

# Pennsylvania State Action Plan

Date: October 22, 2002

**Vision Statement:** All young children and their families will be welcomed and will actively participate in community opportunities to learn, play and grow.

**Outcome #1:** By 2004, Natural Allies team members and community partners will collaborate to identify and create various types of inclusive best practice learning experiences for all children.

## **Northeast Region**

**Members:** Becky Gorton, Alison Lutton and Ann Rider

**Objective 1:** Establish Local Resource Planning Team (LRPT)

**Action Step:** Meet quarterly

**Objective 2:** Identify and support community experiences

**Action Step:** Send applications and make selections

**Objective 3:** Provide professional development and on-site meeting to early childhood and education centers.

**Action Steps:** Convert PIN curriculum to credit. Provide director's certificate courses

### **Human Resources:**

Ann Rider: Supervisor/coordinator special education and early intervention in Northampton County

Gail Dodson: MHMH Early Intervention Specialist

Those in same positions in Monroe and Pike Counties

State Team resources

### **Time Line:**

Nov. 2002-June 30, 2004

### **Resources Needed/Available**

**Available:** Building Inclusive CC Communities Grant Funds (BICC project)

CCRD Grant Funds—United Way “One Voice” Initiative and Monroe PT3 Assistive Technology grant funds

PA Pathways

**Needed:** As identified in State Cluster Action Plan

### **Evaluation Criteria**

Pre/Post tests of centers from BICC project

- EC and Care centers and FCC homes—ECERS, ITERS, FCCERS
- Staff skills, knowledge and attitudes

Student placements records, journals, briefs and papers

**Outcome #1**

**Western Cluster**

**Members:** Janice Belgredan, Beth Hoden and Linda Wagner

**Action Steps:**

- 1) Increase the number of Westmoreland County early learning and care environments by creating a list and establishing connections with potential, local Natural Allies partners  
**Persons Responsible:** Karen Brinker, Sarah Dye, Beth Hoden, Jennifer Mishler, Megan Showalter and Linda Wagner
- 2) Create additional local training and inservice opportunities that promote DEC's recommended practices, and provide a local professional development calendar  
**Persons Responsible:** Beth Hoden, Linda Wagner and Nancy Wallace
- 3) Develop a plan to extend local action steps to regional applications for achieving Outcome #1  
**Persons Responsible:** Local team

**Human Resources:**

- 1) CCRD, CCIS, Head Start, PIC/Even Start
- 2) Penn State Cooperative Extension, SRI, WCCC
- 3) Beaver, Butler and Allegheny Community Colleges, PA ACCESS

**Time Line:**

- 1) Fall 2003
- 2) July 2003
- 3) July 2003

**Resources Needed/Available**

- 2) PA Pathways Training Contracts, SRI Professional Development Funding

**Evaluation Criteria**

- 1) List/ record of students placed
- 2) Training, inservice attendance and calendar
- 3) Plan

**Outcome #1**

**Southeast Region**

**Members:** Lufay Butler, Debbie Levin and Suzanne Milbourne

**Action Steps:**

- 1) Identify and contact community partners in Montgomery County and Philadelphia County in order to:
  - Identify potential opportunities
  - Identify where children with special needs are currently enrolled
- 2) Contact Mont. Co./ Philadelphia Co. CCRD grant recipients who identified project priorities related to disabilities

**Human Resources:**

- 1) Colleges
- 2) Suzanne

**Time Line:**

- 1) Feb. 2003
- 2) Nov. 30, 2003

**Evaluation Criteria**

An increase in potential sites for student and practicum will be identified

**Outcome #1**

**Central Region**

**Members:** Shirley Keith-Knox, Judy Sherwood and Cindy Wolfe

**Action Steps:**

- 1) Local Natural Allies cluster members / local planning team will be asked to identify and seek the participation of inclusive “best practice” sites
- 2) Match field experiences and level of participation assigned to students with site experiences willing to participate
- 3) Pilot field experiences

