

**Kronkosky Charitable Foundation
Roundtable Discussions**

Topic: Physical Disabilities: Children

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PARTICIPANTS

Invited Agency Representatives

Debbie Pieper	Interim Director	Children s Rehabilitation Center
Raynae Cubello	Director of Social Work	Children s Rehabilitation Center
John Delgado	Director of ECI	Center for Health Care Services
Roddy Baker	Program Director	Any Baby Can (ABC)
Sandie Gonzalez	Director of Development	Children Association for Maximum Potential (CAMP)

Foundation Staffs and Trustees

Palmer Moe	Executive Director
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Overview

Any Baby Can (ABC)

They will accommodate most people who come in and will not turn people away for basic social services. When families come in with a crisis, they will help. They will also refer them to other organizations if they cannot help. They do case management. They help their clients find resources that are available to them. One of their program, Tiny Tracks, refers children to ECI programs.

CAMP

Their campsite is near the Guadalupe River. They have weekend programs where parents can drop off their children for the weekend. They can accommodate up to 40 children. On average they serve about 20-30 children each week. Under some circumstances, they will pick up the children. They accept children from foster-parents and families who have adopted a child. There are two staffs assigned to each cabin. Usually, there are 6-10 medical staff. Their camp can accommodate 125 kids. They also have a sibling program. There are a total of 300 beds. Two counselors are usually assigned to a child because most of them need total care. 90% of the staff are volunteers. Parents call CAMP to send their teenagers there to serve as volunteers. They have a lot of volunteers from high schools, colleges, and professional organizations. Volunteers have to go through a training session before they are allowed to work with the children. They charge on a sliding scale basis. They also get funding from United Way, Rotary Club, Officer s Wife Club, and individuals who sponsor a child. They offer a scholarship program for children who can not afford to pay. They are the first camp to be approved for respite funds in Texas.

Children Habilitation Center

They are located at Babcock and Medical, next to the fire station. They serve all disabilities. They have a day care for children with disabilities and it serves 106 kids. They also have a Freedom Center that serves about 20 kids. There is a therapeutic playground and pool that is totally handicapped accessible at their facility. They offer speech therapy and serve about 50 outpatients. Their funding comes from children with insurance, Medicaid, Medicare and fees that are charged on a sliding scale.

PACE — Center for Health Care Services

They serve children from birth to 3 years old. They serve children who are in their catchment area and must be diagnosed. About 50%-60% of the families they serve are Spanish speaking. They help identify the issues, and then provide counseling, referral and service coordination for the children and families. After 3 years old, the children are move into special education. They are serving 433 children this year, 369 was referral. 38% of the referrals came from hospitals and 43% from neighborhoods. They have 47 staff members and 32 of them are intake caseworkers. They just opened a center in Hondo.

General Information

CAMP segregates parents who attend camp with their children so that they will mingle with other parents to share stories and ideas. *Hole on the door or door on the wall*, a radio talk show that deals with mental disabilities issues and invite speakers to answer questions about different issues, was started by a group of parents who met and exchanged stories at CAMP.

Socialization is very important; Children with mental disability have a better chance of succeeding in the community and life if they are caught before the age of three and enrolled into an ECI program because the brain is still developing.

Autism and speech delays respond very well to ECI programs.

Children, who are taught to volunteer at a young age, will likely continue doing it in their adult life. Often, they become community leaders.

Identifying the disabilities at an early age is important because if ECI can not help, support services like day care and respite can be set up in advance.

Texas is the second highest state for institutionalized people. And that is not in accordance with the ADA law, which states the inclusion of all people and children in natural environment. It is also better for the community to socialize instead of institutionalize because it is ten times cheaper if the children are raised at home.

One weekend a month, the Medical Center holds a program to recycle equipment.

Children who volunteers with organizations like CAMP will help disseminate the general opinion that people with mental disabilities are dangerous and should be institutionalize.

Respite, San Antonio, takes children for up to 30 days but only for children with limited disabilities.

Brighton School serves about 200-230 children and Easter Seals serves 192 children.

Issues

Parents do not know where to look for services because there is not a lot of information or awareness about the providers.

Not only children need services but the families need services too. Ex: respite services

Organizations that get funding from the government are constantly filling out reports.

Government pays for respite but for every child that gets it, six more are on a waiting list. Parents can not afford to pay for respite even if they can find some organizations that offer it.

A survey done a few years ago and it showed that the top need is for respite services

It is getting very difficult to get help, equipment and medication. Ex: a child who has outgrown his wheelchair will have to wait for five years to get another one.

Counseling is a service that is needed by families but nothing will pay for it,

Autism respite is in demand.

Middle class families have the most problems accessing services.

Ideas

Educating parents on how to recognize mental disabilities through videos.

Send videos out to daycare, childcares, physician offices, nurses and receptionists at the physician s office and hospitals.

Technology -Interactive evaluation of programs
 -Internet with web sited for information and services
 -Chat rooms for parents to share ideas and information

Reach community leaders in neighborhoods. People go to them for help and they can pass on the information.