We redesigned the entire process, and this year we have over 660 responses to our survey. The majority of the responses come from Hampshire, Hampden and Franklin Counties. In Hampshire County and Franklin County, respondents understand they are members of CES but many do not always understand the benefits of membership. Central office personnel understand the benefits, teachers not so much. Other professionals have very little connection to membership benefits. Kathy discussed the area of CES services - do they use our services, what is the likelihood that they would recommend them, etc. The highest awareness of the services we offer was Professional Development, with 80% being aware of our Licensure program. Usage –our highest usage is in the area of Professional Development. We overall have high marks for satisfaction with our services. Would they be likely to recommend our services - 66% would be likely to recommend PD. We would like to see these numbers rise each year. One part to touch on is the open ended comments they give us. One of the most startling issues is educators who talk about the increasing problem of mentally and emotionally challenging students in the classroom. They need help with all of this, including physical aggression, etc. There are also increasing numbers of kids in preschool and kindergarten kids entering school with socio-emotional challenges. We can use this data to help our district needs.

Update on SEIS/DYS – B. Diehl

Bill recommends that we give an overview of these programs in September. He stated that we did negotiate with the union and that these employees received a 2% raise and a 1% enhancement.

Hires and Separations (vote required)

Cathy Englehardt motioned to approve the Hires and Separations at CES since the board last met in May and Trish Colson-Montgomery seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

How Handle Hires and Separations during Summer Months (vote required)

The Executive Committee of the CES Board of Directors met in August last year to approve the hires and separations during the summer months. In September, the entire board saw the list of hires and separations for the summer months. Trish Colson-Montgomery moved that the Executive Committee oversee hires and separations during the summer months, with presentation to the full board in September. The motion was seconded by Janice Gibeau and all were in favor. The Motion passed.

Executive Director’s Report

Bill spoke about a few highlights in his report to the Board. He stated that graduations were wonderful this year. He noted the last item in his report is about equitable and inclusive practices. We are trying to stay ahead of the curve with this. Also, Summer Academy starts next week with lots of offerings. We have a 50% increase in our cooperative purchasing program. There is also increased interest around rural issues. There was a recent presentation by the Rennie Center about the state of education in MA. Most of the presentation was about Holyoke and Springfield so we are proposing that rural districts be included in this.
Board Discussion

Promoting our Districts: We need to promote our districts! Kathy showed the Board a PowerPoint presentation on Proud of Western MA Public Schools. We are going to create a Facebook presence around this topic. It was noted that 15 of 124 schools in our counties have a Facebook page. Some have none. 86 schools have unofficial pages on Facebook. This means that they are not being controlled by the schools or the districts. Parents and teachers are actively posting on Facebook - most are positive posts. Opportunity: create a central promotable (Proud of Western MA Public Schools) Facebook page by CES to let people know about the great work that is happening in our public schools. CES will monitor the posts. We would need to talk with superintendents about this before we try to get this to go viral in this region. Bill Diehl can speak with superintendents and let them know that the Board liked this idea and then ask superintendents about their thoughts around this. The Board noted that they would like to move ahead with the Facebook page.

Kathy stated that she would email the group this PowerPoint.

Referendum on Charter Schools: Districts are aware of this issue and are discussing it.

Bill ended the meeting this evening by showing a YouTube presentation made by the students at the Massachusetts School for the Deaf. This was their final project for the year.

The board was made aware of the list of dates and locations of the board meetings for the coming year.

Adjournment

Trish Colson-Montgomery motioned to adjourn the meeting and this was seconded by Bethany Seeger. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
WilliamDiehl
Collaborative for Educational Services
Executive Committee Meeting
August 17, 2016

The meeting was convened for the purpose of reviewing and approving hires and separations that occurred since the June 29, 2016 CES Board Meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Dan Hayes, Board Chair, at 8:33 am.

The meeting was held in the CES Board Room and attended by Executive Committee members Hussain Hamdan, Robie Grant and Dan Hayes. Also present was William Diehl, CES Executive Director.

1. The Executive Committee reviewed the list of hires and separations provided by Cyndi Miller, CES Director of Human Resources.

