

NCDB Personnel Development Work Group

October 22 & 23, 2009
Washington, DC

Facilitator: Christina Reagle
Note Taker: Gail Leslie and Christina Reagle

Attendees:

Linda Alsop, Carol Allison, Mary Jean Sanspree, Susan Bruce, Liz Hartman, Tutty Aviles-Ortiz, Susan Bashinski, Roseanna Davidson,, Kathy Gee, Gail Leslie, , Bill Sharpton, Roseanne Silberman, Melissa Engleman, Julie Durando, Jay Gense, John Killoran

OSEP: Anne Smith, Ernie Hairston, JoAnn McCann, Bonnie Jones, David Egnor, Larry Wexler, Marlene Simon-Burroughs

Agenda items:

Introductions –

- After a round-robin of introductions from the group Jay Gense, new Director of the National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness spoke about his plans. He and John Killoran had spent the day before at OSEP so Jay shared some up-dated news about OSEP activities.
- John Killoran also spoke with the group about the Teaching Research Institute and the several different programs associated with deaf-blindness that TRI is involved with – a) the different aspects of the National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness; b) the Helen Keller Fellows Project; and the Oregon Deafblind Project. The fourth project that is housed in the College of Education at Western Oregon University that many people are not aware of is the Regional Resource Center on Deafness. These different programs provide WOU/TRI national, regional, and state specific perspectives on the issues related to deaf-blindness.
- NCDB Personnel Preparation Consortium has a new name – NCDB Personnel Development Work Group. The new name is more inclusive of pre-service and in-service, as well as undergrad and graduate programs.

Status of Helen Keller Fellows Project

- Thank you, thank you again partner universities for selecting excellent Fellows for Cohort #2.
- A Status Report of the HK Fellows Project was shared and a discussion about continuous support for the Fellows after they have finished the year-long program took place. Suggestions include:

- Revise the HK Fellows application form to include a question asking whether the applicant is willing to stay in contact with NCDB or HKNC staff beyond the Fellowship year
- University Faculty and/or State DB Staff “adopt” a Fellow to mentor after Fellowship is completed
- State DB Staff add Fellow to their resource list
- Expand the Work Sample to include different contexts for exposure to deaf-blind activities across populations
- State DB Staff utilize Fellow by connecting them to opportunities to further their exposure
- University Faculty/State DB Staff/NCDB Personnel Development work together to define DB Leadership opportunities

NCDB Research Work Group -

- Liz Hartman, Amy Parker, and Julie Durando organized and added to the work the NCDB Research Work Group started in July during the pre-PDM work session. They were asked to develop additional coding forms for different research categories; to finalize the coding sheet format for consistency across forms; and to develop a report outline. The work that they did was shared with the group and a preliminary discussion of next steps took place.
- Co-Chairs, Susan Bashinski and Christina, are assessing the next steps as they align the groups’ work with relation to research/best practice and personnel training activities.

NCDB 2009 Personnel Preparation Mini Grants –

- An overall discussion about the NCDB Mini Grant application and purpose took place. The input was wonderful and helped to truly assess the process and focus for the Mini Grants.
- A big thank you to the reviewers for offering to spend your time reading and assessing the NCDB Mini Grant applications during their down time.
- Three Mini Grantees were selected and awarded:
 - Diana Hinkley, \$1800 – she will use the funds to assist with paying for obtaining an endorsement in the area of Severe/Profound.
 - Roanne Cabugao, \$880 – she will take two on-line classes in Deaf-Blindness.
 - Debra Garvue, \$2000 – she will use the funds to travel to three model deaf-blind classrooms to observe, video, and document strategies to implement them in Kentucky.
- The Grantees are very appreciative of the opportunity the grant will provide them. If you know these individuals please ask them about their Mini Grant and give me any feedback that you get. They are each required to provide a summary report before receiving the final portion of their award.

White Paper Discussion

Anne suggested that a White Paper be developed for the new OSEP Director, Alexa Posny. The purpose of this paper would be to inform and provide information about the deaf-blind program/s and the educational needs of the population of children who are deaf-blind. A number of ideas were presented for inclusion in the paper: connections and alignment of db with other low-incidence programs; the need for highly qualified individuals to teach deaf-blind students; the spectrum of services needed and the challenges in providing access; the lack of knowledge in understanding the deaf-blind continuum; and effective communication strategies and systematic approaches to working with students who are deaf-blind.

While reviewing the concept of writing this paper with Jay Gense and John Killoran we were reminded that as part of NCDB's Cooperative Agreement with OSEP two white papers are to be developed. Further work on this paper is under consideration and negotiation.

Final Conclusive Remarks and Updates:

- ✓ NCDB Practice Perspectives – Remember if you have suggestions for the NCDB Practice Perspectives please send them to Peggy Malloy at any time malloyp@wou.edu or 503.838.8598. Past issues are available at www.nationaldb.org/NCDBProducts.php?prodID=111.
- ✓ The NCDB Mini Grants will not be awarded in the future. The obligation to the three awarded from the fall review will be honored, but there will not be another round at this time.
- ✓ The National Center to Improve Recruitment and Retention of Qualified Personnel for Children with Disabilities (Personnel Improvement Center) has a NEW website www.personnelcenter.org Check it out – lots of good information.
- ✓ Further plans about establishing a web-based repository for teacher training materials for deaf-blindness is on hold until the next grant cycle. As we have learned from the conversations about this developing a web-based repository is a BIG task.

NCDB Review

The decision to cancel the NCDB Topical Conference this spring and a current review of the NCDB Cooperative Agreement impacts the NCDB Personnel Development Work Group. For the remaining two years of the grant there will only be one face-to-face meeting each year. The 2009 meeting was held in Washington DC in October. Current plans to support the next face-to-face meeting are planned for fall 2010. Between now and then there will be one or two conference calls. I will send out a suggestion for dates and topics for the conference calls. Two topic areas that have continually been set aside “for the next meeting” are supporting families and technical assistance, especially in relationship to the CEC competencies.

Each of you is valuable to the group - I appreciate your time, wisdom, and ideas.