

Transdisciplinary Teaming/Primary Service Provider Model of Early Intervention The Arc Baton Rouge

The Arc Baton Rouge, Children's Services has long recognized that teaming is crucial to ensuring the quality of early intervention services provided for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. Best practice in early intervention recommends a team-based approach in all aspects of service delivery. In the "Transdisciplinary/Primary Provider" model, professionals from multiple disciplines with special expertise work together to help children and their families accomplish identified outcomes. This model requires that professionals collaborate and provide integrated routines-based interventions in the children's natural environments. One "key" person takes the lead in coordinating activities to meet outcomes while other team members share knowledge and skills. Based on the family's needs, priorities, and concerns for their child, potential outcomes are determined and a team of early intervention practitioners with diverse knowledge, expertise, and experiences support the child's parents or primary care provider in achieving their outcomes. Rather than focusing on frequency and intensity of services per individual provider, through this coaching approach the team is viewed as a whole and serves the child as a whole supporting each other through consultation, teaming, joint visits and cross training.

Using this approach, The Arc BR Children's Services will establish a geographically based team consisting of individuals representing multiple disciplines, in which one member will be selected to serve as the PSP for each child and family served. As indicated in the model, our team will consist of a group of early intervention practitioners. We will also work with service coordinators who are responsible for referrals to the program within our 7 parish region. The child's Individual and Family Support Plan (IFSP) team will then be composed of needed members from this geographically based team.

The Arc Children's Services proposes to replicate the Shelden and Rush (2013) pilot study that examined the effectiveness of using a Primary Service Provider (PSP) approach to teaming. First we will examine if children and families meet their IFSP outcomes and the time for completion; second, we will examine child progress on developmental outcomes through developmental assessments; and third we will examine the cost associate with providing PSP model of service delivery.

EarlySteps has pledged support for the project as they believe that there is a need to show the effectiveness of the PSP approach to allow EarlySteps to move to this model across the state in the future using our project as the pilot for the implementation statewide. To that end, they have also pledged to make every effort to support the project with financial support toward the required cash match. In addition, Children's Service has secured funding from the Pennington Foundation, and will seek matching funds from the Wilson foundation.

We are requesting that the DDC consider supporting this project and assist us with securing funds needed for the required match. We believe this project supports the DDC's Goal 8 for EarlySteps.

- **Our first request** is for immediate funding to support the preliminary work to be done to prepare for the PSP Model project and continue our on-going work prior to securing funding from the United Way in April 2013. Funding is being requested to support working with a national consultant and expert in the field, Dr. Robin McWilliam, to guide our work, assist us with developing training and mentor/coaching materials and then train and mentor our staff to ensure we are able to begin the project as soon as funding is secured. We expect that the training being developed would ultimately be used to train EarlySteps providers in the future as they move toward this model. We also would expect that Dr. McWilliam will assist us in the plan to move EarlySteps toward the goal of transdisciplinary model of service delivery. We are requesting from the DDC \$19,000 in funding that would support these activities to be accomplished from January through June 2013.
- **Our second request** is that as the council updates its five year plan it consider this proposal as an innovative and promising practice for FFY 2014 at its January 2013 meeting and consider becoming a partner with The Arc Baton Rouge by providing funding to support the required match for The Arc's United Way Social Innovative Fund project, The PSP Model of Early Intervention Service Delivery.