2. Bill Diehl explained each of the four separations – all were voluntary.

3. It was noted that two of the separations were from the Early Childhood (EC) Department. The Executive Committee suggested a larger Board conversation about EC, possibly in Executive Session. Dan Hayes will further discuss with Bill Diehl and Cyndi Miller and make appropriate plans.

4. Hussain Hamdan made a motion to approve the hires and separations; Robie Grant seconded. The motion was approved.

5. Hussain Hamdan made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Robie Grant seconded. The motion was approved.

6. The meeting concluded at 8:49 am.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

William Diehl
Acting Secretary
## HIRES

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<tr>
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<th>DATEHired</th>
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<td>SPECIAL EDUCATION SPECIALIST</td>
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<td>PELTIER</td>
<td>LAUREL</td>
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<td>SULLIVAN</td>
<td>ERIN</td>
<td>3-Jul-16</td>
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## SEPARATIONS

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<td>KAY</td>
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<td>EARLY CHILDHOOD</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENERSON</td>
<td>LINDA</td>
<td>5-Jul-16</td>
<td>ADMINISTRATION</td>
<td>DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT/WRITER</td>
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<td>CHURCH</td>
<td>ALLISON</td>
<td>18-Aug-16</td>
<td>LICENSURE</td>
<td>STUDENT AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT</td>
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<td>ROSS</td>
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<tr>
<td>MADDEN</td>
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<td>WARTON</td>
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<td>MURACZEWSKI</td>
<td>ASHLEY</td>
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<td>EVALUATION</td>
<td>RESEARCH ASSISTANT</td>
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<td>BROWN</td>
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<td>HUBEN</td>
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<td>CARRANO</td>
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S GOALS
FOR EDUCATOR EVALUATION -- 2016-2017
PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, September, 2016

# 1 - Professional Practice (Superintendent Evaluation Goal 1)

During 2016-2017, I will increase my knowledge and skills in my professional practice and successful management of the Collaborative through:

- full participation in the third (and final) year of the New Superintendent Induction Program (NSIP -- a three-year professional development and support program sponsored by the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents and DESE). This includes participation in the 3 intensive content days of professional development, the 5 Consultancy Groups, completion of all readings, assignments and plans, and engagement in monthly individualized coaching.
- active participation in local, state and national organizations, both to gain professional knowledge and to further the work of CES.
- furthering of job-related knowledge and skill development through participation in targeted professional development including Legal Seminars on educational issues; MASS and MASC convenings; Massachusetts Organization of Educational Collaboratives and the national Association of Education Service Agencies conferences and workshops; and trainings on new technology tools and applications.

#2 - Instructional Leadership / Student Learning #1 (Superintendent Evaluation Goal 2)

During 2016-2017, I will provide leadership that will impact instruction and student learning in our direct-service programs through:

- expanding the use of student progress and achievement data to inform instruction and monitor individual progress within our direct service programs (HEC Academy, Mt. Tom, Afterschool Programs, DYS, and SEIS).
- ensuring that educator evaluation is being completed, analyzed, and used for improvement for Special Education, DYS, SEIS, and other fulltime educators by supporting and holding accountable my administrators of direct service programs.
- ensuring SMART goal setting, aligned with the MA Educator Evaluation System, by the administrators of the direct service programs and evaluation of goal attainment for the purposes of improvement.
#3 - Instructional Leadership / Student Learning #2 (Superintendent Evaluation Goal 2)

During 2016-2017, I will support instructional leadership and student learning in our member districts by:
- expanding the professional development, consulting, and other assistance to our member districts in the areas of special education, inclusive practices, and working with vulnerable youth.
- continuing the evaluation project with two of our member districts with “high penetration” of CES supports and services to better ascertain how much, and in what ways, the CES programs and services contribute to the success of member Superintendent and school improvement goals.

#4 - District Improvement #1 - Meet Member District Needs (Strategic Goal #1) / Promote CES programs and services

During 2016-2017, I will institute processes to ensure better communication with member districts and increased responsiveness to district needs. This will include:
- continued focus on collecting needs-assessment data through surveys and interviews.
- development of CES “liaisons” to each of our districts in order to ensure greater coordination of services within CES and greater knowledge of and responsiveness to school district needs.
- continuing regular meetings with superintendents as well as job-alike meetings of Special Ed Directors, Curriculum Directors; Business Managers, and Technology Directors; in addition, the development of a robust process to collect and share across CES information about district needs gleaned at these meetings.
- continuing focus on clear, consistent communication about CES services and how they can assist districts in meeting current challenges and preparing for emerging trends.
- continuing to take a leadership role, to the extent permitted by applicable law, in identifying and advocating for issues and opportunities pertinent to our member districts.

