

Walking the Walk

Chapel Hill/ Orange/ Chatham Community Action Team

Goals	Highlights of Progress
<p>GOAL 1: Create models of best practices for working with culturally, linguistically and ability-diverse populations by improving the knowledge and skills of service providers</p>	<p>Members of the Chapel Hill/Orange and Chatham Community Action Team (CAT) have worked independently (as a Chapel Hill/Orange cluster and a Chatham cluster) and collectively, as the examples below reflect.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapel Hill/Orange County cluster members planned a one-day conference for UNC Allied Health Professions faculty and allied health practicum supervisors. Susan Moore and Clara Perez-Mendez from Boulder, Colorado, offered methods and models for providing culturally relevant practices. Collaboration with diverse families and effective use of cultural mediators and interpreters were areas of emphasis. • Chatham County cluster members planned diversity sessions as part of the June 8 Focus on Child Care conference. A similar training opportunity was offered in conjunction with the local Smart Start conference. • Team members created a Cultural Survey to get baseline information about participant attitudes and skills. The survey has been used as a needs assessment with early childhood teachers in the Chatham County area and with allied health practicum supervisors in Chapel Hill. Analyses of the data will help team members identify priorities for future training. • Team members have worked to increase the priority for cultural competence in their work with different community organizations. One outcome is that the Orange Partnership for Children is now requiring cultural competence of employees. • Some team members have spoken about diversity to inservice and preservice audiences. Another inservice effort, Nuevas Voces / New Voices, will begin a series of inservice events this fall.
<p>GOAL 2: Work with faculty to infuse diversity into the preparation of students</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speech-language pathology and audiology faculty have been surveyed to learn more about how diversity is reflected in their courses. • As a result of the presentation by Susan Moore and Clara Perez-Mendez faculty are asking students to look for examples of cultural bias at their practicum sites. Three diversity-related readings are also required to help students apply new perspectives to what they observe.
Next Steps	
<p>The team's efforts will continue to reflect their priorities, focusing on change and improvement in both preservice education and inservice training.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One group, representing both UNC (allied health professions and education) and Central Carolina Community College will focus on increasing the emphasis on diversity in coursework and practical experiences. This will dovetail nicely with a review of the overall Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology curriculum this fall. Team members are considering organizing a facilitated "show and tell" of instructional resources that faculty could infuse in their teaching. • A second group of team members will use needs assessment data they gathered this summer to assist in designing inservice offerings in Chatham County. Collaborating with other groups that offer regularly scheduled training would be one way to simplify the process and maximize efficiency. They intend to focus on community organizations and systems, including school systems. 	