

SUMMARY OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES FOR THE VIRGINIA GUIDE BY YOUR SIDE PROGRAM

Through funding from the Virginia Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program (at VDH), the Partnership for People with Disabilities is implementing the pilot *Virginia Guide By Your Side (GBYS) Program*.







Project Activities Accomplished:

- Participated in the development of the Family Guide application
- Following receipt of 27 applications, guided the Family Guide interview process including the completion of 21 telephone interviews and selection of 15 Family Guides (one withdrew before training)
- Revised the Virginia Department of Health's *Resources for Parents of Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing*
- Developed a *Family Guide Resource Tool Kit* which includes the parents guide to special education, collaborative IEP information, the care coordination notebook, an infant hearing CD, Infant & Toddler Connection (ITC) of Virginia brochures, etc.)
- Developed a Contact Reporting Form
- Developed a *Family Guide Policies & Procedures* manual
- Facilitated the contracting of trainers from the Hands & Voices national office to conduct the Oct Family Guide orientation /train the trainer session
- Provided a two-day Family Guide orientation training to 14 Family Guides, 3 project staff, 1 VDH staff, and 3 EHDI workgroup members (Oct 13-14, 2006)
- Collaborated with Jennifer Hutson on Hands & Voices Virginia chapter development



- Produced *A Handbook for Virginia Parents of Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing*
- Developed a Family Notebook which includes the VDH resource guide, GBYS handbook, record keeping forms and miscellaneous brochures
- Provided ongoing communication with VDH staff and EHDI workgroup members
- Developed a GBYS brochure and webpage (www.vcu.edu/partnership/GBYS)
- Developed an Access database of matched families
- Mailed GBYS brochures to audiologists, hospitals, and early intervention programs
- **Received 32 referrals between January and April 2007 - 5 matches already closed**

Project Activities Upcoming:

-  Continue to match families
-  Continue to send out follow-up surveys for referred parents to assess satisfaction with Family Guide, resource materials, etc.
-  Participate as a presenter and/or vendor at the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day (June 2007), the VA DOE Shining Stars conference (July 2007), and the VA Deaf/Blind Project's Pathways to Possibilities conference (August 2007)
-  Recruit new Family Guide applications from Northern Neck, Eastern Shore, Northern VA and Danville areas
-  Schedule a second Family Guide orientation/training (Fall 2007)
-  Seek future funding for GBYS program