# 5 - District Improvement #2 - Management and Operations / Improve the operations of the agency:

During 2016-2017, I will lead CES in implementing key enhancements to make CES more efficient, effective, inclusive and collaborative. This includes:
- implementation of the enhancements, approved by the Board, of a) a customer-relations management (CRM) system to collect and share key data across the agency to increase efficiencies and better meet funder requirements; and b) a shared enterprise system to increase accuracy, efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and timeliness of human resources, fiscal, and business office functions.
- refinement and initial implementation of a strategic plan to infuse more social justice and equity principles and practices in the agency.
- development of a plan for a re-structuring of CES from 15 departments, which are relatively siloed, to a structure that allows for greater collaboration and synergy of efforts, and minimizes some duplication of functions.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
September 28, 2016

Dear CES Board Members:

Welcome to the first CES Board of Directors meeting for 2016-2017. We had a very busy summer at CES, as evidenced by the Interim report I sent towards the end of August. Please let me know if you need a copy.

Over the last month, we started the new school year at many programs across our member districts, including special education programs (e.g. HEC Academy, CBWE), early childhood/parent centers and programs, afterschool programs, alternative education (Mt. Tom and connecting activities), professional development workshops, licensure courses, and Professional Learning Communities. Across the state, we also opened the school year at Department of Youth Services education programs and at Special Education in Institutional Settings sites. As a critical part of launching the school year, CES provided orientation and extensive professional development, at the end of August and the first week in September, to our 300+ educators in these many programs.

At the organization level, as part of our Social Justice and Equity (SJE) initiative, we are holding a conference on “Transforming Education for Social Justice” on October 15 at Holyoke Community College. We expect a large number of participants, many from our member districts. Anne McKenzie, Superintendent in Hadley, John Provost, Superintendent in Northampton, and I are part of a presentation on “Diversifying the Educator Workforce.” CES Board members are invited to attend!

Thanks to our communications team, we had the successful launch of a new email initiative this fall with our first CES E-Newsletter. We are working to restructure and streamline our email outreach program and have developed the twice-monthly CES Newsletter in order to provide information and news about CES projects and service areas that are not event-oriented. If you haven’t seen the E-Newsletter, you can sign up to receive this every other week using our website e-newsletter sign up form.

I have also been busy with outreach activities. I served on the taskforce this summer to re-write the framework for Safe and Supportive Schools, as part of my services on the state’s Safe and Supportive Schools Commission. I also serve on the Northampton Resettlement School Working Group, as Northampton prepares to welcome 51 refugees over the next months.

I continue to serve on the Executive Committee for the MA Organization of Education Collaboratives (MOEC). As part of this, I have been the regional liaison for a statewide ESE-MOEC-MESPA-MSSAA effort to share tools and resources concerning Inclusive Practices with 1,000 principals (as well as other administrators). There is more information under Goal 1 (below). In addition, I am one of the presenters at a session in this year’s MASS/MASC conference, which has the theme of Social Emotional Learning and the Impact of Poverty on Education. With three other collaborative directors, we will present Your Educational Collaborative: A Partner in Addressing Barriers to Learning in Your Region, in Your Schools, and in Our Programs.
I am truly honored to work with so many people who are undauntedly determined to make positive impacts on all the lives they touch. I look forward to a productive year ahead!

On this and the following pages are a few highlights of CES's recent work (see also the Summer Interim Report). The highlights are arranged according to our strategic goals.

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**STRATEGIC GOAL 1: MEETING MEMBER DISTRICT NEEDS** by collaborating to build needed strength and capacity based upon recognition of current and upcoming demands and trends in education.

**SELECTED / REPRESENTATIVE ACTIVITIES**

- A full slate of **fall professional development workshops** has begun, primarily serving educators in our member districts. Twenty-nine PD workshops for K-12 educators are scheduled and have been publicized through email, flyers, and on our website. Among the topic areas addressed include Struggling Learners; Educator Evaluation; Social Justice and Equity; ways to support Special Ed students and English Language learners in the classroom; Behavior management; Safe and Supportive Schools; effective Math, Literacy, and Social Studies instruction; and Attorney Tate’s presentation on Legal Issues for Schools. **Please note:** Board Members can attend CES workshops, at only the cost of meals and materials, if there is room available.

