Overview

Launched in February 2017, HANA Center is a merger of Korean American Community Services (KACS, founded 1972) and Korean American Resource and Cultural Center (KRCC, founded 1995). Meaning “one” in Korean, HANA is the culmination of a vision held by key stakeholders of KRCC and KACS. These leaders recognized the great potential of establishing a single, united organization that combined KACS’ history of responding to the critical needs of the Korean American and local resident communities and KRCC’s track record of powerful community organizing, advocacy, and celebration of cultural heritage. HANA is committed to serving the diverse interests of our community – including immigrants, women, youth, people of color, low-income families, older adults, LGBTQ+ folks, and adoptees.

HANA Early Childhood Center was established in 1979 under the previous banner of Korean American Community Services to provide child care needs to Korean immigrants in the community. What started out with a 100% Korean American students and staff, demographics and culture of the center changed over the past forty years and are now primarily Hispanic and LatinX families with a percentage of Asian descent. During this period, we have grown to combine quality early education with play and though instruction is in English, our highly trained, bilingual early childhood educators utilize their home language (mostly Korean, Spanish) in the classroom to provide language support to our mostly immigrant-based children. ECC is accredited to the highest level by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), as well as having Gold level status by ExeleRate.

Who We Are

HANA ECC is a community-based program that serves the needs of families in Irving and Albany Park. It is open from 7:00 am to 5:30 pm, Monday through Friday, twelve months a year. We provide young children and families a caring educational environment emphasizing in developmentally appropriate practices in children’s cognitive, socio-emotional, behavioral, and physical development. We partner
with parents to help the entire family achieve productive lives and make meaningful contributions toward creating a harmonious and multicultural society.

Our most important service is providing high-quality instruction in preparation for the wider world. ECC utilizes the research-based Creative Curriculum alongside Teaching Strategies GOLD and various developmental screeners to plan lessons and measure progress. Each classroom teaching team collaborate to create an atmosphere wherein our children feel safe, emotionally secure, and have a strong sense of belonging. We enrich our lesson plans with activities and teaching strategies that are challenging, yet within each child’s reach based on the well-researched developmental milestones. Our classroom environment embraces and celebrates the characteristics and experiences that make each child unique, including temperament, life experiences, dual language learning, and disabilities. With the guidance of the ECC Director, each teacher develops strategies for building positive relationships with both the child and their family, helping them to develop self-regulation skills and healthy emotional responses to challenging behaviors. We guide our children’s learning using daily routines and everyday experiences.

GOLD is a framework we use to measure our children’s progress. The curriculum has 38 research-based objectives that we employ in tandem with The Creative Curriculum to help each child regulate their own emotions and behaviors, establish and sustain positive relationships, participate cooperatively and constructively, and other developmental benchmarks integral to a child’s long-term success.

In addition to guiding the learning activities, our teachers prioritize and nurture strong parent-teacher partnerships and involve families in all aspects of our program, communicating in respectful ways, and working through differences in ways that sustain the relationship and benefits the child. Our family engagement model is based on the Parent as Teachers curriculum. During enrollment, our Family Support Worker (Social Worker) conducts a Family Assessment to evaluate the needs of the family beyond the scope of childcare. Using this tool, she works with partners throughout our network to attract training and resources for family enrichment and support. We also conduct parent surveys and gather feedback via our Parent Policy Committee which meets every month. This data informs our parent programming and partnerships. We are also starting to partner with COFI (Community Organizing and Family Issues) who provide leadership training designed to organize, engage, and empower our parents to advocate for policies that will positively impact their community.
We practice continuity of care in all of our classrooms. With low staff turnover rate this past year, our children benefited from developing a kindred relationship with their classroom teachers who have been constant in educational and socio-emotional support. The only time a child experiences a change in teachers is when they move a grade level up. This practice allows teachers to deeply understand the learning style and challenges of the child, differentiate appropriately and develop a stronger partnership with the family.

Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership and Head Start Enrollment

HANA Early Childhood Center was awarded 20 enrollment slots for Head Start (HS) for the 2018-2019 school year which is managed by the Chicago Department Family and Support Services (DFSS). ECC was awarded 8 Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership (EHS) slots for Green Buds for the 2018-2019 school year which is also managed by DFSS.

