The Family Role in Part C: Two State’s Strategies in Promoting Family Involvement

Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Interest Group (EIEC SIG)
Webinar Series
January 22, 2013
Webinar Overview

- Introductions
- Presentation
- Q & A
  - Submit any questions throughout the webinar via the ‘Chat’ box to the right of the slides
  - The moderator will read the questions after the presentations
- Survey
  - Please complete our short survey to give us feedback for the next webinar!
Presenters

Debbie Jackson
WA Early Support for Infants and Toddlers
Washington PAVE
WA LEND Parent Trainee

Mark Smith, MS
The Nebraska Center on Disabilities
The Munroe-Meyer Institute
LEND Family Faculty
UCEDD Resource & Family Support Coordinator
Washington State:
Family Centered Strategies for Promoting Family Involvement

Debbie Jackson

Why we developed our curriculum

How we are using our curriculum

How it has helped families succeed in Part C Early Intervention
Family Curriculum

Families are Important

Our Next Step

The Transition Process From Early Intervention Services at Age Three
Why We Did It!

- Help families better understand IDEA Part C Early Intervention and Transition into IDEA Part B special education.
- Give families the tools they need to become effective IFSP team members.
- Teach families how to advocate for their children during EI and beyond.
- Develop parent professional partnerships.
- Create a pathway for family involvement and family leadership.
Families are Important

- Adapted curriculum from PACER to reflect WA State.
- Worked in partnership with our Family Leadership and Involvement Committee (FLIC) to make sure that our message about EI was family friendly and family focused.
- Used ARRA funds to develop and print curriculum that could be used in a variety of ways with families. (English & Spanish)
- Hosted webinars, family trainings, professional trainings, conferences.
Our Next Step

- Worked in Partnership with the Family Leadership Team.
- Researched information from other States and adapted it to Washington state.
- Used ARRA funds to develop and print curriculum that could be used in a variety of ways with families. (English & Spanish)
- Hosted webinars, family trainings, professional trainings, conferences.
How Are We Using Our Curriculum?

- Distributed to our Family Resources Coordinators and EI providers to use with families as they enter Early Intervention and as they transition out.
  - On site training
  - Local Lead Agency meetings
  - Family Resources Coordinator trainings
  - Service providers

- Family training events.
  - Small groups
  - One on one

- On line access
  - State EI website, PAVE website
How Has This Impacted Families?

- Families have the information that they need to be active team members of the IFSP team and the tools to be *meaningful* participants.
- Families have a knowledge base that gives them access to needed services.
- Families are given the tools they need to be able to advocate for their child now and in the future.
- Families feel prepared for “what’s next.”
- Families are more likely to become involved in parent leadership roles.
Impact

- When parents feel valued, relationships can begin to develop and parent professional partnerships can be fostered.
- Families are the most important person in a child’s life and they have much to share based on their experience.
- Not all families are leaders, professionals know their families and know who to nurture.
- “Pay it forward”
Additional Resources

- Washington State Early Support for Infants and Toddlers program (ESIT)
  www.del.wa.gov/esit

- Family experience videos-developed by families in King County.
  www.youtube.com  King County Developmental Disabilities Division- Support, Siblings, IFSP process
Contact Information

Debbie Jackson
Parent Participation Coordinator
Washington State Early Support for Infants and Toddlers program (ESIT)

PAVE (Partnerships for Action Voices for Empowerment)
Washington State PTI
(253)221-1073
djackson@wapave.org
Q & A

- How to Ask a Question
  - Type your questions into the ‘Chat’ box to the right of the slides
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The Parent Role and the Early Development Network

The Nebraska Center on Disabilities
The Munroe-Meyer Institute

Mark A. Smith, M.S.
The Role Of Families
Moving from awareness to leadership

- The Nebraska Early Development Network employed a “Family Partner” as a technical assistant to families on state and local interagency coordinating councils. This included:
  - Attended state meetings and working with state ICC parent representatives
  - Visited local ICC meetings
  - Conducted parent representative trainings
Transitioning to the Family-Centered Philosophy

