

Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Special Education Unit Advisory Council for the Education of Children with Disabilities Children And Youth with Sensory Impairments (CAYSI), January 2021

- Children And Youth with Sensory Impairments (CAYSI) currently has two hundred forty-four students (244) on its registry. In this quarter, eleven new referrals were received. Eight students were found eligible for services during this quarter. There are twenty-nine referrals outstanding.
- CAYSI, along with other Arkansas state consultants, presented on collaboration for students' with complex needs at the LEA Academy, September 2020.
- CAYSI also collaborated with University of Arkansas Little Rock, Arkansas Rehabilitative Services, the Adult DeafBlind Community, and Educational Services for the Visually Impaired to present on *Tactile Signing: A Journey*. Our adult deafblind community were interviewed, video-taped and presented their stories with full access to communication.

CAYSI grant initiative work in changing systems and building capacity in serving students and their families birth to 22 years:

Transitioning Students with Deafblindness out of High School

1. CAYSI Transition Pilot Program collaborated with Arkansas Transition Services to provide Person Centered Planning for seven of the eight identified students, families, and their educational team. Additional participation and collaboration with Arkansas Rehabilitation Services and Division of Services for the Blind to provide Pre-employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) was established. Continued follow-up, collaboration, and planning will be provided for the seven students with the forementioned team and the newly developed Deafblind Interagency Transition Team.
2. The Helen Keller National Center, and the Division of Services for the Blind, are finalizing the Youth Services Coordinator position for the state of Arkansas. This position will be a vendor specifically for transition-age youth that are considered deafblind, working towards work-based experiences prior to graduating from high school.
3. The 2021 Southeast Transition Institute (SETI) is cancelled due to Covid. Arkansas and four other state deafblind programs are planning a virtual family preparation during late spring of 2021, for those young adults would have been attending the 2021 SETI. The families will be connecting with each other and preparing for the 2022 Transition Institute planned or June, 2022 in Florida.

Family Engagement

1. Eight home visit calls were conducted along with technical assistance that was in the areas of transition, communication, communication dictionary, object cues, and calendar systems, deafblindness and the impact on learning.
2. The Family Consultant, in collaboration with the National Center on DeafBlind (NCDB) and the Helen Keller National Center Southeast Region of Deafblind states, presented two sessions: *Supporting Families with Complex Needs: A strengths-based Approach in Assessing and Empowering Families for a Good Life* and *Fostering Resiliency in Families: The Parent Perspective*. One of the three parents that presented their story as part of the presentation was from Arkansas.
3. F2FC facilitator training was conducted for the 2020/2021 school year. Arkansas has, for the first time, a parent participating as a facilitator and four other families are participating in various parent groups offered through the collaboration of the Southeast

Deafblind Team. The CAYSI Family Consultant facilitates the monthly extended family group meetings.

4. A virtual Family Story Time ended with six CAYSI families participating and one of those families participating in a train the trainer for families. Because of the Family Story Time success, there will be a second series beginning February 4th for four weeks.
5. Intensive work with seven families in the CAYSI Transition Pilot Program produced Person Centered Maps for their children in the area of the young adult's background/milestones reached, relationships, choices made, and abilities in communication.
6. CAYSI provided the first virtual SPARKLE parent training. A total of twelve families participated, with four Spanish speaking families with an interpreter.

Educational Technical Assistance

1. The first person in Arkansas to participate in the Intervener project through the NCDB has completed her portfolio for Intervener Certification and turned it in for review. We are still waiting for the results.
2. Technical assistance has been conducted on-site and virtually for thirteen students in Lake Hamillton, Mount Ida, ASD, Dewitt, Batesville, Ashdown, and Hot Springs.
3. Intensive work with six educational teams in the CAYSI Transition Pilot Program to support the production of Person Centered Plans and action steps for their students. The plans included action steps such as socialization with peers, researching options for college and/or career, skill building needs, independent living skills needed, expanding choices made by the student rather than the family or educators, needs and abilities in assistive technology and communication, and connecting with agencies for adult services.
4. CAYSI joined with the Arkansas Collaborative Consultants in developing a Students with Complex Needs section in a *Special Education and Remote Learning Toolkit*.