

## **Family Systems Experience SCDD LEND Program**

LEND Fellows/Trainees will partner with local families who have a family member with a disability

- To gain perspectives
  - on family life
  - about the issues families face on a daily basis
- To get to know, appreciate and learn from families as people, not clients and patients

### **Objectives**

After participating in the practicum, fellows will be able to:

- Develop a strength-based empowerment orientation in working with families
- Demonstrate increased understanding of daily issues faced by families
- Articulate an understanding of families' experiences accessing systems and resource
- Appreciate the information, resources, and support families gain from each other
- Articulate their attitudes regarding families who have a member with a disability and reflect critically about them in the context of society's stigma toward people with disabilities

### **Expectations**

- Four home visits, 2 in the fall semester, 2 in the spring
- Two community experiences, 1 in the fall, 1 in the spring
- Journal recording
- Respect individuality and confidentiality
- Remain non-judgmental
- Evaluation at the end of experience completed by family and trainee

- Give “something” back to family, may be a CD disk copy of formal presentation
- In collaboration with the family, develop a formal presentation based on the objectives of the experience to be presented during the core course session

### Guidelines for Families

- Do not ask the LEND Trainee for “advice”. The trainee is there to observe and learn from you
- Feel free to share ideas; perspectives
- Share experiences and knowledge that you have of your child’s disability
- Share experiences and knowledge of various systems you have worked with
- If it is a bad day or time for the visit, let the Trainee know and reschedule
- Families will be given a small stipend for participating in the experience
- Feel free to call the Family Systems Practicum Coordinator if you have issues or concerns

### Guidelines for LEND Trainees

- LEND Trainees are expected to make the initial contact and continue to make the contacts. If the family does not call back, keep trying
- Maintain professionalism and confidentiality at all times. Respect the privacy of the family
- Ask the family questions based on the practicum objectives and the guidelines for families
  - Listen to their answers
  - Keep a journal. Record your impressions after the first visit. Update after each visit
  - Take pictures. Use this information for the class presentation