2018 TA ACTIVITIES

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

NEW UCEDD DIRECTORS ORIENTATION was held May 9-10, 2017 with 7 new directors, 1 co-director, and 1 interim director in attendance. The next orientation is expected to be scheduled later in 2018 as additional new UCEDD Directors are announced.

UCEDD LEADERSHIP ACADEMY will be held June 24-29, 2018 in Atlanta, Georgia in collaboration with the Center for Leadership in Disability at Georgia State University.

NIRS

NEW DATA COORDINATORS ORIENTATION is held remotely via online learning modules that can be accessed at any time. Natalie Martinez was recently hired as AUCD's new Data Support Manager, and will be supporting a week-long orientation session in the fall where a cohort of new Data Coordinators will review the learning modules together, and problem-solves data entry challenges.

NIRS QUARTERLY CALLS provide 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. Calls were held January 13, 2017, April 10, 2017, and July 6, 2017. Data Coordinators met in person at the AUCD2017 conference in November. The next quarterly call will be held in April 2018.

NO UCEDD PPR CHANGES are anticipated for the 2017-2018 PPR. Some changes to NIRS will be implemented in August 2018 that will not affect reporting, but will update the user interface and experience; in essence, NIRS is getting a facelift and will have a whole new look. A workgroup of Data Coordinators has been working with AUCD to ensure the update is user-friendly and meets network needs and preferences. UCEDD PPR changes are being considered for the 2019 PPR, addressing (1) the schedule of long-term trainee follow-up surveys, (2) clarification on reporting interdisciplinary pre-service prep training programs, (3) customer satisfaction for information dissemination, and (4) performance measures related to diversity, inclusion, and cultural and linguistic competence.

UCEDD DIRECTORY on the AUCD website continues to provide immediate access to experts across the network who can inform national policy initiatives, and collaborate on projects of shared interest and expertise. The Directory is hosted on AUCD's website, and its accuracy depends on each UCEDD keeping their information and staff details up-to-date.

NIRS PUBLIC SEARCH on the AUCD website is available for quick searches for UCEDD & LEND Projects and Products. This helpful tool is used by federal staff, AUCD staff, network members, and the general public to identify experts in our network and to see what work is done in particular areas of interest. The usefulness of the search results depends on the quality of the data entered in NIRS.

INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

E-NEWSLETTERS provide regular information about network activities, and include the following: Announcements, Resources, Funding Opps, AUCD360, Disability Policy News InBrief, and Tuesdays with Liz.

UCEDD RESOURCE CENTER (URC) WEBSITE is updated regularly and provides timely, relevant information on a variety of key topics related to UCEDD grant administration and operations.

RAPID RESPONSE TO INFORMATION REQUESTS provide the opportunity for AUCD to search NIRS and the online Directory, and reach out directly to network members, for projects and experts that can help inform initiatives underway in the network, in the federal administration, or elsewhere. Since the beginning of the current UCEDD TA contract year starting September 30, 142 such requests have been fielded.

MEETINGS AND WORKGROUPS

MEETINGS AT THE AUCD CONFERENCE AND THE UCEDD TA INSTITUTE provide the opportunity for Directors to network and learn timely, pertinent information related to UCEDD grant administration & operations, as well as emerging topics in the disability field and federal administration. The 2018 AUCD Conference is scheduled for November 11-14, 2018.

BUSINESS MANAGERS WORKGROUP meets quarterly and is open to all UCEDD Business Managers as a forum for them to meet and discuss their successes and challenges in fiscal management of multiple grants and contract supporting the UCEDD in a University environment.

EARLY INTERVENTION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKGROUP/SIG supports professional development in this area across the network.

DIVERSITY INITIATIVES

NATIONAL FORUM FOR UCEDD DIVERSITY FELLOWSHIPS: AIDD awarded National Training Initiative (NTI) grants to 13 UCEDDs to develop diversity fellowship programs to support the recruitment and retention of trainees from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to participate in a fellowship experience at the UCEDD with opportunities to make systemic change through a capstone project and community based activities. This is the third year AIDD is funding these fellowships, and AUCD continues to provide TA to the Diversity Fellows and their hosts through information sharing, communication channels, and a poster symposium at the annual conference

