

THE



NEWSLETTER

Texas Interagency Council on Early Childhood Intervention

NO. 2

AUGUST 1982

ECI AWARDS \$6.1 MILLION

You've no doubt heard the news, but it bears repeating: ECI this month awarded \$6.1 million to 56 programs throughout the state to serve young developmentally delayed children. Awards ranged from \$16,000 to \$411,000 for a one-year period beginning September 1, 1982.

Almost all of the 73 proposals submitted reflected considerable thought and described worthwhile projects. Only a lack of available funds limited the number of programs that could be awarded grants. Despite financial restrictions, 11 more programs were funded than in the previous grant cycle, and services were extended to 39 additional counties. As of September 1, many more children will be receiving special care and training through ECI.

A list of newly funded programs and a map of counties served by these programs appear on pages 5 and 6.

PEOPLE WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

After the legislation is passed and the funds appropriated, a program depends on the people who believe in it and are willing to put forth the effort needed to make it a good one. For ECI, the SSI program managers and the Early Childhood Specialists at the Education Service Centers are people who are making a difference.

SSI Managers

The SSI managers are skilled at helping people. Their primary job is with the Supplemental Security Income-Disabled Children's Program, a federally funded project administered by the Texas Department of Health under the Bureau of Crippled Children's Services to assist families whose children have serious handicapping conditions. The SSI social work staff provides information, referral, and counseling to help parents resolve the many problems that accompany illness and disability.

With the advent of ECI, they took on the additional task of helping this new program get started. Each of the SSI program managers refers children for identification and screening, and several have actively sought youngsters who might benefit from intervention services. Through their cooperation, children who might otherwise have remained unnoticed are now able to receive the help they need. We would like you to meet the SSI managers:

SSI-DCP Administrator - Helen Burt

Region 1 - Canyon
Kathy Thomas
806/655-7151 or
Tex-An 844-2801

Region 2 - Lubbock
Ken Allen
806/797-4331 or
Tex-An 862-9795

Region 3 - El Paso
Lydia Aguirre
915/533-4972 or
Tex-An 846-8127

Region 4 - Abilene
Dorothy Curlee
915/673-5231 or
Tex-An 847-7011

Region 5 - Arlington
Joanne Kimberlin
816/460-3032 or
Tex-An 833-9433

Region 6 - Temple
Leslie Anderson
817/778-6744 or
Tex-An 820-2201

Sub-office - Austin
512/458-7730

NON-CIRCULATING
NTSU LIBRARY

Region 7/10 - Tyler
Charlotte Clarke
214/595-3585 or
Tex-An 830-6245

Region 8 - Harlingen
Horacio Barrera
512/423-0130 or
Tex-An 820-4567

Region 9 - Uvalde
Alice Garza
512/278-7173 or
Tex-An 820-4311
Sub-office - San Antonio
512/225-4343 or
Tex-An 820-4311

Region 11 - Rosenberg
Eileen Moe
713/342-8685 or
Tex-An 851-3412

Region 12 - Midland
Lynn Bass
915/683-9492 or
Tex-An 848-6267

Early Childhood Consultants

It's one thing to notice children in need of help, another to refer and track them to assure that they receive assistance. Taking primary responsibility for the ECI tracking system are the Education Service Centers of TEA, where the Early Childhood Consultants and the Child Find/Data Managers collect and forward the information to be entered on the statewide system. Experienced in tracking handicapped youngsters from 3 to 6 through Child Find, which has been in effect for several years, they are now expanding their efforts and expertise to include youngsters from birth to age 3. All ECI-funded programs report the children they are serving to the ECI tracking system, and beginning September 1, the centers in the 20 regions will be accepting telephone referrals from other programs and individuals. Do you know a child who needs special care or training? If so, call the early childhood consultant in your area.

Region 1 - Edinburg
Debbie Louder
512/383-5611

Region 2 - Corpus Christi
Melissa Gibbons
Wavera Whitney
512/883-9288 or
1-800-244-3000

Region 3 - Victoria
Ioane Bond
512/573-0731

Region 4 - Houston
Ellie Madison
713/462-7708 or
1-800-392-2761

Region 5 - Beaumont
Pam Barnes
713/835-5212 or
1-800-392-1014

Region 6 - Huntsville
Al Stewart
713/295-9161 or
1-800-392-6437

Region 7 - Kilgore
Cora Austen
214/984-3071

Region 8 - Mount Pleasant
Debbie Porter
214/572-6676

Region 9 - Wichita Falls
Janet Wallace
817/322-6928

Region 10 - Richardson
Helena Wilson
214/231-6301

Region 11 - Fort Worth
Sharon Fikes
817/625-5311

Region 12 - Waco
Carolyn Behne
817/756-7494, ext. 63

Region 13 - Austin
Margie Sanford
512/458-9131

Region 14 - Abilene
Marilee Garner
915/677-2911

Region 15 - San Angelo
Cheryl Smith
915/653-7333

Region 16 - Amarillo
Sharon Kefley McQuay
806/376-5521

Region 17 - Lubbock
Madeline Douglas
806/792-4000

Region 18 - Midland
Janie Chavez
915/563-2380

Region 19 - El Paso
Dr. Pat Adkins
915/779-3737

Region 20 - San Antonio
Louise Scanlon
512/828-3551

SPOTLIGHT ON WEST TEXAS

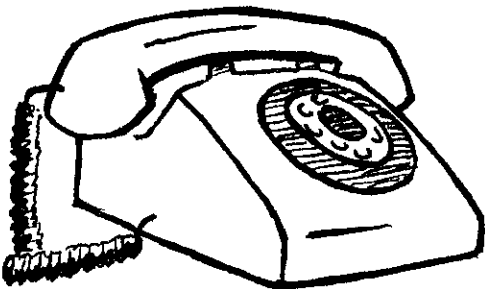
West Texans are hearing a lot about ECI. Lynn Bass, SSI Manager of Public Health Region 12, is making sure of that. With the support of Dr. C. R. Allen, Medical Director of Public Health Regions 2 and 12, she is "discovering" developmentally delayed children by setting up special evaluation clinics, then making sure that the identified children receive the necessary intervention services. And ECI is making it all possible.

