2019-2020 TA ACTIVITIES

The UCEDD Resource Center (URC) has been informed that some network members would value a review of the full range of technical assistance (TA) options that we offer. Below is a summary of each type of TA that the URC reports on to our funders at OIDD (formerly AIDD). If you have questions about any of these options or resources, please contact Sarah DeMaio at sdemaio@aucd.org.

RAPID RESPONSE REQUESTS

RAPID RESPONSE TO INFORMATION REQUESTS Any faculty, staff, or trainee at a UCEDD network member or partner can contact the URC to make specific requests for information, resources, referrals, or training. The URC typically receives these requests over email or phone, but we accept requests in person as well. In the 2018-2019 contract year, the URC responded to 279 rapid response requests on a wide range of topics. Our rapid response request log is periodically reviewed to identify patterns, which then inform broader TA initiatives at the URC.

RAPID REPSONSE REPORTS On occasion, rapid response requests will involve the development of a report on network activities. For example, a policymaker or administration official might request information about what the network is doing on a specific topic. In response, URC staff will search NIRS and the online Directory and - if the timeline of the request allows - will reach out directly to network members for information on network projects, publications, or expertise. Recognizing the value that some such reports might have at a broader scale, the URC will periodically publish relevant reports. In October 2019, the URC published "UCEDD Network Engagement in ABLE Act Implementation Efforts." In the coming year, the URC will publish and disseminate three more of last year's rapid response reports: "AUCD Network Expertise Around Guardianship and Supported Decision Making," "AUCD Network Engagement Around Women's and Maternal Health," and "AUCD Projects Addressing Competitive Integrated Employment."

URC PUBLICATIONS

E-NEWSLETTERS The URC regularly disseminates information about network activities, resources, and opportunities through the following e-newsletters: Announcements, Resources, Funding Opportunities, AUCD360, Disability Policy News InBrief, and the Emerging Leaders listserv. These regular disseminations are one of the most valuable TA resources according to the URC's annual evaluation survey and will continue during 2020.

WEBSITES Content on the URC Website, the Emerging Leaders Community website, the AUCD website, and the Diversity & Inclusion Toolkit provide timely, relevant information on a variety of key topics related to UCEDD grant administration and operations. In 2020, the URC website will be overhauled to provide a more attractive and accessible platform.

STAND ALONE PUBLICATIONS In addition to the development of the aforementioned publications, the URC develops a wide range of individual resources for the URC network based on needs identified in the rapid response requests and through the annual TA evaluation survey. For example, to order to ensure that content is easily accessible in multiple formats, content from TA

webinars and in-person events are frequently published as Tip Sheets, which are then distributed to the AUCD network. A list of URC publications is included below:

- UCEDD grantwriting and reporting timeline
- NIRS Online Learning Modules
- Tip sheet: Interdisciplinary Pre-service Prep
- Tip sheet: Continuing Education
- UCEDD University messaging tool
- Elevator speech infographic
- UCEDD PPR (Annual Report) Guidebook (Update)
- 2019 UCEDD Logic Model & Data Points in NIRS
- AUCD Network Engagement Guide

These publications and more are available through the URC Website and the URC Resource Map.

COLLABORATIONS

The URC collaborates with UCEDDs and other relevant federally and non-federally funded entities and programs to share information, build networks, and achieve common aims consistent with the URC contract, UCEDD requirements, and the DD Act. The URC participated in 50 collaborations over the course of the past year. Many of these collaborations will continue into the coming year. Below are a few types of collaborations that the URC has engaged in.

WORKGROUPS To address a priority area of UCEDD network needs, the URC will often gather network members into a workgroup to collaboratively develop a solution. For example, there is currently a workgroup focused on UCEDD Promotion which developed that University Messaging Tool and Elevator Speech Infographic. They are now focusing on a project to increase network visibility. Contact Dawn Rudolph drudloph@aucd.org for more information.

