

**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), October 2019**

- CAYSI and Easterseals Outreach proposed five trainings for the school year. *Serving Students with Multiple Disabilities and Dual Sensory Impairments* will be offered throughout Arkansas.
- CAYSI currently has 223 students on its registry and received eight new referrals this quarter. Three students were found eligible for services during this quarter with 27 students outstanding. CAYSI conducted initial home visits to families in Redfield, Batesville, Fort Smith, Hot Springs, Mountain View, Hamburg, El Paso, and Jonesboro. Two parent groups met in Siloam Springs and Osceola as well as the family leadership group, Arkansas Empowering Families with Deafblindness.
- CAYSI provided school consultations in Batesville, Greenwood, DeWitt, Marion, Bryant, Pocahontas, Cabot, and Lake Hamilton.

CAYSI Grant Initiative work in changing systems and building capacity in serving students from birth to 22 years of age and their families:

- **Transitioning Students with Deafblindness out of High School**
 1. Southeast Transition Institute for Young Adults who are Deafblind (SETI), Raleigh, NC: CAYSI collaborated with University of Arkansas Little Rock and sponsored 2 Deafblind interpreters in joining CAYSI staff. The Interpreters worked one on one with a young adult during the weekend to bring back to our student interpreters more knowledge in working with youth who are deafblind.
 2. Deafblind Interagency Team: After 18 months of working together in developing a long-range service plan and assessing the gaps in serving students with deafblindness, CAYSI, the Helen Keller Nation Center, Arkansas Transition Services, Arkansas Rehabilitative Services, Division Services of the Blind, and Goodwill Industries, conducted a 2-day training in August for Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors, PreEts Counselors. It was a resounding success and requests were made for ongoing trainings and further collaboration.
 3. CAYSI presented a session at the Summer Agency Conference sponsored by Arkansas Interagency Transition Program (AITP) on deafblindness as well as on opportunities for successful transitions for our students.
- **Family Engagement**
 1. CAYSI is part of a leading team of state deafblind programs in providing more educational awareness and work on cultural competence in order to better serve this vulnerable population.
 2. In August, four Arkansas families attended the CHARGE Conference in Dallas, Texas. Two of the families were sponsored by the Special Education Unit and Division of Elementary and Secondary Education.

3. CAYSI recruited three Arkansas families to join the national Family to Family Community monthly parent calls for the school year lead by trained parent facilitators from around the country.
4. CAYSI is part of a national group working to create unified global family outcomes as a guide for all state deafblind programs.

- **Early Intervention**

In collaboration with Educational Services for the Visually Impaired (ESVI), CAYSI presented to University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Kid's First on the identification of dual sensory impairment as well as on strategies and techniques for increasing communication and learning.

- **Educational Technical Assistance**

1. CAYSI provided a Kindergarten transition in-service to a school team for an incoming student with Deafblindness.
2. CAYSI invited six school districts with 21 students to participate in intensive coaching/training. Four districts accepted the invitation, which will impact 16 students who are already part of the CAYSI census and will likely generate additional referrals to CAYSI. This training will focus on communication, access to the general education curriculum, inclusion, and transition through the ages. CAYSI began meeting with teachers, LEA supervisors, students, and families who are participating in August.