

CED Board & Member Organizations

Proposal: "O.U.R. Children"

2/17/2001

Harold Johnson/Michigan State University

Problem:

Children with disabilities are more than three times more likely to experience child abuse and neglect (CA/N) than their nondisabled peers, i.e., 31% vs. 11%. While all educators are legally mandated to report suspected instances of CA/N, they are not prepared to meet this obligation.

Background:

During the course of the past three years, Harold Johnson, in collaboration with key individuals from the Hands & Voices organization, have researched the topic of CA/N as experienced by children who are deaf/hard of hearing (d/hh). A summary of the resulting knowledge base can be found at: *<http://deafed-childabuse-neglect-col.wiki.educ.msu.edu/>

*Note: the first time that you go to this web site, you will need to establish a logon and password.

Proposal:

1. CED Board agree to include the topic of CA/N, as experienced by children who are d/hh, as an agenda item, for one Board meeting a year, for the next three years.
2. Each CED member organizations task one individual to work with Harold Johnson for the next three years concerning the topic of CA/N, as experienced by children who are d/hh.
3. Harold Johnson, in collaboration Hands & Voices and designated individuals from CED member organization will:
 - a. Year 1: document how each CED member organization has/is/plans to address CA/N in relation to informing parents and preparing professionals, plus, resulting "lessons learned," questions, concerns and suggestions. Synthesis of the resulting information to be presented at a CED Board meeting.
 - b. Year 2: design, implement, and evaluate a pilot study to inform parents of children who are d/hh and prepare the professionals who work with them how to **O**bserve, **U**nderstand, and **R**espond to possible incidences of CA/N as experienced by children who are d/hh. Synthesis of the resulting information to be presented at a CED Board meeting.

- c. Year 3: offer CED member organizations a program to effectively and efficiently inform parents of children who are d/hh, and prepare the professionals who work with them, how to **O**bserve, **U**nderstand, and **R**espond to possible incidences of CA/N as experienced by children who are d/hh. Synthesis of the resulting information to be presented at a CED Board meeting.

Budget:

No funds are requested from the CED Board, or member organizations to support the activities outlined in this proposal. Harold Johnson, in collaboration with Hands & Voices and designated individuals from CED member organization will seek Federal and foundation funds to support the activities of this proposal. If possible, a portion of the resulting funds will be used to offset the cost associated with the CED Board meetings at which the proposed CA/N related work will be presented.

Outcomes:

The following outcomes are projected to occur if CED and its member organization accept this proposal:

1. CED visibility will be increased as it works to proactively address a horrific problem that has been largely ignored by the field of Deaf Education.
2. CED member organizations will be:
 - a. recognized for the CA/N related work they have already carried out;
 - b. assisted in the design, piloting, and possible implementation of programs to inform, and when appropriate, prepare their members to **O**bserve, **U**nderstand, and **R**espond to possible incidences of CA/N as experienced by children who are d/hh; and
3. CED, its member organizations and Hands & Voices will be both prepared and positioned to seek additional Federal/foundation funds to support collaboratively efforts to reduce the incidence, duration, and impact of CA/N as experienced by children who are d/hh.