

DATE: March 6, 2002

TO: Statewide Advisory Team for **Walking the Walk**

FROM: Pam Winton, Rosie Parrish, & Camille Catlett

RE: Summary of February 8 **Walking the Walk** meeting

Thank you for your valuable contributions before and during the February 8th meeting of the Statewide Advisory Team for **Walking the Walk**. During the meeting we learned more about resources in North Carolina that can support a more culturally, linguistically, and ability diverse and competent early childhood workforce. Together we identified future challenges and directions to take and established priorities for the state that are related to promoting diversity in early childhood intervention. This letter recaps the key events of that meeting.

- Participants introduced themselves and shared their individual interests in promoting diversity in the field. An updated list of Statewide Advisory Team members is attached (yellow).
- An overview of the **Walking the Walk** project was provided, including the resources and strategies that Walking the Walk offers to support diversity efforts in the areas of recruitment, preparation, support and linkages.
- An overview of the Cultural Diversity Survey Results was shared with the group. This survey was developed by members of the Cultural Diversity and Personnel Development Committees of the North Carolina Interagency Coordinating Council and more than one thousand early intervention practitioners throughout the state responded.
- Participants described existing resources and initiatives that can support North Carolina efforts to promote cultural and linguistic diversity in early childhood. A consolidated list of these resources, including contact information, is attached (purple).
- Participants also worked together in small groups to identify priorities for the state of North Carolina related to diversity. These priorities will guide the planning for an intensive 3-day **Walking the Walk** institute and the work of a State Action Team (SAT) of approximately 12 people. Top priorities and additional priorities identified by the group are attached (blue).

- Participants identified features to consider in selecting SAT members who will address North Carolina priorities as part of the **Walking the Walk** project. The SAT will attend the **Walking the Walk** institute May 28-31, 2002 and will work together to develop strategies and an action plan for addressing the priorities identified by the Statewide Advisory Team. They will return from the institute to try out different approaches for implementing and promoting change at the systemic level. **Walking the Walk** requires that these teams reflect diversity, and suggest that teams be developed based upon leadership skills and abilities. Members of the Statewide Advisory Team were asked, independently, to nominate individuals who they feel would best represent the field of early childhood intervention in North Carolina and who have a strong commitment to promoting cultural and linguistic diversity at the early childhood leadership level. These nominations are being compiled and selections will be made by members of the Statewide Advisory Team who agreed to serve on the selection committee. All members will receive a list of the SAT members as soon as they are selected. Updates related to the **Walking the Walk** institute experience will be sent out in June.

Thank you so much for taking the time to join us February 8th. We know that you all have very busy schedules, and it is so encouraging to see so many of you putting forth the effort to work with each other and us on this project. We hope you find this summary useful and encourage you to share it with your colleagues. If you were unable to attend the meeting and have any questions, please contact Rosie Parrish [(919) 966-0739; parrish@mail.fpg.unc.edu] or one of us. You may also like to visit our web site for more details, project updates and future planning meetings - <http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~walkingthewalk>. Hope to see you all again soon!