COALITIONS AND ADVISORY GROUPS The URC participates in and recommends network members for participation in a wide range of coalitions and advisory groups. For example, the URC participates in a coalition on Home and Community Based Services to gather information relevant to network members and disseminate that information to centers that are actively engaged with the implementation of the CMS rule in their state.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT The URC frequently collaborates with network members in applications for funding, providing letters of support and/or collaborating as a partner in applications. AUCD's policy is to support all member organizations who request a letter of support for proposed activities in keeping with the mission of AUCD and to support non-member partners if and only if no members are applying for the same funding. Additionally, AUCD's policy states that the central office will not compete with network members applying for the same opportunity unless a unique value exists in applying as a national organization; the Board Executive Committee would decide how to proceed if a conflict exists. Last year, the URC provided 17 letters of support for members and partners. Contact Dawn Rudolph at drudolph@aucd.org for access to the policy if needed.

TA EVENTS

The URC provides TA through in person and virtual, recurring and one-time events. The events may target particular staff positions or be more broadly available to any UCEDD staff members wishing to attend. This past year, the URC held 35 trainings and TA Events including those detailed below.

THE TA INSTITUTE AND DIRECTORS RETREAT was held March 20-21, 2019. This annual event to provide in-depth information, networking, and collaboration across the UCEDD network received very positive responses due to a new open agenda format. Save the Date for the 2020 event, which will be held March 11-12 at the Crowne Plaza, Crystal City-Washington, DC.

NEW UCEDD DIRECTORS ORIENTATION was held June 3-4, 2019 with 5 new directors in attendance. The next orientation is expected to be scheduled in the spring or summer of 2020 as additional new UCEDD Directors are being announced.

AUCD LEADERSHIP ACADEMY The 3rd cohort for the year-long national leadership development experience began with the week-long in-person event held June 23-28, 2019 in collaboration with the Center for Leadership in Disability at Georgia State University. The goal of the AUCD Leadership Academy is to enhance the skills of current and emerging leaders from the disability network to build coalitions and improve systems of supports and services through a year of virtual and in-person leadership activities: six webinars, a week-long retreat in Atlanta, Ally Circle calls, and individualized coaching sessions. The 4th Annual Academy will begin with a retreat June 21-26, 2020 in Atlanta, Georgia. Applications are open now and are due March 2, 2020. Apply here.

WEBINARS The URC supported the following webinars, which are all archived in the AUCD Webinar Library:

- o Best Practices in Accessibility for Training and Dissemination
- o How Does Infant Mental Health Support the Work of Part C/Early Intervention?
- o ABLE: Basics: How it Works
- o ABLE: The Big Picture
- o Enhancing Your Leadership Opportunities with the Council on Leadership & Advocacy (COLA)
- o Coffee & TA: Community Training for UCEDDs
- o Graphic Recording and Facilitation
- o 2019 AUCD Trainee End of the Year Webinar: Maximizing Your Training Experience
- o UCEDD Program Performance Report (PPR)
- o Power to the Profession: EIEC
- o Coffee & TA: Technical Assistance Provided by UCEDDs
- o FY2020 NIRS Roll-out Webinar
- o Including the AUCD Trainee Orientation Modules in your Curriculum
- o NEW EI/ECSE Standards- Why? When? Next Steps
- o Violence and Mental Illness: The Real Story
- o 2019 Welcome Webinar: Connect and Get Involved with AUCD!

INDIVIDUALIZED INTENSIVE TA

INDIVIDUAL TA is available to all UCEDDs to support your efforts in UCEDD grant administration, operations, and impact. TA strategies vary widely according to the purpose and context for TA, and can range from information and referral to peer-to-peer on-site consultation. These are not monitoring activities, nor are they full-blown site visits requiring weeks of preparation by staff and presentations by projects and committees. Individualized TA can address such issues as community outreach, University relations, leveraging of funds, collaboration with the State DD network, developing research programs, leadership transition, and working with the Consumer Advisory Committee. "TA is like a combination of strategic planning and family therapy, but in the spirit of the confessional, discussions are kept discreet." - An Anonymous Peer Consultant

TARGETED TA

Frequently the URC will utilize multiple forms of TA in a coordinated, multi-pronged Targeted TA initiative to address a significant network need. Targeted TA topics are identified in collaboration with OIDD (formerly AIDD) and the URC's Project Advisory Committee that provides input on priorities for technical assistance efforts. All of the past targeted TA priorities this past year will continue into 2020.