- In addition, and at the request of member superintendents, we will be providing a range of **PD offerings on Election Day** (Nov. 8) to complement professional development being planned by districts. **Sixteen workshops** are planned by CES for that day.

- Our Early Childhood Department is holding multiple workshops in several locations in our region. These include: a) Building Success: Supporting Children with ASD in an Inclusive Setting; b) Identifying and Supporting Children with Special Needs in your Program; c) Strategies for Addressing Delayed Communication Development in Young Children; d) Understanding and Addressing Young Children’s Behaviors; e) Sensory Processing: Creating a Sensory Sensitive Classroom, Curriculum & Experience for Young Children; f) Enhancing Infant Curriculum; and g) Early Childhood: An Important Time to Introduce Social Justice and Diversity to Young Children.

- As mentioned above, ESE has contracted with all of the collaboratives to develop a cadre of **Inclusive Practice Ambassadors** across the Commonwealth. The purpose of the ambassadors is to introduce principals and other administrators to the wealth of resources developed by ESE to support the inclusion of all types of learners in classrooms and schools. As of this writing, our Inclusive Practice Ambassador, Sharon Jones, along with three other regional Ambassadors have had, or are planning to have, these meetings with Belchertown, Easthampton, Gill-Montague, Granby, Hampshire Regional, Hatfield, Northampton, Orange, Petersham, RC Mahar, South Hadley, and Ware.

- The **Franklin and Hampshire County Superintendents** began their monthly convenings, organized and facilitated by CES, by holding a joint meeting on September 23. Thirteen of the nineteen superintendents of member districts attended. In addition, the **Connecticut Valley Superintendents Roundtable (CVSR)**, also organized by CES, held its first meeting.
on September 9th; CVSR includes all the superintendents in Franklin, Hampshire, and Hampden Counties.

- We began the **job-alike groups** for principals, technology directors, business managers, Special Education directors and curriculum directors.

- We also are offering free **Professional Learning Communities** for: New Teachers; Mentor Teachers; Librarians/ Media Specialists; Technology in Education; Using Google Apps; Early Education Leaders; Public Preschool Teachers; Social Justice and Equity in Schools; English Language Learners; and Social Studies.

- We’re pleased with the progress of the **Proud of WMass Schools** social media initiative. Posts continue to go up on the Facebook page, which has gathered 336 followers since July 16th and continues to grow. The single post so far with the greatest reach (1410 people viewed) and engagement has been an August 9th post about Great Falls Middle School (Gill-Montague Regional School District). Among the schools featured in posts to date have been those from **8 different districts in Hampshire County, 7 different districts in Franklin County, and 4 Berkshire County districts**. We are always seeking more content, and now that the school year has begun, we’re finding some wonderful photos, events, and programs to talk about! We encourage Board members to “like” the page and recommend stories from their districts to include! [https://www.facebook.com/wmasspublicschools/](https://www.facebook.com/wmasspublicschools/)

- In our Title III Consortium, many students were served over the summer through individual and small group tutoring, in which ELs were assisted with reading and math skills. Northampton Public Schools hosted their Title III-supported family engagement event on Aug. 29 at Jackson Street School. Our current Title III consortium serves 18 districts (including Amherst-Pelham Regional School District, Belchertown Public Schools, Easthampton Public Schools, Frontier Regional and Union #38 School Districts, Granby Public Schools, Greenfield Public Schools, Hadley Public Schools, Hampshire Regional School District (and Westhampton School, Williamsburg School, Southampton School), Northampton Public Schools, Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District, South Hadley Public Schools, and Ware Public Schools). We are in the process of completing application for FY17, with 17 low-incidence EL districts involved. During 2016-2017, CES as fiscal agent makes possible professional development, tutoring (individual and small group) and family literacy events.

- CES will provide **nine** SEI teacher full courses to begin in October. Successful completion of this 13-week course confers the SEI Endorsement. Two of these are open-enrollment courses at CES and seven are district-based courses.

