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THE



NEWSLETTER

Texas Interagency Council on Early Childhood Intervention

No. 4

March 1983

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In the interest of helping young children, ECI has announced a request for proposals to human services organizations throughout Texas interested in serving youngsters from birth to age 3 who are handicapped or developmentally delayed. For this third funding cycle since the program began, grants will be awarded on a competitive basis for a two-year period: September 1, 1983 through August 31, 1985.

Priority will be given to the continuation of programs now funded by ECI and to programs in unserved and underserved areas of the state. The greatest needs are in Texas' rural areas, particularly the western and southern parts of the state. As a cost-effective measure, programs that serve only one specific population, such as visually handicapped or mentally retarded, are encouraged to coordinate with other organizations in their area seeking ECI funds in order to provide comprehensive services to a more diverse population.

Proposals must be received in the ECI office by April 15, 1983. Grant applications and additional information are available from the Early Childhood Intervention Program, 1100 West 49th Street, Austin, Texas 78756, or call (512) 458-7342.

JUST A LITTLE BIT OF MONEY . . .

Contrary to popular opinion, a little bit of money can make a very big difference. At least that's what the families with children at the Dallas Services for the Visually Handicapped learned when that agency was awarded a minimum amount of ECI funds in September 1983.

An established agency, Dallas Services has been providing quality intervention through its center-based program for some time. What difference, some may have wondered, could about \$21,000 make to a large, ongoing program?

For the center, the difference is reflected in staff time and capabilities. With ECI funds, the program now employs a physical therapist and a speech therapist full time, enabling it to add home visits to its repertoire. In this way parents who are unable to come to the center during therapy sessions can now watch the therapists work with their children once or twice a week at home. This individual attention, along with the parent training that accompanies it, benefits both the children and their families. "Home training rounds out the program," notes Preschool Director Carol Danielson.

ECI funds also have enabled the program to start small group classes for the less involved children. These youngsters previously didn't get as much therapy as they should because the limited staff had time to devote only to those who were most severely involved. (continued on page 2)

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For the parents, the difference has been in the thrill they feel as their children acquire new skills. One multiply handicapped child, new to the Dallas area, had been receiving therapy only once a month and making little progress. Today she is beginning to walk, a fact her mother credits to the increased amount of physical therapy she is receiving. Another parent, pointing with delight to the substantial gains made by her young son, considers additional therapy and the training she has received during home visits the primary reasons for her youngster's progress.

For these children and others like them, it's not the amount of funds that a program receives but what that program does with them. In the case of Dallas Services for the Visually Impaired, a little bit has made a very big difference.

THE SUGGESTION BOX



Waiting list? Have you thought about helping families on your waiting list by inviting them to attend program functions while they are waiting to enroll their youngsters? And how about asking parents of children in your center to serve as "support parents" to those on the waiting list who have a child with a similar disability. This need not take a lot of time, just enough to answer questions and give a bit of encouragement by phone or over coffee. This could help waiting families see that they are not forgotten and that there are others who care and understand.

Kathye Wallace, Project ABC
Abilene Regional MHMR Center

Pops and Tots: Fathers not participating? One proven idea is to host a Dad's Day. This one was held at the center from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., on a Saturday morning. The first hour, a teacher directed activities to help the dads learn to "play" with their youngsters in a more effective way. The second hour was dads' sharing time, in which the fathers had a rare opportunity to exchange thoughts and feelings. Staff took care of the kids during talk time. An indication of the project's success: all opted for another meeting.

Bonnie Reeves, Project KEEP PACE
Klein Independent School District

Let's Get Organized: Having trouble keeping track of all those good ideas you have or those you hear and read about? One suggestion is to keep a "Hints" file box. It should be a good sized one, perhaps about 6" by 8", with filing cards color coded by month or by type of activity. This helps keep ideas and activities at hand and easily accessible as well as easy to add to.