Medical and Dental Information

Head Start Program Performance Standards require programs to track children’s medical insurance, medical treatment and treatment follow up, and dental exams and treatment follow up.

DFSS reports that dental problems are the number one unmet health care need among HS children. Below is a list of the percentages of children who had an up-to-date medical exam on file and an up-to-date dental exam at the end of the 2018-2019 school year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children with Medical Exams:</th>
<th>Children Receiving Dental Exams:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HS Children: 100%</td>
<td>HS Children: 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EHS Children: 100%</td>
<td>EHS Children: 100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Funding and Fiscal Management

The Early Childhood Center receives funding from multiple sources, including HS, EHS-CCP, Child Care Assistance Program, and Prevention Initiative and Preschool for All. This blended funding model allows us to provide quality care and education to our enrolled students. ECC uses its Prevention Initiative and
Preschool for All funding as its match for the HS federal mandates. See the snapshot chart below for funding for 7/1/18 – 8/31/18.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DFSS-Head Start</td>
<td>$42,185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DFSS- Early Head Start Child Care Partnership</td>
<td>$39,302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DFSS-Child Care</td>
<td>$10,008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DFSS – Preschool for All</td>
<td>$90,842</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DFSS – Prevention Initiative</td>
<td>$87,609</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bright Promises Foundation</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL State Board of Education</td>
<td>$20,244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL Action for Children</td>
<td>$85,988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents Co-payment</td>
<td>$20,581</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$411,759</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The center’s funding was used towards salaries, fringe benefits, general administration, program expenses, professional and contracted fees, building maintenance and repairs, equipment leasing, insurance, staff training, telecommunications, travel, advertisement, printing and duplicating, office supplies, meeting expenses, and postage and courier costs.

**Audit Report for Fiscal Year 2018**

Hana Center does an annual financial audit by an outside individual, the A-113. The audit for Fiscal Year 2018 was completed by James M. Babic, PC, Certified Public Accountant, on November 21, 2018.

**Attendance**

HANA ECC’s attendance procedure and protocol is highlighted and thoroughly discussed with parents during the enrollment process, and a reminder about our policy is prominently displayed on the ECC door. All children are expected to be in the classroom by 9:30am. In case of an absence or tardiness,
parents must call the center to inform the classroom teachers. It is the parent’s responsibility to ensure
daily attendance of their child and to notify the center if absent.

To acknowledge those with excellent attendance, HANA ECC has implemented a monthly Perfect
Attendance Awards program. Our Program Coordinator aggregates attendance at the end of each
month and identifies those students who came to school every single day and on time in that month.
Those individual students are awarded a Perfect Attendance Certificate and a small prize from the toy
box from the Director. Their pictures are taken with the certificate and displayed in the front bulletin for
everyone to see. With consent from parents, these pictures and accolades are shared across HANA ECC’s
social media. We’ve received lots of positive feedback from parents who love seeing their children
highlighted on the board and on social media. Since implementing this program in October 2018, we’ve
seen a 17% increase in overall attendance, and all our classrooms have maintained an 89%+ attendance
rate. Currently the center’s attendance is at an average of 86.6%.

Family Engagement Activities

ECC organizes family engagement activities throughout the school year in various activities, events and
programs.

Throughout the year, ECC has hosted parent workshops once a month based on the families interest.
These workshops are led by community organizations to provide information on child topics such as
development or parent interest. A few topics include Language Development, Social Emotional
and Preventing Child Abuse, Supporting Learning at Home, Know Your Rights from Hana Community
Organizing program, Let’s Play workshop from the Chicago Children’s Museum, and Stress Management
for Parents and Financial Literacy. Many of these workshops are open to not only parents however,
family members are welcome to attend these workshops also. ECC has also incorporated other
methods of involvement whether it being in the classroom through family activities such as Donuts with
Dudes, Parent Appreciation breakfast, volunteering, and chaperoning on field trips.

In a community level families have been involved in our Parent Policy Committee which meets monthly
in order to develop EHS and HS Policies, approve new hires, approve grant applications, budgets and
discuss community policy updates and the impact on our community and families. Communication is key
when it comes to Family Engagement hence our updated communication systems including our use of social media through our ECC Parent Page, ChitChat Newsletter, and postings in the center and cubbies. Through these efforts we hope to continue to flourish in involving our families in our center and see you at our next event!