- In 2016-2017, the CES Reading Recovery Site is serving **13 MA school districts including seven member districts**. We welcome five new RR trainees and provide ongoing professional development and support to 25 teachers.

- Our Technology Integration team conducted a number of tailored trainings in Google Applications for Education (GAFE) in districts including Belchertown, South Hadley, Southbridge, and Holyoke. In addition, professional development was provided in South Hadley on “Effective Uses of Interactive Whiteboards in the Classroom.”

- CES’s Early Child has now planned and is beginning to roll out **professional development and other supports to support early childhood mental health and address behavioral issues** (e.g. which can lead to pre-school and kindergarten suspensions). This has been developed in response to concerns from our districts.
• Our Healthy Families and Communities Department, which includes the Hampshire County Strategic Planning Initiative for Families and Youth (SPIFFY) Coalition, has continued a range of activities in September. Among those activities:
  o Continued supporting CES’s Substance Abuse Prevention Collaborative grant from MA DPH to work with municipalities of Ware, Amherst, Hadley, South Hadley and Northampton. The focus is on local policy change and cluster-wide strategies to reduce underage drinking and other drug use. Hampshire HOPE, the opioid prevention coalition, is a major partner.
  o Ware, on behalf of the Quaboag Hills Community Coalition, received a Drug Free Communities grant from SAHMSA. CES’s staff member, Gail Grammarosa, has been providing TA to their coalition for several years and helped write the grant. CES’s Community Health Solutions will be the evaluators for this grant.
  o Raising Healthy Children, the 2016 edition of an annual Parent Guide published by the Daily Hampshire Gazette, is now available in print and online. The Guide offers articles and resources to support families. This year’s Guide includes an article by SPIFFY’s staff member, Heather Warner, about data-informed parenting, and a quiz to help parents talk and actively listen to their teen.

**STRATEGIC GOAL 2: FOSTERING THE SUCCESS OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES, WITH A FOCUS ON THOSE PLACED AT RISK** – by providing educational programs, policies and practices that foster the success of families, youth and children.

**SELECTED / REPRESENTATIVE ACTIVITIES – AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS**

• In September, we re-opened our **eleven successful 21st Century Community Learning Centers** in several communities. We also began a new 21st Century Community Learning Center program at the **Amherst Regional Middle School** in September.

• CES is continuing fee-based programs for the **William E. Norris Elementary School (Southampton), Granby Public Schools, and Gateway Public Schools**. We are applying to the MA Department of Early Education and Care for the status that will allow parents to use waivers – making the programs accessible to all families.

**SELECTED/REPRESENTATIVE ACTIVITIES – Mount Tom**

Mount Tom Academy, located at Holyoke Community College, had a promising start for the new year. Seven students are enrolled and, as of this writing, four more students are in the application process. An orientation for students and their parents / caregivers was held on September 6, with all families in attendance. As an additional change, Pedro Gomes, Program Coordinator for our Special Ed programs, is now overseeing the Mount Tom program and providing guidance and support to the lead teacher, Barbara Cheney.

About Mount Tom: Mount Tom supports participating high school students with self-pacing in academics, dropout prevention strategies, career skills development, and the opportunity to experience high school in a college setting. Sending schools maintain their students on their rolls, confer their school’s diploma upon completion of requirements, and retain their students’ data for district reporting purposes

**SELECTED/REPRESENTATIVE ACTIVITIES – Early Childhood**

Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Programming: The EC Department runs the
Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) initiative in multiple communities, primarily in Hampshire County. We are now providing services in 15 different towns and communities.

This past month has been a flurry of activity as playgroups and family centers held end of summer and back to school family events. The more recent few weeks were filled with preparation and opening for regular hours for the new school year. Our Puzzle of Parenting Calendar provides a list of our workshops for parents and some for families; it is complete and available on our website. All workshops are free and free childcare is available with registration. The full listing of all our CFCE programming has been updated and is on our website.

