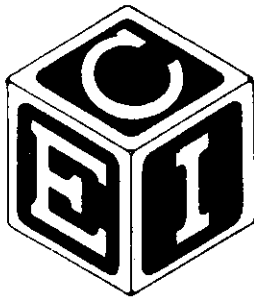


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THE



NEWSLETTER

Early Childhood Intervention

72 OCT 1983

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AUGUST 1983

No. 6

WHAT'S NEW AT ECI

NEW GRANTS

The results are in. For this third ECI funding cycle, 75 agencies submitted proposals requesting a total of \$13.5 million; 60 were funded for a total of \$7.5 million. These programs, along with a map showing the 207 counties they will serve, are listed on a clip-and-save page at the end of this newsletter.

What the list does not reveal is the tremendous amount of thought, time, and effort expended in this grant process. People at 75 programs spent many long hours in planning ways in which to serve young developmentally delayed children, and then in describing these efforts in their proposals. People from four state agencies also spent many long hours, reading the proposals to determine which programs would reach and best serve the greatest number of children throughout the state. Neither the preparation nor the selection was easy. And not everyone was happy with the results. In a competitive grant cycle, when the amount of money available is far less than the amount requested, there is no way to avoid some disappointment, and often some anger as well.

It is important to recognize that at both the submitting and the reviewing end, many people throughout Texas gave their best efforts in the ECI grant process. It is also important to recognize that, as a result of this process, many children who otherwise might have been overlooked will receive needed early intervention. And lest we forget, that is what ECI is all about.

(Continued on page 2)

WHERE DOES ALL THE MONEY GO?

For those who wonder what ECI funds accomplish, the following excerpts from an article in The Patriot, the Lackland AFB newspaper, explain. This was written by a parent whose child attends the ECI program at the Easter Seal Rehabilitation Center in San Antonio, but similar thoughts could be expressed by parents with youngsters at ECI programs throughout the state. As Thalia Tierney, ECI/Easter Seal Program director observes: "I feel that this exemplifies what all of us involved with ECI are striving to accomplish."

Due to extremely long periods of hospitalization and many surgeries, our son Steven was over a year behind in some areas of development when he began attending the ECI program at Easter Seals in November 1981. He was 22 months old. He said a few words but did not understand what they meant, did not walk, and could not catch himself if he fell. Thanks to the Early Childhood Intervention program at Easter Seals, he now walks, talks, sings songs, participates in groups, and is barely behind his age group.

(Continued on page 3)

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WHAT'S NEW AT ECI

(Continued from Page 1)

NEW PROGRAMS

ECI welcomes four new programs to its roster of services to young children in FY 1984. They are Brenham State School, Brenham; North Texas Easter Seal Rehabilitation Center, Wichita Falls; Region XV Education Service Center, San Angelo; and San Antonio State School, San Antonio. These programs will provide comprehensive services to children in 25 counties not previously served by ECI.

NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

When the ECI Council next meets, two new faces will be seen at the discussion table: Dick Smith of Texas Department of Mental Health/Mental Retardation, and Patti Bizzell, public appointee. Both will bring knowledge and experience as well as a fresh approach to the ECI governing body.

Dick Smith's background reflects professional experience in mental retardation and recreation. Among his wide ranging experiences are eight years of service at the Denton State School, four of these as superintendent, and six years as a baseball player with the Atlanta Braves. His academic qualifications include an Ed.D. from North Texas State University in college teaching. Married and the father of two children, Smith currently is Mental Retardation Program Specialist at TDMHMR.

Patti Bizzell combines professional, volunteer, and family interests. As a professional she is executive director of the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists. On a community level, she has served actively with the Texas ARC, ARC-Austin, the Volunteer Services Council of the Austin State Schools, and the Infant Parent Training Program in Austin. On the home front she is married and has three children, one a 3-year-old with Down's Syndrome. She holds a Master of Professional Accounting degree from the University of Texas at Austin.

