Building Partnerships and Networks with HKNC Regional Representatives

Facilitated by: Mike Fagbemi, NCDB; Presented by: Laura Thomas, Beth Jordan, Steve Perreault, Marilyn Trader and Barbara Posner, Helen Keller National Center

Webinar Highlights

What does the HKNC Regional Representative do?

Overview of HKNC programs

Examples of Collaboration between HKNC & State Deaf-Blind Projects

Questions/Discussion

Presenter: Laura Thomas, Director Field Services

Located in Moline, IL

Supervises the HKNC Regional Representatives & Senior Adult Specialist

[Laura.Thomas@hknc.org](mailto:Laura.Thomas@hknc.org)

Photo of the Helen Keller National Center, Sands Point, NY

Role of the HKNC Regional Representative:

Advocacy, info/referral to consumers/families

Facilitate application process to/from HKNC

Lifelong point of contact (transition age – senior adults)

Support consumer organizations

NDBEDP capacity building

Professional development training/resources

Collaboration with service providers/employers

National Registry

Map of the HKNC Regional Offices with stars on the states identifying their location including: Boston, MA; Sands Point, NY; Laurel, MD; Atlanta, GA; Raleigh, NC; East Moline, IL; Austin, TX; Olathe, KS; Denver, CO; San Diego, CA; and Seattle, WA

Photo of the HKNC Field Staff

HKNC Programs for Transition-Age Youth

**Young Adult Summer Program (2 weeks)**

20th Annual Event – July 11-22, 2016

Vocational/College Exploration

Photo of several teens in New York City

**Summer Youth Vocational Program (6 weeks)**

2nd Annual Event

Paid community work experience

Self-awareness of strengths/abilities

Photo of a young man practicing using a guide dog with a mobility instructor and guide dog trainer on either side of him.

**Summer Assessment Program (8 weeks)**

Assessment in all aspects of life

Individualized program schedule

Photo of a young deaf-blind man learning to use the George Foreman Grill with an instructor looking on and providing verbal prompts.

**Traditional Program** (6-12 months)

Employment outcome driven

Individualized program schedule

Photo of a young man holding a large painting of his self-portrait that is very well done.

HKNC and Deaf-Blind Project Collaboration

Presenter: Beth Jordan, Great Plains Region 7

Located in Kansas City

Serves IA, KS, MO & NE

[Beth.Jordan@hknc.org](mailto:Beth.Jordan@hknc.org)

Interdisciplinary Transition Team Initiative (ITTI)

Multi-State Transition Planning

Facilitated by NY Deaf-Blind Collaborative

In 2nd Year of multi-state effort

Use of Bi-Monthly Webinars

HKNC Regional Representative Role with Kansas Teams

Year 1: KS State School for the Blind & Olathe, KS

Year 2: KS School f/t Deaf

Provide Resources, Attend/Host Team Meetings, Arrange mentoring, NDBEDP Referrals

National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP)

Framework:

Established by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

Part of the 21st Century Communications & Video Accessibility Act (CVAA) of 2010

Each State Program is run separately

Eligibility:

Significant vision and hearing loss

Income requirement for household

Ability to use or learn to use technology for **“distance communication”**

NDBEDP/iCanConnect

Technology Assessment

Phones, Tablets, Computers, Software

Includes Installation and Training

Role of the HKNC Regional Representative: Varies by State

To find your state program:

800-825-4595 voice

[www.iCanConnect.org](http://www.icanconnect.org/)

Presenter: Steve Perreault, New England Region 1

Located in Boston

Serves CT, ME, MA, NH, RI & VT

[Steve.Perreault@hknc.org](mailto:Steve.Perreault@hknc.org)

New England Consortium for Deaf-Blind Technical Assistance (NEC) MA-ME-CT-NH  
On-line modules and facilitation provided to transition teams. Joined by Vermont Sensory Access Project and NCDB.

HKNC Regional Representative Role:

Contribute to content planning and delivery

Facilitate team planning in one state

Attend networking meetings in each state

Develop module and resources for families

Assistance with referral to HKNC-iCC-other

Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA)

Collaborate with NEC in one state to draft project that meets WIOA guidelines and specific to transitioning youth who are deaf-blind

Project in planning stage with target to youth receiving education in local schools

Opportunities for enhanced vocational assessment and training with specific supports

Increased opportunities for community-based work experiences

Presenter: Marilyn Trader, Southeast Region 4B

Located in Raleigh, NC

Serves KY, NC, SC & TN

[Marilyn.Trader@hknc.org](mailto:Marilyn.Trader@hknc.org)

Transition Institute for Young Adults who are Deaf-Blind

June 2015 in Kentucky

Collaboration of DB Projects, agencies, families and mentors

Networking & sharing of local/national resources

Family/Peer support

Transition planning

Leadership training

On FaceBook: “Transition Institute for Young Adults Who are Deaf-Blind”

Several pictures of activities at the KY Transition Institute

Non-Traditional Student

Role of the HKNC Regional Representative:

Consultation and Education through early intervention

Multi-Agency collaboration: Working with a network of professionals across the nation

Assisting with assessment tools and sharing of resources

Realistic/Functional outcomes: Personal Futures Planning, Customized Employment

Presenter: Barbara Posner, Southeast Region 4A

Located in Atlanta

Serves AL, FL, GA & MS

[Barbara.Posner@hknc.org](mailto:Barbara.Posner@hknc.org)

Employment Team

Deaf-Blind Consumer

Employment Specialist (VR, Blind Services)

Deaf-Blind Specialist or HKNC Regional Rep

Greatest Challenge: Overcoming Employer Concerns – communication, mobility, safety/liability

Strategies:

Functional Assessment: vision, hearing, O & M

Determine preferred communication and accommodations (low tech - print to high tech – iPhone and braille display)

Provide technology and accommodations training

Builds confidence at the interview and on the job

Demonstrates communication and mobility skills to the employer and relieves concerns

Role of the HK Regional Representative or Deaf-Blind Specialist

Provide consultation, mentoring and training support to:

Deaf-Blind consumer - assessment, accommodations

Employment Specialist - job search, interview, technology

Employer - Deaf-Blind awareness training, solve work site issues - “there’s an app for that”

Interpreters - communication strategies

Job Coach - work site accommodations and challenges

Paratransit - Deaf-Blind training

VR Counselor - Deaf-Blind training, SSI, Housing

Helen Keller National Center (HKNC) February 2016 Campaign: "Contact Your HKNC Regional Representative"

Introduce yourself and your child, begin dialogue

Participate in HKNC’s National Registry

Sign up for HKNC’s *eCONNECT!* newsletter

NEW Website! [www.HelenKeller.org/hknc](http://www.helenkeller.org/hknc)