
**DPI: Early Childhood PST Proposal and Work Plan
Preschool Discretionary Grant (2011-2012)
Support Services for D/HH & DB Children (3-6 years of age)**

Priorities (established at prior meeting):

1. Increase awareness of why to call in specialized knowledge/support.
2. Develop teams/increase networking in the CESA regions.
3. Build a structure that helps to ensure that “quality” services are provided.
4. Ensure a smooth transition from Birth to 3 (Part C) to Early Childhood Services (Part B) for children who are D/HH and/or DB.

Summary:

The purpose of this plan will be to ensure that all children with hearing loss, ages 3-6, receive timely and appropriate educational services from qualified providers. Services will be coordinated and integrated and will address the linguistic and social needs of these children.

Timelines & Proposed activities to meet priorities:

Early September:

Leadership Team Building & Training:

- PSTs will complete Outreach to community supports (childcare, audiologist, etc.) that support children through the transition period from Birth to 3 to ECE services (3-6 years old) to share about the goals of the grant and to identify potential collaborative “leadership” partners.
- PSTs ECE and self-identified collaborative partners will attend/participate in an intensive 2-day training (at least 1 full day as a group, venue for 2nd day will be discussed, but could include DL, webinar, live meeting, etc) on the needs of children who are deaf and hard of hearing/deafblind.
 - The purpose of the training would be to:
 - Share a summary of the W. Region B-6 D/HH and DB Pilot;
 - Encourage awareness of the specialized needs of d/hh/db children;
 - To recognize strengths and knowledge base needed in potential staff who serve these children and families
 - To enable coordinators (PSTs) to analyze programming needs and to identify strengths and gaps in services for all children, referred for and receiving Special Education Services (until 6 years of age) in their CESA region and possible resources available to support their educational teams.

Late September/October:

Training:

- CESA Regions will be provided with awareness trainings (Hearing Loss 101). PSTs and self-identified “leadership” partners will organize and facilitate these trainings (a leadership role).
- Participants for the training will include self-identified collaborative partners, appropriate CESA personnel (d/hh teachers, audiologist, slps etc.).
- The purpose of these trainings will be to:
 - Provide a brief summary of the B-6 W. Region B-6 D/HH and DB Pilot;
 - Brainstorm ideas of how the pilot concept could look in CESA communities for children 3-6 years of age;
 - Develop a basic awareness that children with hearing loss need specialized services;
 - Begin to identify interested and qualified team members within each CESA region;
 - Begin to identify children with hearing loss nearing the age of 3 to 6 years in the CESA region;
 - Identify current and timely regional resources and supports.

October – November:

PSTs would identify team members and develop strategies and supports to connect these team members (Listserv, brown bag lunch meetings, etc).

Ongoing:

- DPI will participate in meetings initiated by DHS to discuss the implementation of this proposal.
- All children with hearing loss (3-6) will be identified (through WESP-DHH Outreach and collaborations within the CESAs). Services for children 3 to 6 will be reviewed and analyzed.
- PSTs will meet as a group with support from WESP-DHH Outreach to discuss, brainstorm and problem solve identified strengths and gaps in services for each child.
- WESP-DHH Outreach will provide consultative support directly to PSTs as well as to children who are referred through this process. Coaching and mentoring can also be provided through WESP-DHH Outreach, as well as other resources/identified agencies that are doing coaching work.

Data Collection:

- Pre- and post-test for PSTs: Including both “content” knowledge, and, specific interests and areas of self-identified strengths);
- Pre- and post survey for CESA region trainings;
- An increased number of individuals per CESA will consider themselves part of a “CESA regional effort”;
- PSTs will gain a better understanding of the demographics of children with hearing loss within their CESA regions (knowledge of the children, districts of services, etc);
- An increased number of consultation/coaching services will be requested and provided as a result of increased awareness in the CESA regions, by WESP-DHH Outreach. Mentoring should include family support and advocacy information awareness. (Baseline data will be determined by the number of Outreach referrals made in the 2010-2011 school year).