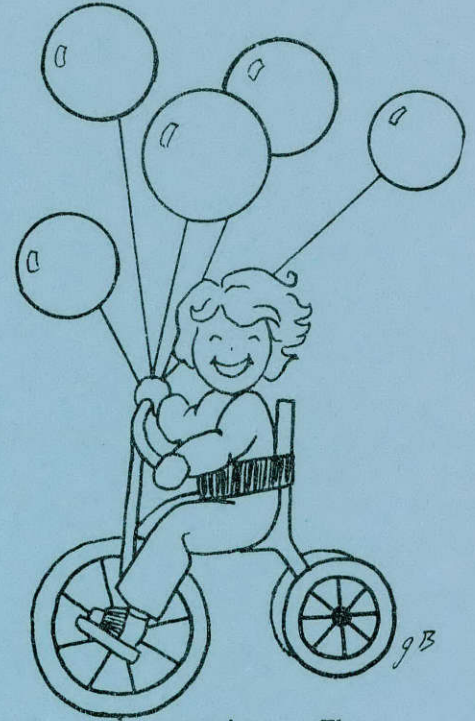
Venedia Watkins, Clora Austin,
Zynda Betts
Region VII Education Service Center

Ed. note: If you have some good ideas or activities, we'll be happy to help you share them through the ECI Newsletter. Just send them to the ECI office; we welcome all your suggestions.

FOCUS ON TRAINING

Call it training, call it continuing education, call it what you will. The important thing is that we all occasionally need to refresh our knowledge and gain new information and skills that relate to working with developmentally delayed children and their families. You might find the following resources useful.

- Project KIDS Outreach Component provides consultants and materials to train persons to work with handicapped infants in the areas of assessment and curriculum, parent involvement, and program evaluation. This federally funded project grew out of Project KIDS, a preschool program of the Dallas Independent School District that has been serving handicapped children from birth to age 5 for the past nine years. There is no charge for the training; the only cost to those requesting the program is for travel expenses for consultant staff. This service may be requested by the Education Service Center in your region through Education Service Center X, P. O. Box 1300, Richardson, Texas 75080, or phone (214) 231-6301.
- The University Affiliated Center (UAC) at Dallas provides training through workshops and inservice on a number of topics relating to working with handicapped children. These include nutrition and feeding problems, working with parents, newborn assessment, and genetics. They also have available two self-assisted instructional modules. The genetics module contains audiovisual tapes on an overview of genetics, hard choices, genetic screening and diagnosis, amniocentesis, and psychosocial counseling, and a written segment on basic genetics. To allow for interaction with UAC staff, a speaker phone can be mailed with the tapes for teleconference use. The module on newborn assessment follows a similar format. Each module takes about eight hours and is available free of charge. For further information contact Doctor Barry Borland, University Affiliated Center, the University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas, Southwestern Medical School, 3801 Herschel Street, Dallas, Texas 75219, or phone (214) 526-0990.
- Two new manuals, one for parents and one for nurses, are designed to help parents understand the capabilities of their premature infants, to prevent some of the developmental problems that arise in the nursery, and to support the emerging skills of the baby. They can serve as a foundation for nursery-based developmental support programs for infants up to three months post term conceptional age. The guides were developed by Murdina Desmond, M.D., and the staff of the Center for Developmental Pediatrics at Texas Children's Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine. Booklets can be ordered from: The Office of Educational Resources, St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital/Texas Children's Hospital and Texas Heart Institute, P. O. Box 20269, Houston, Texas 77225.



A REMINDER

A limited supply of the 12 annotated ECI Continuing Education Catalogs is still available. There is no charge for these materials, which will be distributed on a first come, first served basis. Just send your request, in writing, to the ECI office.

ECI: ACTIONS OF THE COUNCIL

The ECI Council met four times in the second quarter of FY'83--December 2, January 3 and 12, and February 9-- and took the following actions of general interest.

Programs - At its November meeting, the Council canceled the ECI Program funds to Gulf Coast MHMR, stipulating January 15, 1983, as the program's final date to assure continuity of services until new programs could be funded. Following an RFP issued in Galveston and Brazoria counties for replacement programs, the Council awarded three grants for January 15 through August 31, 1983: Brazoria County Center for the Retarded, Lake Jackson, \$54,054; Brazoria County Association for Children with Handicaps (BACH), Angleton, \$53,271; and The University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, \$146,108. At a subsequent meeting, the Council awarded an additional \$5,796 to the Brazoria County Center for the Retarded, noting that the situation was unique.