DATA MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING SUPPORT THROUGH NIRS

NIRS QUARTERLY CALLS AND RESOURCES The URC provides an opportunity for Data Coordinators across the network to problem-solve data entry challenges, learn tips and tricks from each other, identify emerging issues related to NIRS, and make recommendations for NIRS improvements. Calls are recorded, transcribed, and archived. Once annually, in lieu of a call, an in-person meeting of Data Coordinators is held at the AUCD annual conference. Technical assistance resources are developed periodically to address NIRS user needs; these are found on the NIRS Resources webpage. Online Learning Modules are available to orient new Data Coordinators and serve as a refresher for others; these will be updated in early 2020.

NIRS AND PPR CHANGES The only anticipated change to the PPR anticipated for the 2019-2020 grant year is the revised trainee survey timeline which will now be at 2, 5, and 10 years post training. We will also be working on changing the UCEDD Trainee Survey to align with the LEND survey timeline of 2, 5, and 10 years post-training and improving the import and export functions. Some changes to NIRS will be implemented that will not affect reporting but will make improvements and corrections to reports and other user-identified concerns. One important change that is the focus of NIRS improvements this year will be full accessibility of the NIRS platform.

UCEDD DIRECTORY AND NIRS PUBLIC SEARCH The AUCD website continues to provide immediate access to experts across the network who can inform national policy initiatives through the network Directory and the NIRS Public Search. Currently two separate tools that identify UCEDD faculty and staff (through the Directory) and UCEDD products and projects (through the NIRS Public Search), the UCEDD Promotion workgroup is seeking to combine these two functions into a single highly visible, accessible, easy to use, searchable online resource for identifying network expertise.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION INITIATIVES

NATIONAL FORUM FOR UCEDD DIVERSITY FELLOWSHIPS: The URC has been working with OIDD since 2015 to develop and implement the Diversity Fellowship National Training Initiative (NTI). Annually, OIDD awarded NTI grants to UCEDDs to develop diversity fellowship programs to support the recruitment and retention of trainees from diverse backgrounds. AUCD provided TA to the Diversity Fellows and their hosts through information sharing and communication channels. After supporting over 100 fellows, this initiative has ended, but the URC will continue to promote and share the lessons learned through our other diversity and inclusion initiatives.

DEVELOP EQUITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION ACTION PLAN: The Center for Leadership in Disability at Georgia State University led the development of the ED&I Action Plan beginning in 2017. A 5-year Action Plan was developed to outline goals, actions, timelines, and resources needed to build the capacity of the UCEDD network to systematically reduce and eliminate disparities and inequities in access to and utilization of services experienced by individuals with DD and their families who are members of historically underserved racial, ethnic, and linguistically diverse groups. The Plan was completed in 2019; dissemination and implementation will be the focus of our efforts in 2020.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION TOOLKIT: The online toolkit, updated monthly, provides concrete objectives, strategies, resources and case studies from network members to help you realize your goals related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and cultural and linguistic competence and is accessible at www.ImplementDiversity.tools.

LANGAUGE AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS: A Language and Communication Access Plan for AUCD has been developed and finalized. AUCD has identified two top priority language and communication access needs within the network to attempt to address – Spanish Language and Plain Language. In the coming year, we will be working with network members who experience those needs to develop and implement strategies to address those needs.

NEONATAL ABSTINENCE SYNDROME (NAS)

In 2018, the URC developed a concept paper for OIDD outlining the existing federal efforts and research priorities for the area of opioid addiction. This report informed a Request for Proposals for a demonstration project to address NAS. The URC coordinated the application review process, awarding a subcontract to the top-scoring UCEDD. Throughout FY2019, the URC supported the project and interested federal partners. The pilot project was the model for a OIDD to develop a nationally-competed NTI on the same topic in 2019 The coalition of UCEDDs led by the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities, who had been awarded the pilot, successfully competed for the larger-scale project. The URC will continue to support this NTI and liaise with federal partners.

ADDITIONAL 2020 PRIORITIES

In addition to these pre-existing priorities, the URC is in the planning stages for the following TA initiatives:

- Policy Implementation at the State and Local Levels
- Leadership and program development through mentorship and collegial collaboration
- Amplifying UCEDD network expertise to a global scale