

State Action Team 12-month Update

Objective: Develop linkages and increase knowledge about diversity efforts of North Carolina agencies, institutions and organizations affiliated with early childhood.	
	Highlights of Progress
<p>Action Step 1: Create a grid of statewide early childhood diversity initiatives in order to document what efforts are currently being implemented.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnered with the Cultural Diversity Committee (CDC) of NC Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) to create a survey to determine what early childhood diversity initiatives exist in North Carolina. Distributed a paper and electronic version to agencies and individuals around the state. About 40% have been returned as of May 2003. • One theme of the returned surveys is that there are gaps in meeting needs of Latino community.
<p>Action Step 2: Create a listserv that includes team members and key stakeholders in early childhood throughout the state of North Carolina in order to keep communication regarding diversity efforts open and ongoing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The survey results will be used to create a database of potential diversity presenters and trainings available in North Carolina. This information will be distributed statewide and will probably be housed on the ICC early intervention web site. Other sites may opt to link to the database. • Also hope to establish baseline understanding of sensitivity and best practices among those who provide cultural diversity training, such as those recommended by C.L.A.S./ Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (http://clas.uiuc.edu/).
Next Steps	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The State Action Team will continue in its merged partnership with the ICC to compile the survey results and in creating a useful document from the information gathered. • The CDC will make recommendations based on the survey findings and distribute these statewide. Individuals to be included in distribution are as follows: Mattie Chatterton (Senator Basnight's office); Dr. Nola Martinez (Gov. Easley's office); Family Support Network; Molly <i>Weston</i> (<i>All Together Now</i> editor) and a contact of bj Farmer at DHHS. • Possible presentations at the upcoming NC Community College Academic and Student Services conference to help faculty honor diversity. • Walking the Walk team members were recruited to serve on the Personnel Development Committee and the CDC committees. Karen Chester is the contact for information: (919) 662-4534 or karen.chester@ncmail.net. • The SAT made recommendations about what groups should participate in upcoming diversity training sponsored by George Mason University. Karen Chester will share those with the CDC. 	