RFPs - For the current request-for-proposals, the Council initiated two major changes: (1) adopting a two-year grant award cycle for the 1984-85 biennium, and (2) requiring a letter of cooperation among agencies in areas where two or more ECI-funded programs are or would be serving children living in the same or adjoining geographic locations.

Rules and Regulations - Rule changes enacted are cited in the January 21, 1983 issue of the Texas Register, proposed changes in the February 22, 1983 issue.

Copies of the minutes are available from the ECI office on written request. Charges for the minutes of any one meeting are 55¢ for the first page, 3¢ for each additional page, and postage.

MESSAGE FROM THE MONITORS

QUARTERLY PROGRAM PERFORMANCE REPORTS

Everything you wanted to report and document but weren't sure how!

As the ECI programs have been monitored by the Texas Education Agency and Texas Department of Mental Health/Mental Retardation, there have been many questions on how to document the information on the program performance report. The important thing is to establish a system in which each child referred to the program moves systematically through the process, and each step is documented along the way.

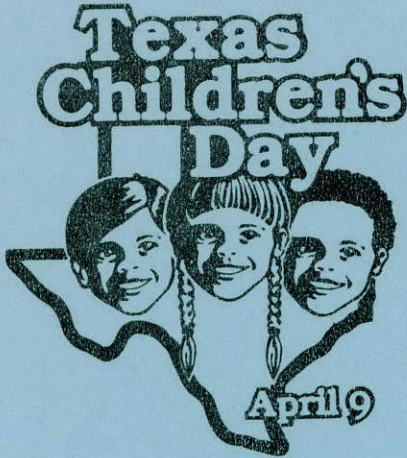
Here's an example for one month:

	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
	Screened	Evaluation	Referred to Another ECI	IDP	Enrolled	WL
September						
Name of Child	date	date	date	date	date	number
	9/1/82	9/5/82	9/15/82	9/20/82	9/25/82	

If you have a good system for documenting data for the program performance report, please describe it and send it to the ECI office. We appreciate your help.

WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

A special week is coming up, and you and your agency can play a part in it. From April 3 through 9, the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), its state and local affiliates, will celebrate the 1983 Week of the Young Child. This annual event is a time for agencies and organizations throughout the country that serve young children to focus attention on the needs of our youngest citizens.



For this legislative year, the key event in Texas will be a display in the State Capitol highlighting programs that serve children. To culminate the week's activities, the Texas AEYC is designating April 9 as Texas Children's Day. That is the day your organization might want to do something special for or with young children. Among activities planned in local communities are children's art shows, luncheons, kite-flying contests, visitor's days at child care and development centers, and letters from

children to local public officials or legislators. Your group, in conjunction with other agencies or your local AEYC chapter, might come up with some exciting ideas. This is a fine time to let people know that handicapped or developmentally delayed youngsters are, first of all, children. It is their week too. Let's use The Week of the Young Child to renew our commitment to improving the quality of life for all children and their families.

COORDINATE!

Coordination is a trend that works. It is cost effective, and it is service effective. It also takes effort.

Two groups of ECI organizations, one urban and one small town and rural, are making that effort. In Tyler, Doctor Marietta Crowder, Regional Medical Director of Public Health Region 7/10, invited representatives of intervention programs in East Texas to see how they could "together, most effectively meet the needs of developmentally delayed children." The meeting itself was an example of cooperation, with an exchange of information and a sharing of ideas by all participants. What began as a mini-conference of individuals from 38 counties became a cohesive group working together on behalf of young children. Region 7/10's Director of Social Work, Charlotte Clarke, summed it up well: "A team was born on January 21 in Tyler, Texas."

In Dallas, the coordination effort is an ongoing one. Formed a year ago, the Early Childhood Interagency Council of Metropolitan Dallas met February 16-18 to learn how to make their Council more effective. At an ECI-sponsored workshop conducted by organizational consultants Jerry and Mary Elder, the participants gained pointers on developing goals and objectives, understanding different types of people in a work situation, and developing plans for coordinating more effectively in the provision of services.

Coordination is neither easy nor a one-time activity, but it is worth the effort.

Early Childhood Intervention Program
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, Texas 78756

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Program Coordinator: Pam Farley

Editor: Louise Iscoe

Graphics: Joan Bishop

Typist: Beverly Bronnenberg

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News tips and information invited.