

NCDB Personnel Prep Consortium Meeting

October 29 & 30, 2008
Washington, DC

Facilitator: Ella Taylor & Linda McDowell
Note Taker: Christina Reagle (and transcribed notes thanks to Louise Tripoli), Linda McDowell, Ella Taylor

Attendees:

Linda Alsop, Carol Allison, Liz Hartman, Tutty Aviles-Ortiz, Susan Bashinski, Roseanna Davidson,, Kathy Gee, Gail Leslie, Linda McDowell, Bill Sharpton, Roseanne Silberman, Alana Zombone,

Anne Smith, Ernie Hairston, Maryann McDermott, Louise Tripoli, JoAnn McCan

Agenda Item: **Introductions**

Discussion: Ella brought the meeting together and reviewed the agenda. After a quick summary of the work done by the NCDB Personnel Prep Consortium during this past year Ella challenged the group to begin thinking about where they see themselves in 5, 10, and 15 years.

Each member of the NCDB PP consortium was then asked to introduce themselves and share one interesting tidbit of personal information.

Agenda Item: **Program Conversations**

Discussion: Each university shared information about their program beginning with challenges; the types of required course work; when courses are offered; the delivery method (distance, on-campus, blended, sharing between universities); curriculum; and connection to state deaf-blind projects. As people shared the differences and similarities in the courses they also spoke of the pride in accomplishments and concern for the work to do ahead. Lack of funding was a consistent thread while creative strategies in accomplishing the work demands daily tasks.

One suggestion discussed was linking to Educational Service Districts (ESDs) in states where they exist to further connections and networks; however not all states have ESDs. There is a lack of consistencies across the nation with degree programs - some universities have programs for Interveners (AA), while others have Bachelors' degree, Masters, and certificate programs with specialty areas of visual impairments or deaf blindness.

Challenges mentioned:

- flat funding and state of economy does not provide hope
- large need for more distance education courses and non-traditional methods of course delivery
- tuition configurations for out-of-state students when universities share students
- LEA support for Para educators, teachers, and subs is needed

- rural and remote students have problems with internet access
- universities are not always receptive to sharing programs across campuses (Texas Tech and University of Mississippi are systems-changers)
- adding DB coursework is on-going challenge because of its low-incidence
- NCLB accountability issues
- philosophical differences between university programs and SEA around inclusion
- technology is helpful, but requires creativity and updated training for effective use
- need to ensure all competencies are included in various DB courses
- on-going work necessary to refine DB courses
- leveraging resources

Student Identification is also a challenge because states are not always doing an adequate job identifying prospective students because they know they don't have enough qualified teachers to work with DB students which perpetuates an on-going cycle.

Conclusion/Action Steps: 1) Continue to share course work and development of an e-portfolio to collect evidence of student's competencies across universities. 2) Spread the word across personnel prep programs and TA projects about the NCDB Personnel Prep Consortium's efforts to work together around low incidence disabilities.

Agenda Item: **OSEP Personnel Prep update**

Discussion: At the same time the NCDB Personnel Prep meeting took place the Personnel Development Priority Planning and Program Planning was taking place at OSEP. Bonnie Jones did stop by and provide a short OSEP Personnel Prep update. Anne Smith explained that OSEP is now Personnel Development, not Personnel Prep. A discussion took place throughout the NCDB PP meeting that grantees (state projects and universities) need to have a closer link to OSEP in order to develop stronger partnerships and collaborations, as well as ownership to DB programs.

Conclusion/Action Steps: **REMEMBER** to keep the Project Officers' name and the grant number on all the information about OSEP projects and talk with your Project Officer on a regular basis.

Agenda Item: **Helen Keller Fellows: What's it all about?**

Discussion: The goals and objectives of the Helen Keller Fellows Project were shared and clarifications made. Selections for the first cohort are in place which includes stipends to the Fellows, webinars across the year, attendance at the Topical Conference and a Systems Leadership Seminar, and internships with state deaf-blind projects. Ella stressed that the Fellows were identified on whether they had experience first as a teacher and then on their potential as a leader, as well as in their knowledge of DB.

The goal of the leadership enrichment activities of the HK Fellows grant are to connect the Fellows to DB experts and to understand their future role as leaders in the DB field. Three suggestions were made to enhance this component of the grant: 1) partner each

Fellow with a mentor for a longer period of time than the year of their fellowship; 2) provide a menu of leadership activities to consider that might involve them longer than the two-week internship with the state DB project; and 3) determine structures and ways to connect the new people in the DB field after their time as a HK Fellow.

Conclusion/Action Steps: 1) Host a breakfast during the Topical Conference in order for the Helen Keller Fellows to meet the NCDB Personnel Prep Committee. 2) Create a list of potential leadership activities that would blend leadership and support of existing programs to strengthen the teacher leaders' component of the goal of the grant.