Rounding out the Council are continuing members Clift Price, M.D., Texas Department of Health; Cecil C. Chandler, D.D.S., Texas Department of Human Resources; and Joe Neely, Ph.D., Texas Education Agency. Pam Carley, TDMHMR, and Liz Hartman, public appointee, have completed their terms on the Council.

NEW STAFF

ECI-TDMHMR - Joining the ECI Program consultant/monitor staff is Susan Dodson. Susan brings to this position 15 years of experience with early childhood programs as a speech pathologist and director of a day care program for the handicapped. In addition, she is co-author with Dr. Tina Bangs of the Birth to Three Developmental Scale.

ECI-TDH - New members of the office staff are Tina Kasiske, formerly telephone intake worker with the Crippled Children's Program, and Debbie Fisher, previously clerk with the SSI-Disabled Children's Program. They will serve, respectively, as administrative technician and secretary, replacing departing staff members.

WHERE DOES ALL THE MONEY GO?

(Continued from Page 1)

We have also benefitted by participating in the classroom one day a week, learning new skills and activities to use at home. On other days we observe or attend parent meetings where we learn how we can better help our kids. Through ECI at Easter Seals we now know that there are many other children with problems and delays. There are also many parents who feel confused and helpless. Through this program we learned that there is help for us as well as for our children. We support each other and help each other with problems. Through the parents meetings we learn to be better parents. We observe each others' children and get excited when any of the children in the group learns something new--a first step at age 2 or 3, sitting alone, saying a new word. We congratulate the parents and the child. We clap and cheer. These are things we get excited about. They may be taken for granted by parents of normal children, but for parents of handicapped children they are very important.

Because of this ECI program, Steven is confident and has an excellent self-image. By getting help early, he and the other children are learning at an early age to be independent, self-confident, and to cope. We truly believe that many of these children in the ECI program will grow up to be very capable adults, holding down good jobs, and contributing to society. All of this is due to early childhood intervention.

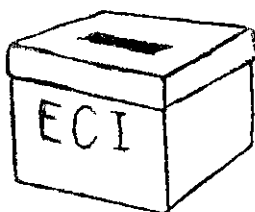
ECI SUMMER WORKSHOP

PAST AND FUTURE

The 1983 ECI Summer Workshop was a resounding success. Program personnel and state-level staff agreed that they learned from the presentations and group discussions as well as benefitted greatly from the opportunity to get to know and share ideas with people from programs around the state. And everyone was enchanted by the Kids on the Block.

This year the emphasis was on working with parents, a topic identified as top priority by a majority of programs. Next year, according to workshop evaluations, program personnel would like to be included in budget and fiscal discussions, and many expressed a preference for longer workshops, perhaps a day and a half. ECI staff will solicit your ideas prior to the next workshop. Currently they are investigating the possibility of conducting interim training sessions in the regions of Texas on topics of particular interest. Your thoughts and suggestions are welcome.