- Family-centered concept not understood across early childhood agencies
- Many professionals not willing to give up independent decision-making role
- Statewide trainings witnessed element of – “we know better than families what is best for their child”
- New role for families – training and support needed
Moving from awareness to leadership

Specific focuses were on:

• That council parent representatives were well-informed,
• That they had a real and equal role in the team or council process,
• That they were supported in their role.
Moving from awareness to leadership
More recent developments

• Over time, the Lead Agency Team received feedback that a significant number of local teams were unable to meet the minimum requirement of 20% family representation.
Strengthening Local Teams

• The Lead Agency Team funded statewide trainings for prospective ICC parents. These trainings focused on:
Strengthening Local Teams

• The rationales for why we do what we do and the rationales for family involvement,
• the history of EI nationally and in Nebraska,
• strategies for involvement
• opportunities for input and involvement at all levels: local, state, and national
Nebraska's Early Intervention Act – Systems

- Collaboration of state agencies
- Medicaid in Public Schools program
- Development of Early Intervention Medicaid Waiver to fund health care needs
- Statewide services coordination
- Planning Region system supporting local decision-making
- The activities of the state Interagency Coordinating Council
Early Intervention Act Philosophy

• Family-centered services
• Community–based
• Culturally competent
• Multi-agency collaboration
• Individualized FAMILY Services Plan
• Services Coordination
Why Are Families Important to the Early Development Network?

- You know what works and what doesn’t
- You have contact with other families who share their successes and challenges with you
- You are able to look at the system as a whole
- You are able to keep the focus on your child and your family
- You are why the system exists
- YOU ARE the Early Development Network!
Opportunities for Input

- Systems Support Grant development & implementation
- Gaps and Barriers
- Training
- Service Coordination Support
- Individual Learning for Children with Disabilities – monitoring
- Results Matter: Outcomes data
- CAPTA – Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act
Early Development Network

Website:

http://edn.ne.gov/index.html
Early Development Network

Parent Rights

http://edn.ne.gov/parentrights.html
Family Representative Supports Examples

- Financial support for meeting attendance
- Setting a time for family representatives to meet separately
- Dedicated technical assistance
- Family representatives in the role of co-chairpersons
- Starting every meeting with a family story to share the strengths and challenges of families and the system’s response
Examples (cont.)

- Service supports for meeting attendance e.g. respite
- Establishing a system for family-to-family mentoring
- Dedicated time to orienting family representatives
- Establish supports/linkages with:
  - ECICC family representatives
  - EDN Family Partners
  - Family representatives from nearby PRTs
  - PTI-Nebraska, etc.
National Opportunities

* National Conferences: OSEP Leadership
  http://leadership-2012.events.tadnet.org/

* The Early Intervention Family Alliance:
  http://www.eifamilyalliance.org/
National Opportunities

* DEC:
  http://www.dec-sped.org

* Advisories and Councils: ECO
  http://projects.fpg.unc.edu/~eco/index.cfm

* ECTA:
  http://ectacenter.org/
If You Need Information/Support

EDN Family Partners

- Connie Shockley 402-991-6713
cshockley@pti-nebraska.org
- Mark Smith 402-559-5744
msmitha@unmc.edu
- PTI-Nebraska 402-346-0525
http://www.pti-nebraska.org/

ECICCC Family Representatives
Q & A

How to Ask a Question

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THANK YOU

Visit the Websites

- AUCD Website: http://www.aucd.org
- EIEC SIG Website: www.aucd.org/eiec

Questions about the SIG?

- SIG Co-Chairs:
  - Mary Beth Bruder: bruder@nso1.uchc.edu
  - Corry Robinson: Cordelia.Rosenberg@ucdenver.edu

Questions about the Webinar?

- Dawn Rudolph: drudolph@aucd.org

Please take a few minutes to complete our survey!