

June July Aug P&R report for MCPD

RECREATION REPORT SUMMER FUN 2008

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Total # of children with disability issues served in 2008 Summer Fun: 42
Includes requests for observations, assessments, parent contact, with some resulting in modification and emergency plans.

Total # of children registered with a disability 18

Total number of on-site special staff briefings for disability issues 3

Total number of modification plans created 10

COMPARED WITH 2007

Total # of children w/ disability issues in 2007 Summer Fun 25

SUMMER FUN Evaluation notes:

There were no personal assistants serving children with disabilities in our program this year. DOE extended year personal assistance has been discontinued in the community. Also, P&R requires volunteers to be certified in first aid, attend training, and comply with background checks as mandated for childcare workers, which may deter parents or personal assistants from assisting children in Summer Fun.

Emergency action plans were created for children with extreme allergic reactions, asthma, and hydrocephalus. Other modification plans included behavior management plans and plans for children taking medication during the program.

Recreation staff are not allowed to administer medication, they are only allowed to store it. New policy was created with the help of Corporation Counsel and DOH Public Health Nurses to allow the use of an epi-pen for Emergency First Aid for 2 children with extreme life threatening allergies (bee stings and peanuts). Public Health nurses trained staff on emergency procedures. There were no emergency incidents requiring the use of the epi-pen.

Many of the children with disabilities had attended our Summer Fun program before. Site visits took place before the program started, modification plans were

reviewed with parents, and implementation went smoothly. A child with Down syndrome actively participated without a personal assistant in a program with over 140 children. It was a good match of ability, awesome staff, and program style. Another child with multiple disabilities thrived with friends and siblings in a small scale rural Summer Fun Program.

More children with asthma were documented this year and special caution was taken due to intense vog and sulfur emissions, especially in Puna.

Puna Summer Fun programs have the highest incidence of children with disabilities and behavior challenges. This could be due to many different factors and may not be disability issues. Many families are "at risk": Addiction, abuse, poor parenting, grandparents raising children, and children in constantly changing foster homes affect behavior. Many disabilities are not disclosed initially, but are disclosed when extreme behavior warrants calls to parents. I highly recommend extra staff here to lower the ratio to 1:15 instead of 1:20.

An adoptive mom was having her 9 year old child evaluated professionally for the first time. With her permission, my observations of her child in summer fun were shared with a case manager and therapist demonstrating the depth interagency support and inclusive services can reach.

Other Recreation Division reports:

Inclusive Judo class has 4 children with disabilities successfully participating in a regular program.

Staff questions arose regarding service animals in training and a patron's letter from her therapist saying she required a therapy animal. I reminded staff these animals are not considered service animals and are not covered by the ADA. It's the person that has rights not the animal.

I submitted proposals for open house recreation orientations in each district and submitted ADA budget suggestions for modifications, equipment, and training materials.

I provided observations, recommendations, and staff support for a swim instructor with students with disabilities in NAS summer swim classes. The swim instructor learned new adaptive techniques with patience, dedication, and joy: A child with autism that wasn't able to get his head wet on the first swim lesson passed his level I certification! A youth with intellectual impairments continued swimming progress transferring from NAS lessons to regular public swim at Kawamoto Pool with a personal assistant.

I worked with ADA coordinator, aquatics, Parks Maintenance, and Fire Department Ocean Safety on: purchase of hippocampes and mobi mats, on site beach tests, public loan systems and storage agreements for improved beach access.

I conducted an Aquatic orientation at Brantley Center and assisted them in setting up regular swim days at Honoka'a pool. Terry Miura, a swim instructor from the Aquatics Division and I will be assisting on their first day at the pool.

Pahala pool offers a weekly adapted aquatics class. KCAC has installed new changing benches, handrails, and a new pool lift. The Full Life Learning Center continues to swim there once a week. Konawaena Pool next to Kona Krafts has re-opened. Laupahoehoe pool is closed for renovations.