**Human Resources:**

Early childhood and early intervention personnel and families

**Time Line:**

During the second year

**Evaluation Criteria**

- Pre and post student attitudes and skills
- Use and comparison of current observational materials involving college and cooperative center personnel

**Outcome #1**

**State Cluster**

**Members:** Janice Belgredan, Kathy Brill, Terry Casey, Mauri Draush-Gladys and Beth Fairchild

**Action Steps:**

- 1) Locate families who would be willing to open their homes to community college students
- 2) Locate families who are having successful inclusion experiences for their children in child care settings and collaborating with them to become practicum sites
- 3) Locate Early Head Start/ Head Start programs who would have quality practicum sites for community college students, including home sites for homevisiting experiences
- 4) Locate Early Head Start/ Head Start programs who are in collaboration with child care programs and Part C/B programs and would provide practicum sites
- 5) PACCA/ CCIS/ PAAAP will work to identify child care sites who serve young children with special needs for community college students
- 6) Identify county Early Intervention programs that may be willing to offer field experience to community college students.

**Time Line:**

By 2004

**Resources Needed/Available**

Janice Belgredan  
Kathy Brill  
Terry Casey  
Mauri Draush-Gladys  
Beth Fairchild

**Outcome #2:** By 2004, each participating community college will implement a program improvement plan, developed through a self-assessment engaging community partners. The plan may address/ impact: course lists, course content (and practica) and assignments, instruction, faculty training and articulation.

**Northeast Region**

**Members:** Becky Gorton, Alison Lutton and Ann Rider

**Objective 1:** Expand advisory committee

**Action Steps:** Include members from LRPT; review revised curriculum; provide resources

**Objective 2:** Expand practicum experiences to include inclusive community experiences

**Action Step:** Link to programs per Outcome #1

**Objective 3:** Develop and implement ECE Quality Improvement Plan that results in an inclusive curriculum and pedagogy

**Action Steps:** Review current inclusive curriculum by advisory board; faculty training and course revision plus revised pedagogy (ex. Family guest, case studies, etc.)



**Human Resources:**

Same as Outcome #1

**Time Line:**

Nov. 2002-June 30, 2004

**Resources Needed/Available**

Same as Outcome #1

**Evaluation Criteria**

- Crosswalk between current curriculum and revised curriculum
- Anecdotal changes in pedagogy as reported by faculty

**Outcome #2****Western Cluster****Action Steps:**

- 1) Increase family involvement in WCCC early childhood education curriculum by:
  - a) creating a Family Advisory Board
  - b) identifying speakers and field experiences and resources

**Persons responsible:** Beth Hoden and Linda Wagner
- 2) Review and revise existing WCCC, ECE and syllabi to infuse recommended practices into existing coursework
 

**Persons responsible:** Beth Hoden and Linda Wagner
- 3) "Crosswalk" WCCC, ECE course content with area four-year institutions
 

**Persons responsible:** Beth Hoden and Roberta S.
- 4) Develop a plan to extend local action steps to regional applications for achieving Outcome #2
 

**Persons responsible:** Local team

**Human Resources:**

- 1) LICC, SRI, Parent to Parent
- 2) Adjunct faculty of WCCC
- 3) Carlow College, SRI, WCCC
- 4) Beaver, Butler, Allegheny County Community Colleges, PA ACCESS

**Time Line:**

- 1) Fall 2003
- 2) Fall 2004
- 3) Fall 2003
- 4) July 2004

**Evaluation Criteria**

- 1) Advisory board membership, identified speakers and resources
- 2) Revised syllabi
- 3) Articulated agreement
- 4) The plan



**Outcome #2**  
**Southeast Region**

**Action Steps:**

- 1) Identify and include a parent of a child with a disability or an adult with a disability and an early intervention “specialist”/ professional in Montgomery Co. Community College and Community College of Philadelphia advisory boards
- 2) Montgomery County—contact community partners to identify Mont. County/ Philadelphia perceived needs in regard to teacher preparation related to children with special needs
- 3) Montgomery Co. Community College and Community College of Philadelphia will conduct program review to identify strengths and areas for potential growth

