



Providing Support to Families and Professionals When There Isn't A Lot of Money: Strategies from Kansas

Erin Schuweiler, M.S., Ed.

EHDI Meeting

April 15, 2014

How Did We Start?

- 2004-SoundBeginnings (EHDI)-Early Intervention Planning Committee
- Became KAN-PIC Committee
 - Research
 - Consensus
 - Plan
- Became Sound START



Sound START

- Specialized
- Teams for families to
- Access
- Resources and
- Training



Sound START Mission Statement

To ensure that families of infants and toddlers who are deaf/hard of hearing receive comprehensive, unbiased information and support through regional consultation within the local *tiny -k networks*.



Sound START Advisory Committee

- Department of Health & Environment (Part C and EHDI)
- Kansas School for the Deaf
- Service Providers
- Parents
- University of Kansas



Challenges

- Bringing everyone to the table
- Creating consensus on serving families
- Time commitment
- Getting legislative support



Successes

- Created consensus on serving families
- Developed a state-wide plan
- Grant money for a 6-day training



Where are We Now?

- Training
- Technical Assistance
- Direct support



Sound START Training

- Train-the-Trainer – Spring/Summer 2010
- Capstone-Spring 2011
- Initial Training (2-day)-Spring 2012
- Mentorship Training-Spring 2013
- Initial Training (2-day)-Spring 2013
- Mentorship Training-Fall 2013
- General Topic Training-Spring 2014



Sound START Training

- Presentations

- Kansas Speech-Language-Hearing Association (KSHA)
- Kansas Division of Early Childhood (KDEC)
- National Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Conference
- Advocates for Southern Kansas Kids who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing (ASKK-DHH) Conference



Training Costs

- Presenters
- Materials
- Location
- Food
- Interpreters (as needed)



Partners

- Gallaudet University Regional Center (GURC)
- SoundBeginnings (EHDI)
- Kansas School for the Deaf
- Part C
- University of Kansas



Finances

- Kansas School for the Deaf support for 1.5 positions in birth-three
- Started with \$3000.00
- Partnered to get grants
- Charged a nominal fee (\$25-30 per day of training)
- Financial spiral effect



Technical Assistance

- Still in development
- Address the question: How can the board support service providers and families?



Direct Support

- Funded by Kansas School for the Deaf
- 1.5 positions
 - 1.0 Deaf Educator
 - .5 SLP
- Utilize Outreach Department for additional supports



Challenges

- Still not meeting all the needs
- Utilizing the board without burn-out
- Creating a Sound START training curriculum



Successes

- Mostly volunteer board/presenters
- Parents as presenters and board members
- Indirect service to 50+ families at a training
- Quality resource for families and providers



What's Next?

- Increase support for families
- “Grow Our Own” experts
- Continue to search for funding



Strategies to Try

- Presentations at state conferences
- Find a small grant to get it started
- Make friends in high places
- Keep registration costs low
- Start Slow but with Vision!



QUESTIONS?

Erin Schuweiler, M.S., Ed.
Birth-Three Coordinator
eschuweiler@kssdb.org
913-324-0600

