

**Tulare County Office of Education
Child Care Planning Council
SB 1703 Project Report
July 1, 2003 – June 30, 2004**

Overview

The SB 1703 project got off to a slow start in Tulare County. During the first fiscal reporting period the only activity that was conducted was the attendance of staff, parents, and community members at the Transfer of Knowledge Symposium.

Many of the activities proposed in the plan were subcontracted to Parenting Network Inc. During the first three quarters of the second fiscal year some of the activities that were subcontracted were implemented. Unfortunately not all of the subcontracted activities were implemented as planned and the Office of Education made the decision to implement the activities through the hiring of a Program Supervisor rather than subcontracting. During the last quarter of the second fiscal year the Program Supervisor was hired and began implementing the SB 1703 activities.

Below is a narrative report on each of the activities that were implemented during the reporting period.

Activities

One-on-One with Providers

- ◆ During the months of January and February 2004, while the subcontract was still effective with Parenting Network, Inc., three consultations were conducted with child care providers. One provider was caring for a child with Autism, one provider was caring for a child with Sensory Integration Disorder and one provider was caring for a child with ADD/ADHD.
- ◆ During the months of March through June 2004 time was spent hiring and training a Program Supervisor to oversee and implement the activities of the project. The position was advertised and interviews were conducted. Tracy Martinez was hired as the SB 1703 Program Supervisor and began work May 1, 2004. During the months of May and June 2004 Tracy began to familiarize herself with the project and making arrangements for consultations. Applications and resumes were gathered on six different consultants and the necessary paperwork for hiring them was completed. The consultants will begin their work in the new fiscal year. Tracy also made contact with providers that expressed a need for consultation. The providers expressed concern regarding the following disabilities:

- Behavior Disorders
- Autism
- Mental Retardation
- Speech Impairment
- Hearing Impairment
- ADHD/ADD
- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

Disabilities Newsletter Development and Distribution

- ◆ The Parenting Network, Inc. publishes the Extra Special Child Care newsletter which is distributed to the families that have children with special needs. Funds from the SB 1703 project were utilized to expand distribution of the newsletter to interested child care providers that contract with Resource & Referral. Two editions of the newsletter were published and distributed during the time that this activity was subcontracted to The Parenting Network, Inc.
- ◆ The Resource & Referral newsletter, Building Blocks, is published on a bimonthly basis and contains an article on caring for children with disabilities. All articles in the Building Blocks newsletter are translated into Spanish. The following topics have been included in the newsletter:
 - “You can make your home healthier for children with asthma”
 - “Characteristics of a successful child care provider”
 - “Early language occurs without formal teaching”
 - “Project provides support services for providers” (an article on the SB 1703 project)

Develop Training Videos

- ◆ A portion of the project funds were subcontracted to Parenting Network, Inc. to partially support the development of a training video. The video was finalized and is in the Resource & Referral Library for checkout by child care providers.

Americans with Disabilities Act Training

- ◆ The ADA training was held in June of 2003 at the Resource and Referral Offices. The training was conducted by staff from the Child Care Law Center and attended by child care providers, parents, and program staff.

Workshops and Provider Incentives

- ◆ Workshops were conducted on a variety of topics. Spanish translation was available for all workshops. In addition, each provider in attendance received a certificate of completion and an incentive related to the workshop topic. Included with the report are

the data collection and evaluations from each of the workshops. The following is a list of the workshop topics and number of participants:

○ August 2003	Science for Every Child	26 Participants
○ September 2003	Caring for a Child with Autism	24 Participants
○ October 2003	What You Should Know About Down Syndrome	15 Participants
○ November 2003	Seizure Disorders	15 Participants
○ March 2004	Healthy Homes	13 Participants
○ April 2004	Premature Infants	15 Participants
○ May 2004	Working Effectively with all Parents	13 Participants
○ June 2004	Attachment Disorders	17 Participants

- ◆ A portion of the contract funds were allocated to the 16th Annual R&R Child Care Conference held on April 3, 2004. The following workshops were offered:

- Everyone Can Play!/Todos Pueden Jugar! (English & Spanish)
- Sign Language (English)
- Early Brain Development (English)
- Healthy Homes for Children with Asthma (English)
- How to Advocate for Children (English)
- Baby Signs (English)
- Juegos de los Infantes y Ninos Pequenos (Spanish)
- Science for Children (English)
- Infant Massage/Masaje Infantil (English & Spanish)

Disability Specific Kits

- ◆ During the months of January and February 2004, while the project was subcontracted to Parenting Network, Inc., 3 disability kits were developed and distributed to child care providers caring for children with special needs.
- ◆ During the months of May and June 2004, Tracy Martinez put together and delivered six disability kits to child care providers caring for children with special needs. The kits focused on the following disabilities:
 - Speech and language delays
 - Behavior disorders
 - Autism and potential autism
 - Possible neurological damage
 - Motor planning difficulties

Resource Brochure

- ◆ The resource brochure was developed in March 2004 and has been widely distributed to child care providers and other agencies. The brochure was developed in English and Spanish. The brochure is included with this report.

Travel

- ◆ During the reporting period, Tracy Martinez/Program Supervisor for the SB 1703 project, attended “Training the Early Childhood Trainer” and “Off to a Good Start: Supporting Families with Young Children” conferences.
- ◆ In February 2004 Jana Lanning, a provider caring for children with special needs at Teddie’s Preschool in Springville, attended a special needs conference held in Bakersfield, CA.
- ◆ 100 Scholarships were given to child care providers to attend the Resource & Referral 16th Annual Child Care Conference in April 2004. In order to receive a scholarship providers must have registered and attended one of the special needs workshops.

Provider Support Groups

- ◆ In June 2004 the first provider support group was held in Visalia. Flyers were distributed to over 100 child care providers caring for children with special needs. The support group was attended by 13 child care providers. Support groups are scheduled for once a month and will be held in various communities throughout Tulare County.

Library Resources

- ◆ Both the Resource & Referral and Parenting Network, Inc purchased library resources. The resources included books, equipment, videos, toys, etc. and many of the printed materials were also purchased in Spanish. The resources are specific to children with disabilities and are available for check out by providers caring for children with special needs.

Providers Caring for Children with Special Needs

- ◆ Below is a summary of the providers that are reporting that they care for children with special needs. The community and number of providers in each community is listed.

Earlimart	6
Exeter	8
Farmersville	9
Lindsay	13
Pixley	4
Porterville	41
Richgrove	1
Terra Bella	4
Tulare	32
Visalia	74
Cutler	1
Dinuba	12
Orosi	8
Reedley	1
Sultana	1