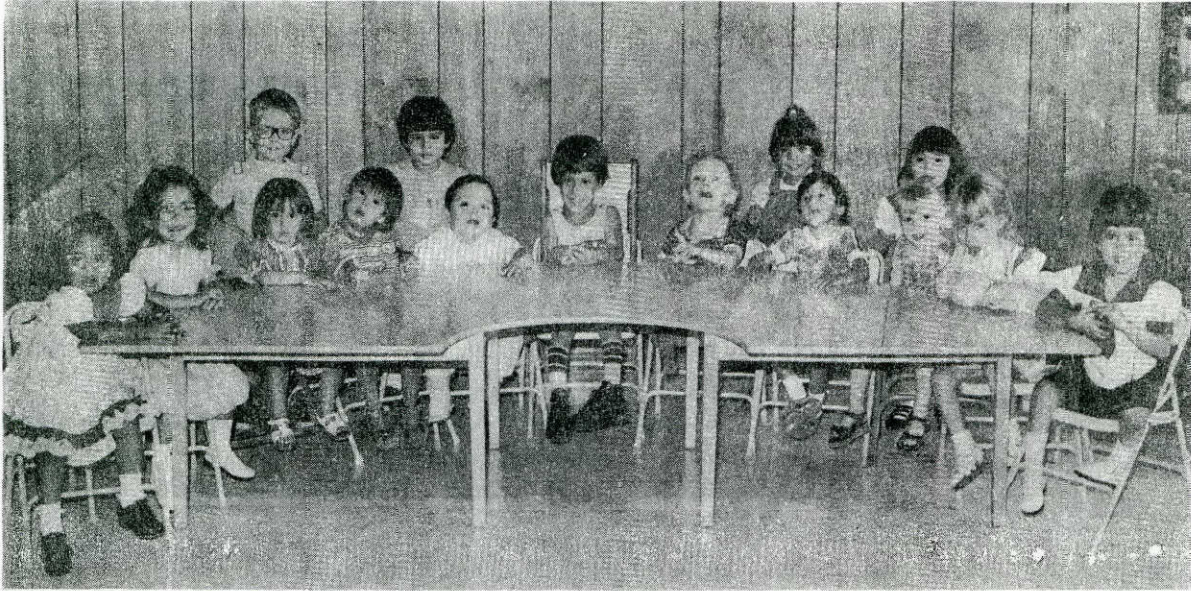
THE SUGGESTION BOX



Place Mats for Tiny Tots: To make mealtime more attractive and stimulating, this idea is simple and effective. Cut poster board into quarters or to fit high chair tray. Cut out pictures of special interest or teaching purpose -- animals, in-house items, outdoor items. Arrange and paste on board. Cover with clear adhesive plastic to make wipe-up simple. Good for identifying and reinforcing learning of objects and colors.

Pam Wissner, Children's Services
Austin State School, Fredericksburg

ECI AROUND THE STATE...



INFANT STIMULATION PROGRAM - CLASS OF 1983
NUECES COUNTY MHMR

Commencement was a big occasion for the Class of 1983, that is, the class of the Infant Stimulation Program of the Nueces County MHMR. Everyone contributed to the day's events -- invitations, photographs, flowers, items to raffle, punch and cookies. And everyone came -- parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, friends, to see Program Director Elda Mendez award graduation certifications to the ECI children and others who are now moving on to the public school system.

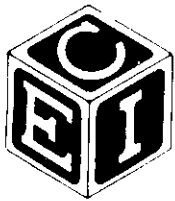
...AND AROUND THE NATION

ECI will be getting more national publicity in the coming months, when staff and program personnel present papers at national professional meetings. Among them:

Linda Bishop, Speech Pathologist, Easter Seal Rehabilitation Center, San Antonio, will preside at a poster session at the American Speech and Hearing Association Annual Convention in Cincinnati, November 18. Her presentation is based on research that she and Thalia Tierney, ECI/Easter Seal program director, conducted on language acquisition through a play skill program for multiply handicapped children.

Mary Cerreto, Ph.D., and Carole Gard, OTR, Project LAUNCH director and coordinator, respectively, at UTMB, Galveston, will present a poster session at the Annual Region V Meeting of the American Association on Mental Deficiency, October 4, in Houston. Their topic: State-Mandated Services for Developmentally Delayed Children Ages 0-3: Politics and Pragmatics of Program Development and Implementation.