Assessment for Responsive Teaching (ART): We received notice in June that we were awarded the assessment grant for FY 17. Since that time, our EC staff has met with trainers in July to review our courses and share best practices. Our trainers participated in a webinar in August that resulted in their GOLD re-certification. Among other developments, we:

- Revised our Understanding and Implementing Developmental Screening course (in English and Spanish) to include information on using a free online screening tool called the Survey of Well-being of Young Children, which is available in several languages.
- Translated two courses into Portuguese: Using Observation Skills for Planning and Assessment and Understanding and Implementing Developmental Screening.
- Hired two Portuguese-speaking trainers.
- Created a Professional Learning Community model to be offered in each of the 5 EPS regions called the Art of Observation, which is designed to help educators hone their skills in observing and assessing children’s growth and development.
- Worked closely with CES’s technology team to pilot Salesforce, CES’s new registration system.
- Initiated updating our EC-ART website (and the CES website) to include an option to view it in different languages.
- Created two online surveys using a sophisticated online survey tool called Survey Gizmo
- Are close to finishing a new, advanced course for program administrators that focuses on the follow-up activities that need to occur once a screening is completed.
- Launched our first ART newsletter with the help of the Communication team, which went out to 3000 people, all of whom had completed at least one training with our project.
- Scheduled 19 trainings so far for FY 17, and 3 of the 5 PLCs have been scheduled.

Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH): These are EEC-funded services made available through our subcontract with Behavioral Health Network. The ECMH team has been busy working with approximately 25 families over both Hampshire and Franklin counties. The ECMH team provides consults to early educators, classroom observations, home visits with families and case management services. We currently have a waitlist of approximately 10 referrals.

Social-Emotional Learning and Approaches to Play and Learning: CES completed the development of training modules to assist ESE and EEC in rolling out these new standards. On September 15, CES’s Corky Klimczak presented the Family Engagement modules at the CFCE Statewide meeting. This was a very well received presentation that CFCE coordinators found helpful, informative and engaging.
SELECTED/REPRESENTATIVE ACTIVITIES - Special Education in Institution Settings
- The New Teacher Orientation and Launch Day were very successful. DESE Associate Commissioner Russell Johnston was one of the keynote speakers.
- We continued curriculum and technology deployment at all SEIS sites, with coaching and other support provided by CES staff.
- SEIS continues working to reach the four goals set out by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education: 1) strengthen curriculum, instruction and assessment in academic, social emotional and workplace readiness domains; 2) improve educator effectiveness in the provision of special education services; 3) use data and technology to improve student performance and program effectiveness; and 4) collaborate with host agencies, school districts and families to coordinate services for students to transition from the programs to the community.

SELECTED/REPRESENTATIVE ACTIVITIES - Department of Youth Services (DYS)
- We provided professional development at the start of the school year for more than 200 special and general education faculty who work with some of the most vulnerable youth in Massachusetts. These outstanding educators joined together to rejoice the transformative impact of their collective work and to renew their commitment to supporting the future readiness of the students in their classrooms.
- Google Chromebooks and Google Apps for Education will be making a debut in select programs across the state as we strive to bring the technologies of today into the hands of teachers and students in service to our personalized approach to education. A cohort of educators travelled to Baltimore to learn how to use Google Apps for Education in their classrooms as part of our partnership with the Center for Educational Excellence in Alternative Settings and are excited to pilot the technology in their classrooms.
- We are near completion of our newest instructional guide, Science, tied to the Next Generation Science Standards.

STRATEGIC GOAL 3: DEVELOPING EXEMPLARY EDUCATORS - through the delivery of high-quality and distinctive professional development.

SELECTED / REPRESENTATIVE ACTIVITIES (PLEASE ALSO SEE GOAL 1)
- In addition to the 29 professional development offerings this fall, we are planning spring open-enrollment learning opportunities.
- CES’s Licensure syllabus for hybrid online delivery of the RETELL course has been approved by DESE. The course will allow educators to complete the SEI Endorsement through a hybrid course, an alternative to the 13 face-to-face session course currently offered in many sites across the state.
- CES was awarded a three-year contract with ESE to design and deliver the Special Education Teacher Leaders’ Institute (SETLI), a program to develop Educational Team Leaders, IEP Chairs and other non-administrative leaders across the Commonwealth. We are gearing up to launch the institute with a three-day seminar in October. The Institute’s mission is to equip special educational team leaders with tools to foster family and community engagement and improve student outcomes by facilitating team meetings that
are collaborative and compliant with regulations and best practices in the field. The Institute will provide up to thirty participants annually with a year of courses and technical assistance that foster their ability to lead Individualized Education Plan (IEP) teams in the development of educational plans that reflect the individual needs of students. There have been over 70 applicants for the 30 slots!