DEVELOP EQUITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION ACTION PLAN: A 5-year Action Plan is intended 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 across the lifespan. Final revisions to the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Action Plan are underway.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION TOOLKIT: The online toolkit, updated monthly, provides concrete objectives, strategies, and resources to help you realize your goals related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and cultural and linguistic competence. Strategies and resources are aligned with the roles of three specific audiences: federal funders, national organizations, and university-based centers and programs in the disability community; though many others may benefit as well. Visit this interactive website for ideas to improve your infrastructure, personnel, core functions & activities, performance measurement, and funding resources. This website is being translated into Spanish in 2018. www.ImplementDiversity.tools

RESPONDING TO EMERGING NEEDS

Emerging needs are identified in collaboration with AIDD, our URC Project Advisory Committee, and through trends identified in requests for information. This year's priorities include focusing on the four core functions: providing preservice preparation, services (including technical assistance, community education, and direct services), research, and information dissemination through a series of webinars and tip sheets.

TA was provided to UCEDDs engaged in disaster recovery after Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. AUCD TA staff participate in daily coordinating calls with national and state/Territory partners to share information, deliver supplies, and participate in problem solving. Volunteers from Texas UCEDDs and LEND programs were identified to volunteer immediately after Hurricane Harvey. A subcontract was awarded to both UCEDDs in Texas to support development of a disaster recovery resource portal specifically addressing needs of people with disabilities: http://disabilityresources.tamu.edu/. Facilitation of communication continues in US. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico with the UCEDDs and FEMA's Office of Disability Integration and Coordination (ODIC).

INDIVIDUALIZED 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

COLLABORATIONS

PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC) convened in November 2017 for a strategic planning meeting with topics of discussion including University relations, collaboration with DD Network partners, emerging issues, and research and evaluation activities. The PAC Annual Review meeting will take place in the Spring of 2018.

THE AUCD TA TEAM AND AIDD continue to have regular, ongoing communication between AUCD and AIDD project officers to ensure contract deliverables are being met, as well as continuity of technical assistance is being provided to UCEDDs.

QUALITY REVIEW SYSTEM (QRS) helps to assess the quality of individual UCEDDs and a small workgroup is revising the intermediate outcomes measures in the UCEDD logic model, and the guidance for the UCEDD 5-year report.

TOPICAL EXPERT COLLABORATIONS continue to be a requested. AUCD has collaborated with AIDD and partners within the broader DD Network to create partnerships to expand capacity and knowledge for UCEDDs. AUCD collaborates with NDRN, NACDD, SARTAC to expand TA expertise and capacity. AUCD coordinated conference calls and a workgroup with FEMA and UCEDD experts in emergency planning/response to provide expert recommendations on revising the FEMA phone intake form to allow greater accessibility for people with disabilities. A partnership was cultivated between the UCEDD network and Dr. Corey Moore of Langston University (LU) and his RRTC team supporting minority-serving institutions, resulting in plans for the RRTC to provide intensive on-site TA to the American Samoa UCEDD.

AUCD UCEDD TA STAFF

ANNA COSTALAS is the Resource and Dissemination Manager and participates in the planning, preparation and dissemination of public information as well as supports the UCEDD Business Managers workgroup.

JESSICA DRENNAN is the Senior Program Manager and she manages and supports various technical assistance activities including collaboration efforts, meetings and trainings, grant application questions, and evaluation activities.

DOROTHY GARCIAS is the UCEDD TA Program Manager and she oversees the Diversity Toolkit, coordinates events, trainings, tip sheets, and webinars.

CHRISTINE LIAO is the Senior Program Specialist and she coordinates the technical assistance for the Diversity Fellow program and the Leadership Academy.

NATALIE MARTINEZ is the Data Support Manager for the MCH and UCEDD Technical Assistance Teams and she supports the NIRS database and NIRS coordinators.

DAWN RUDOLPH is the Senior Director of Technical Assistance and Network Engagement, overseeing technical assistance on UCEDD & LEND grant administration, operations, impact, partnership and collaboration, leadership and succession planning, and emerging trends in the disability field.
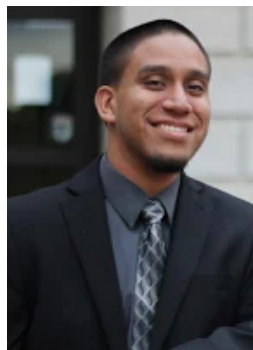
LUIS VALDEZ is the Bilingual Program Specialist, monitoring scholarly research within AUCD's network and promoting its effective use while also coordinating the translation of the Diversity Toolkit.