

**Division of Elementary and Secondary Education – Office of Special Education
Advisory Council for the Education of Children with Disabilities
Children And Youth with Sensory Impairments (CAYSI), October 2022**

Highlights

- Children And Youth with Sensory Impairments (CAYSI) received nine new referrals this quarter. Two students were found eligible for services during this time. There are 17 referrals outstanding.
- CAYSI's work with the National Center for Deaf-Blindness (NCDB) and approximately 6 additional state deafblind projects are working together to align the new CEC standards for interveners with the Open Hands Open Access modules for intervener certification. These modules are located on NCDB's website.
- Michelle Alvarez started in September as CAYSI's Family Consultant. The Educational Consultant, Director, and Administrative Specialist have been meeting with Michelle to explain CAYSI processes, grant objectives, and procedures that are in place within the project and the department.
- CAYSI has agreed to co-host the Southeast Transition Institute in Hattiesburg, MS in June 2023. Two families interested in attending.
- CAYSI attended the LEA Academy as a vendor and as participants. As a vendor CAYSI met with approximately ten LEAs in need of support for students with deafblindness. CAYSI connected with other Arkansas Collaborative Consultants to discuss shared referrals and current students to provide support as a collaborative effort.

Transitioning Students with Deafblindness out of High School

1. CAYSI Transition Pilot Program continues. Phase III started in collaboration with Arkansas Transition Services (ATS), Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS), Division Services for the Blind (DSB), Helen Keller National Center (HKNC), the families of the 9 pilot students, and the associated school teams of the DeafBlind student.
 - School teams of three CAYSI students in the pilot program who have more complex needs and no formal communication have met individually to be coached on the process of Discovery. NCDB will continue to support these students, families, and their educational teams.
 - An overview of the Phase III plan was provided in August to schools that were able to attend. Schools that were unable to attend scheduled a time with ATS to view the recording and ask questions.
 - Site visits with 5 educational teams have occurred and the rest are scheduled to occur by the end of the month.

Projected outcomes:

- Raise expectations for all supporting agencies, families, the community, and the young adult as the growth and inclusive opportunities of work experiences in high school exhibit the strengths and abilities of the student.
- Establish a process for implementing Discovery with students with significant disabilities in Arkansas as part of Transition Planning (identify what Discovery activities will be completed, timelines, the embedding within Person Centered Planning, annual IEP, determining benchmarks and products, and agency/position responsible).

2. In partnership with HKNC, the Youth Services Coordinator/Deafblind Employment Specialist position has been posted for Arkansas. An explanation of this position was included in the last advisory report.

Family Engagement

1. Two Communication Matrix assessments were conducted by the educational consultant with families and the educational team.
2. Four families (five children) participated in the Family Storytime program in August which is in collaboration with the southeast state deafblind programs and Gwyn McCormack for the United Kingdom.

Educational Technical Assistance

1. Technical assistance was given to 32 students in Fayetteville, Pine Bluff, Bryant, Clinton, North Little Rock, Jacksonville, Bentonville, Springdale, Nettleton, Trumann, Greenbrier, West Memphis, Palestine, Van Buren, Sherwood, Conway, and Pocahontas. The technical assistance provided was in deafblind awareness and overview, instructional strategies, literacy adaptations, active learning, communication strategies, access to the general education curriculum, preparation of classroom with a district for a student entering the school system,
2. Intensive technical assistance was provided eleven times for students for transition and the communication matrix. These included school teams and appropriate agencies to develop appropriate goals, strategies, and implementation for the student in the targeted area of assistance.
3. CAYSI presented to an early childhood center to bring awareness of Deafblindness. This resulted in 1 referral.
4. Technical assistance for 2 students with 2 LEAs in attendance resulted in invitations to the Regional Directors Meetings with the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators (AASEA). One presentation is in October, and one is in November.