- The Library of Congress awarded a successor Teaching with Primary Sources grant that will focus in 2016-2017 on supporting English learners and special education students to interpret primary sources through reading and writing.

- Registration is now open for our major Technology in Education (TiE) Conference, scheduled for January 2017. This conference draws hundreds of educators, including teachers and administrators for most of our member districts.

- CES, under contract with DESE, is delivering LEAP (Low-Income Education Access Project) training-of-trainers, a six-day set of trainings; four have been completed and are receiving very positive feedback from participants and ESE observers. This statewide initiative, prioritized by Commissioner Chester, enrolls 51 educators from 12 collaboratives (including CES), five school districts and ESE. The goal of the LEAP training is to develop a cadre of trainers who can provide training and technical assistance in schools to improve outcomes for learners living in low-income circumstances.

- We will offer a new MA Focus Academy course entitled, The Impact of Poverty on Learning: Designing a Rich and Robust Core Educational Experience for Students Living in Poverty, beginning in spring 2017.

- We will also offer a new MA Focus Academy course entitled Collaborative Co-Teaching in the Inclusive Classroom, beginning in spring 2017.

In Licensure news:

- 20 fall semester courses are underway. Courses are hybrid (on-line and face-to-face) and can be used for PDPs or graduate credits as well as toward licensure preparation.

- Our Licensure department has launched the MA Licensure Academy. The Academy’s mission, in partnership with and funded by the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE), is to support Massachusetts teachers currently working under a waiver, as well as licensed teachers seeking an additional license, toward licensure as Teachers of Moderate Disabilities. CES will be providing free courses, beginning in October. Designed for working professionals, the Academy offers coursework in a hybrid online format, with some face-to-face sessions taking place in Marlboro and Northampton. The Academy has been developed to increase the number of licensed teachers serving students with diagnosed disabilities, and will provide up to 120 participants annually with two no-cost courses that support their progress toward an Initial License or an additional license in Moderate Disabilities. The courses offered this fall, Learning Disabilities Instructional Techniques and Understanding Disabilities and Differences, will build participants’ competencies as special education teachers.

- Our Licensure department was selected to participate in a Mixed Reality Simulation pilot, an ESE Educator Preparation project funded by the Gates Foundation. Training in the use of MRS to begin in the fall and use of MSR in licensure courses to begin in January.

**ADDITIONAL SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS**

**Development - New Grants / Funding**
• Submitted proposal under Quality Enhancements in After-School and Out-of-School Time (ASOST-Q) to DESE for 1) Four sites to hire one additional one-on-one staff each to be able to provide students with special needs and/or ELL students with more one-on-one and small group support; and 2) for summer programs to run longer hours of operation enabling for more staff meetings to review and reflect on progress and challenges in serving the special populations.
• Submitted bid response to continue teaching Collaborative Co-Teaching in the Inclusive Classroom under the Mass Focus Academy to DESE. The course will enroll 112 educators per year. Awarded three-year contract for a total of $240,000.
• Submitted successful bid response under the Berkshires+ District and School Assistance Center Literacy Support program to DESE. $50,000 for one year.
• Awarded status as a Pre-qualified Educational Consultant Supporting Curriculum and Instruction under agreement number 17MACCING1 by DESE.
• We will be submitting the Title III Consortium application in October. We have continued communicating with districts that are members of the Consortium regarding compliance requirements of Title III Program at DESE.

Communications Department

• We just launched (for the first time) a new email newsletter on behalf of the Early Childhood Assessment for Responsive Training project. EC-ART is working to enhance their outreach to early childhood providers across the state, to ensure they are aware of the great online resources and professional development events offered through this EEC-funded project.
• CES events packets are currently being distributed to member principals, curriculum directors, and Superintendents (and will be distributed to our Board members) that are chock full of our very exciting array of upcoming fall/winter offerings. They include information on two important conferences, on our fall PD calendar, and on Election Day PD; as well as our brand new fall/winter early childhood educator professional development calendar. There is much to absorb and share!

I hope you find this selection of recent activities informative and helpful. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions or want further information about the activities outlined in this report.

Best regards,