Lynn is the first to admit that this effort is a cooperative one. At the first clinic, held in Pecos in early June, the entire community helped. Mary Mitchell, Region 2 caseworker in Pecos, handled the organizational details. Public health nurses Thelma Lawrence and Mary Urguidi referred children they had screened at child health clinics. Local media spread the word about the event throughout the area. On the day of the clinic, volunteers joined professionals to provide transportation and assist children and their families who filled the rooms.

When Midland pediatrician Dr. W. C. Watson and pediatric nurse Ann Cotten arrived to conduct medical evaluations, 26 children were waiting. The following day the 19 deemed in need of intervention were developmentally evaluated by an interdisciplinary team from the West Texas Rehabilitation Center in Abilene. Headed by Bill Snowden, Director of Treatment, the team of physical therapist Debby Durling, occupational therapist Ginny Smith, and language pathologist Dean Jameson devised individualized development plans for each child. The results of these efforts: 19 small children are now receiving in-home intervention therapy that will aid their growth and development and, in turn, the well-being of their families. LVN Alice Guevarra is providing this therapy for Reeves County under the direction of the West Texas Rehabilitation Center. These services are funded by ECI and administered by the Texas Department of Health, which is responsible for purchasing services for developmentally delayed youngsters from birth to age 3 who live in areas that do not have ECI-funded service programs.

Region 12 is not content with just one success story. A second clinic has been held in Crane, where, with the help of public health nurse Pat Brown, Dr. Charles Lambeth of Odessa and Dr. Debbie Reese of Midland evaluated 16 children and found 12 in need of services. Permian Basin Rehabilitation Center is providing therapy for these youngsters. Two more clinics are scheduled for September in Odessa and Big Spring.

As Lynn Bass points out, "So many children need help. Before, we didn't seek out these youngsters because there was nothing we could do for them. Now, with ECI, we can provide the help that they need". That is what ECI is all about.



COMMUNICATE!

Don't keep us guessing. Let the ECI world know what you're doing. Send information, ideas, suggestions, human interest stories, questions to the ECI Newsletter. We welcome your news tips.

SUMMER HAPPENINGS

The summer heat may slow some folks down but it hasn't kept ECI staff from travelling about the state to talk about the program or to learn how to better serve developmentally delayed young children. Some events of note:

ECI Research Conference

National and state experts in child development convened in Austin on August 3-4 to discuss current research devoted to developmentally delayed youngsters and to determine priorities for future research. Sponsored by the ECI Council and the University of Texas at Austin, the meeting was conducted by Dr. Bill Myers of the University of Texas Department of Special Education.

ECI Continuing Education Meeting

ECI program directors and business managers enjoyed a change of scene August 4-5 when they travelled from their project sites to Austin for a workshop on administrative and fiscal management. Of special value was the opportunity for program people to meet and exchange ideas with one another as well as to meet in person the ECI staff with whom they had been working by phone or letter. Among them: Dr. Clift Price, ECI Council Chairman, who welcomed the participants; Council members Dr. Cecil Chandler of the Texas Department of Human Resources and Liz Hartman, public representative; Jim Ramin, Assistant Chief, Bureau of Crippled Children's Services of the Texas Department of Health, who represented Bureau Chief Dr. Punam Myer to discuss procedures for purchase of services; and ECI Coordinator Pam Farley, who introduced her staff and gave an update on ECI.

While program directors were helping Dr. Bill Myers establish priorities for research at the ECI Research Conference, ECI accountant Helen Marrow and Ann Smisko of the Texas Education Agency worked with the program fiscal officers to clarify procedures for maintaining ECI records and accounts. ECI-TDMHMR monitors Liz Shelby, Libby Doggett, and Susy Armstrong, and ECI-TEA monitor Joene Grissom presented a session on monitoring; Helen Burt of Supplemental Security Income-Disabled Children's Program and Joene Grissom of the Texas Education Agency explained the tracking system. A high point of the session was an exercise conducted by Joene on "buying and selling," adding a new and thought-provoking perspective to the provision of human services.

Around the State

The word about ECI is getting around. ECI Coordinator Pam Farley told all about it at the 7th Annual convention of the Texas Association on Mental Deficiency, held in Fort Worth on July 27. Fact sheets and pictures told the story at the annual meeting of the Texas Head Start Association in Dallas in early August. ECI Council member Pam Carley of TDMHMR gave an ECI overview at a meeting in Abilene on August 27.

"The Developmentally Disabled Child and the Family: Who Comes First?" was the provocative title of that Abilene meeting, sponsored by the ABC Program of the Abilene Regional MHMR Center and McMurray College

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ECI is a statewide program coordinated by the Texas Departments of Health, Mental Health/Mental Retardation, and Human Resources, and the Texas Education Agency.

News tips and information invited.