**Human Resources:**

- 1) Suzanne Milbourne, Kathy Brill, parent organizations, Lufay Butler and Debbie Levin
- 2) Debbie Levin and Lufay Butler
- 3) College personnel

**Time Line:**

- 1) Spring 2003
- 2) Feb. 2003
- 3) Jan. 2004

**Evaluation Criteria**

- Spring 2003—both advisory committees will have members re: disability
- List will be generated that identifies perceived needs
- Plan of action to enhance current programs

**Outcome #2**  
**State Cluster**

**Action Steps:**

- 1) Locate families who would be willing to present their stories to community college students and faculty
- 2) Locate self-advocates who would be willing to present/ speak to community college students and faculty
- 3) Assist with collecting stakeholders’ priorities for the purpose of designing a self-evaluation tool
- 4) Be willing to provide training for faculty in the area of special needs
- 5) Share latest research/ information about children with disabilities and inclusion with community college faculty
- 6) Locate Early Intervention program staff who may be willing to participate in curriculum development and implementation activities.

**Human Resources:**

Janice Belgredan  
 Kathy Brill  
 Terry Casey  
 Mauri Draush-Gladys  
 Beth Fairchild

**Time Line:**

By 2004, as per regional cluster needs

**Outcome #2****Central Region****Action Steps:**

- 1) Share information with HACC Early Childhood Director to report Natural Allies action plan
- 2) Share information with advisory committee and seek input
- 3) Invite local community partners to share information and engage support
- 4) Form local implementation cluster who will sustain efforts
- 5) Assess what is known about best practices and inclusion
- 6) Utilize DACUM process for self-assessment of HACC curriculum
- 7) Establish goals

**Human Resources:**

Early Intervention Technical Assistance (EITA)  
 Adjuncts at HACC  
 Full-time HACC faculty  
 Infant-toddler staff  
 Head Start  
 Implementation Committee  
 State advocate  
 Parents with children having special needs

**Time Line:**

Two years.  
 Objective 1 planning completed by end of Year 1

**Resources Needed/ Available**

Funds  
 Natural Allies support  
 Support from other regions  
 Parent support

**Evaluation Criteria**

- Will utilize DACUM results, pre- and post- self-report comparison

**Outcome #3: By 2004, the Natural Allies state team will partner with state level organizations and initiatives to support and sustain our vision that all young children and their families will be welcomed and will actively participate in community opportunities to learn, play and grow.**

**All Regions**

**Action Steps:**

- 1) Form a committee to provide input to plan the 2003 Higher Education Institute at Penn State
- 2) Explore PA ACCESS role in Natural Allies
- 3) Develop a Natural Allies communication system, which includes a web site, to share Natural Allies information with the state team
- 4) Develop a Natural Allies external communication system, especially focusing on naturally occurring events and products
- 5) Develop a targeted list of strategic partners who will inform and engage in Natural Allies

**Human Resources:**

- 1) Janice Belgredan and Penn State partner, Natural Allies members
- 2) Becky Gorton, Alison Lutton, Debbie Levin, Beth Hoden, Judith Sherwood
- 3) Regional cluster lead, Natural Allies liasons
- 4) Natural Allies team
- 5) Natural Allies team

**Resources Needed/Available**

- 2) Higher Ed SIG grant, presenters for Higher Ed Institute, mailing list for Higher Ed Institute
- 3) Supports for follow-up meetings, phone conferences, web-based communication system
- 4) CCRD planning groups, information on naturally occurring events and products (e.g. newsletters, conferences)

**Evaluation Criteria**

- 1) Institute implemented with targeted audience attending
- 2) ACCESS plan developed and established
- 3) In 6 months, information on Natural Allies will appear in 2-5 distribution formats (e.g. newsletters, poster sessions, conference presentation)
- 5) Targeted partners are contacted