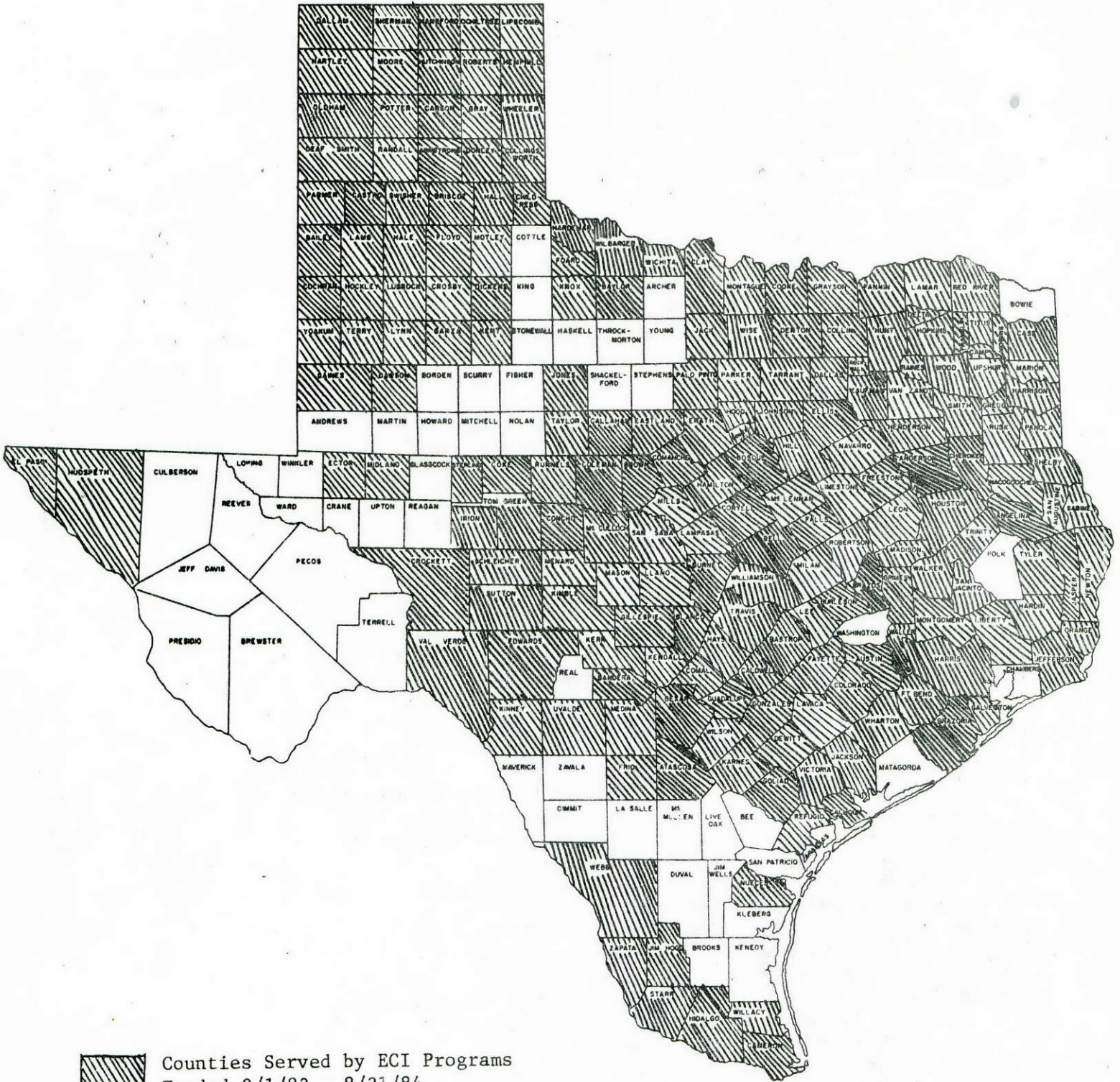
Louise Iscoe, ECI Information Specialist, and Clift Price, M.D., ECI Council member, will give a paper at the 111th Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association in Dallas, November 14. Their focus will be on ECI: A Public/Private Partnership in Intervention.



EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Abilene Regional MHMR Center
Amarillo State Center for Human Development
Austin State School - Fredericksburg
Austin State School - San Marcos
Austin-Travis County MHMR Infant Parent Program
BACH-Brazoria Association for Children with Handicaps - Angleton
Beaumont State Center for Human Development
Bexar County MHMR Center - San Antonio
Brazoria County Center for the Retarded - Lake Jackson
Brenham State School
Brighton School "Up with Down's" - San Antonio
Capital Area Rehabilitation Center - Austin
Central Counties Center for MHMR Services - Temple
Central Plains MHMR Center - Plainview
Central Texas MHMR Center - Brownwood
Cerebral Palsy Development Disabilities Treatment Center - Houston
Child Study Center - Fort Worth
Dallas County MHMR Center
Dallas Independent School District
Dallas Services for Visually Impaired Children
Deep East Texas Regional MHMR Services - Lufkin
Denton State School
Easter Seal Rehabilitation Center - San Antonio
Edgewood Independent School District - San Antonio
El Paso Center for MHMR Services
El Paso Rehabilitation Center
Fort Worth State School
Garland Independent School District
Heart of Texas MHMR Center - Waco
Helping Hand Development Center - Irving
Hunt County Family Services Center, Inc. - Greenville
Klein Independent School District - Spring
Lubbock Independent School District DEBT PROJECT SPIN
MHMR Authority of Brazos Valley - Bryan
MHMR Authority of Harris County - Houston
MHMR Regional Center of East Texas - Tyler
MHMR Services of Texoma - Denison
Mexia State School
North Texas Easter Seal Rehabilitation Center - Wichita Falls
Nueces County MHMR Community Center - Corpus Christi
Parent Education Early Intervention Program - San Antonio
Pecan Valley MHMR Region - Stephenville
Permian Basin Community Centers for MHMR - Midland
Port Arthur Independent School District
Region I Education Service Center - Edinburg
Region III Education Service Center - Victoria
Region VII Education Service Center - Kilgore
Region VIII Education Service Center - Mt. Pleasant
Region XV Education Service Center - San Angelo
Region XVI Education Service Center - Amarillo
Region XIX Education Service Center - El Paso
Richardson Development Center
Sabine Valley Regional MHMR Center - Longview
San Antonio State School
SEARCH - Silsbee Independent School District
South Collin County Infant Program - Plano
South Texas Children's Habilitation Center - San Antonio
Travis State School - Austin
Tropical Texas Center for MHMR - Edinburg
University of Texas Medical Branch PROJECT LAUNCH - Galveston

EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION PROGRAM



RECENT AND READABLE

Infant Education: A Guide for Helping Handicapped Children in the First Three Years. Bettye M. Caldwell and Donald J. Stedman, Eds. Available from Walker and Company, 720 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10019. \$8.95. (1982)

This collection of papers by several recognized infant educators focuses on the practical problems encountered in administering programs for handicapped infants and preschoolers. Included are chapters on screening and assessment procedures, case studies of successful infant programs, the effects of existing programs for infants, and the issues involved in evaluating the effectiveness of programs for this target population. Written for persons who work with handicapped children.

Finding and Educating High-Risk and Handicapped Infants. Craig T. Ramey and Pascal L. Trohanis, Eds. Available from University Park Press, The University of Maryland, Baltimore, MD (1982).

For administrators, policy-makers, teachers, and professionals, this is a guidebook on the planning and operating of identification and intervention programs. There are sections on selected exemplary screening and intervention programs based on national surveys of such efforts, identification and assessment of high risk and handicapped infants, environments, program planning, program evaluation, and others.

Developmental Disabilities Staff Training Information Collection. American Association on Mental Deficiency. Available through DDSTIC, AAMD, 5101 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20016, or call toll-free (800) 424-3688.

This database identifies over 1,300 programs and related materials for training professionals, paraprofessionals, and parents who work with persons with developmental disabilities. The collection covers over 50 training subject categories. It identifies materials by training setting, type of staff to be trained, format, and by client age and type and severity of disability. To obtain information, call or write requesting a computer search request form. Cost is \$5.00 per search for the first 15 items, 10 cents per item above the first 15.

Educating Handicapped Infants. S. Gray Garwood and Rebecca Fewell, Eds. Available from Aspen Systems Corporation, P.O. Box 6018, Gaithersburg, MD 20877. \$28.50 (December 1982).

Focus of this new book is on approaches to educating disabled children under age 3. Three main areas covered are theory and concept, infant growth and development, and facilitating infant development, with chapters on assessing handicapped infants, service models, curricula, managing learning, family adaptation. Also included is a special section on designing research for disabled infants.

THE ECI NEWSLETTER

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News tips and information invited.

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