Agenda Item: **Using the WWW as a tool**

Discussion: How can the Web-based repository become a reality? Conversations continued about the importance of determining how to get this structured and implemented. Bill clarified the role this tool would take in connecting DB projects and programs and how it is different from DB-Link. The repository would move beyond basic resources to focus on demonstration of skills utilizing different variables. Individuals using WWW would design or adapt information to include different perspectives, age groups of students, and various instructional strategies to provide examples of exemplary practices. Everyone agreed a library of video clips with key words would have multiple asynchronous and synchronous possibilities. Bill is working on a rubric of what an exemplary lesson looks like as another tool to have (is there someone working with Bill that I forgot?).

Conclusion/Action Steps: 1) Determine expert people to provide resources for interviews and examples of student assessments for Web-based repository. 2) Sub committee work to develop taxonomy for repository of DB materials by hosting a webinar to explore, structure, and brainstorm ideas.

Agenda Item: **Professional Competencies**

Discussion: Yippee - hard work is paying off with these accomplishments: CEC has approved the DB competencies for interveners. The teacher competencies are in the survey monkey process which means they can still change a bit. Both competencies include input from NASDSE Guidelines and are evidence-based designed.

Conclusion/Action Steps: 1) Focus on maintaining a professional voice for the DB field while also partnering with other low incidence disabilities. 2) Work toward degree focus – AA, BA, MA, Ph.D., with a non-traditional design of mixing delivery methods and collaborations with universities. 3) Investigate through university and an organizational search of doctorate students targeting deaf blindness. 4) Continue steps toward national credentialing of interveners and teachers and common assessments for accreditation purposes.

Agenda Item: **Developing a path for our outcomes**

Discussion: *What can we do to influence the big DB picture?* was the leading question in a discussion about systems change and big picture action steps.

- Include federal grant # and project officer's name in all materials
- Branding professionalization of field – establish DB professional association
- Partner with OSEP
- Partner with other low incidence and sensory impairments
- Provide evidence of how train is derailing – Anne will set up meeting of different low incidence groups to discuss and work toward solution
- Be solution makers to the problems

A list of organizations was brainstormed for future collaboration and to include in research gathering and dissemination. Organizations: NPIE, PACER, PTAC, PTI, CPKC, NAPVI, AADB, DUI, TED, NEA/AFT, CEC, TASH, AERA, AAPD, NFB, ACEDH, ASHA, NFADB, CCSSO, NASDE

Conclusion/Action Steps: 1) Host a webinar to inform and discuss collaboration with State DB Projects and OSEP Project officers.

Agenda Item: **Work Groups Reporting**

Discussion: Susan Bashinski led the discussion based on the notes she sent out from the July 2008 meeting. It was agreed that before the NCDB PP Consortium can move forward with adding to DB research they needed to review what has been done and determine a rubric to work from in future research.

Roseanna will be sending out copies of the articles she is aware of that matches with the groups people volunteered to join and work on before the May meeting. Roseanna has also offered to establish an access database for the articles. Some of the articles are on the website and some are only hard copied at this point.

Conclusion/Action Steps: 1) Develop a rubric of quality indicators to be used to evaluate articles of similar DB focus. 2) Create lines of research in deaf blindness and organize it around the OPIs (Roseanna has an example you will receive.). 3) Prepare to report research category status in May.

Qualitative Groups

- A – Susan Bruce and Liz Hartmann
- B – Christina Reagle and Anne Smith
- C – Anne Smith
- D – Alana Zombone and Linda McDowell

Quasi Experimental

Ella Taylor and ??

Co-relational

Susan Bashinski and ??

Research Committee Conversation notes are attached thanks to the speedy work of Susan Bashinski.

NEXT STEPS:

1. *Events and Dates* to look **Forward** to:
 - NCDB Phone Conferences – Assist in finding Doctorate students focusing on deaf-blindness to mentor, coach, and network (Tentative – January 2009)
 - NCDB Webinar to share DB Personnel Prep information with DB State Projects (Tentative – February 2009)
 - NCDB Topical Conference – May 12 & 13, 2009
 - Breakfast Session for NCDB Personnel Prep and HK Fellows – May 12, 2009
 - NCDB Personnel Prep Consortium Meeting – May 13, 2009 (1-6pm)
 - Helen Keller Fellows Leadership and Systems Seminar – May 14 & 15, 2008

2. The NCDB *Research Committee minutes* from the October 30, 2008 conversation are also attached thanks to Susan Bashinski's quick turn around.
Do we want to establish a time to meet before the Personnel Prep meeting on Wed., May 13, 2009? Maybe a dinner meeting Tuesday after the NCDB Topical Conference social????

3. Notes from the *Personnel Center All-State Call* held on Wednesday, November 19, 2008 are attached.

4. *Questions raised by the group:*
 - How do states leverage funds to address low incidence disabilities?
 - How many and which states include low incidence focus within SPDG?
 - What are early intervening services for children with deaf-blindness?
 - How is RTI incorporated into the field of deaf-blindness?