
South Dakota School for the Deaf

Board of Regents Meeting, December 15-16, 2011

Informational Items

On September 15, Service Coordinator Sara Hansen attended a noon meeting of the Yankton Sertoma Club. Approximately 20 club members were present for a brief presentation highlighting the need for early intervention for children with hearing loss. The group brainstormed ways to provide additional support to individuals with hearing loss living in the Yankton community.

This fall, SDSD Outreach Consultants Kami Van Sickle and Naomi Mangan organized a weekly ongoing functional sign class for parents of children with hearing loss, their families, and other professionals. The endeavor has truly grown into a team affair as each week additional Outreach members (Laura Scholten, Kim Wadsworth, Julie Delfs, Jodi Schnider, and Carol Johnson) join in! Originally established to teach parents functional sign language, the class also serves as a refresher course for participants with previously acquired sign language skills. Classes average 35 attendees per session (25 adults and 10 children). The venture provides families opportunities to connect with one another and/or discuss topics relative to their child's hearing loss. An on-campus signing daycare, staffed by Augustana College student volunteers, is available for younger children during class sessions.

Sara Hansen attended the 2011 South Dakota Speech Language Hearing Convention held September 22 and 23. The keynote address was presented by Laura Barker, OTR/L (registered and licensed occupational therapist). Throughout the two day event, Laura provided training on sensory processing and its effect on behavior, language, and learning. Sara Hansen facilitated a roundtable discussion on services available through South Dakota School for the Deaf. Audiological, outreach, and evaluation information was shared with attendees.

During the month of September, Macaulay McDonald, a SDSD Outreach client, was named the Irene-Wakonda School District Homecoming King. Macaulay is a unique individual who not only has hearing loss but also has Down syndrome. Macaulay's fellow students describe him as a sweet person that cares about everyone and helps to make life better for many in the Irene-Wakonda School District. In addition to being crowned Homecoming King, Macaulay plays the bongos in the school band and works part-time as a sacker at a local grocery store.

Outreach Consultant Naomi Mangan was chosen by the South Dakota Special Education Programs office to develop the SD MyLife Lesson Plans and IEP goals for students with disabilities. According to the application, "SD MyLife

provides information about possible careers, earning potential and required education or training. It serves as a guide for a wide range of career opportunities for students across South Dakota. Since the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004) requires high school transition planning, Special Education Programs is encouraging special educators to utilize SD MyLife information and activities into the IEP process to help prepare students with disabilities for their future." Ms. Mangan is honored to have an opportunity to serve students with hearing loss via SD MyLife at <http://www.sdmylife.com/>.

Sara Hansen, SDSD Service Coordinator, participated in Dakota State University's Technology/Diversity Conference held at the Kennedy Center on October 7. Presenters for morning sessions included Susan Turnipseed, South Dakota Teacher of the Year, and Dr. Tim Fiegen, *Google in Your Classroom*. Conference participants also attended sessions hosted by CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) and SDSD.

SDSD has organized a bi-monthly playgroup for clients with hearing loss ages two to five who reside in Sioux Falls and surrounding communities. The play group provides children with hearing loss and their parents an informal opportunity to interact and learn. A mini-activity is planned for each session and accompanying home carryover ideas suggested. Up to six families have attended the playgroup. Thanks to the partnering efforts with Augustana College Deaf Education and Interpreter program faculty and students, who provide assistance during activities, all parties enjoy the opportunity to interact and have fun

On October 12, 2011, Sara Hansen was the guest lecturer for Dr. Lory LaPointe's Assistive Technology course at the University of South Dakota. Twenty-three graduate and undergraduate students attended the lecture which focused on successful use of hearing aids, bone anchored hearing aids, cochlear implants, FM systems, and classroom sound field systems in educational environments.

The Viborg Lions Club invited Sara Hansen to their October meeting to help provide insight into the struggles experienced by children with hearing loss. The group explored available SDSD services and discussed further efforts aimed at supporting individuals with hearing loss in Viborg and surrounding areas.

On October 18, Sara Hansen, Jodi Schnider, Naomi Mangan, and Kami Van Sickle attended a workshop on Individual Education Plans (IEPs). The one day event, held at the Sioux Falls Public School District's Central Services building, was sponsored by the South Dakota Department of Education. As policies and procedures for IEPs are revised

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yearly, it is important for SDSD Outreach Consultants to remain current regarding IEP updates and South Dakota best practice standard enhancements. Workshop activities and discussions focused on inspecting all stages of the IEP process – initial referral, evaluation, determination of eligibility and three year evaluation.

On October 25, Sara Hansen presented a lecture to 20 undergraduate students in Dr. Candice Hollingsead’s Assistive Technology course at Northern State University. The session focused on personal listening equipment such as hearing aids, bone anchored hearing aids, and cochlear implants as well as auxiliary equipment including FM systems and sound field systems, and how listening technologies may be used to supplement a child’s access to environmental sounds including spoken language throughout the school day. Attendees were able to take part in simulations and demonstrations of the aforementioned technologies.

October 26, the SDSD Outreach team met in Sioux Falls for meetings and training. Todd Decker and Mary Peterson, from Professional Hearing Associates in Watertown, shared information about their practice and also learned about SDSD’s Outreach program. Discussions regarding protocols for newly identified children with hearing loss resulted in positive exchanges about the future of audiological care for South Dakota children.

Dr. Malinda Eccarius from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Deaf Education department shared valuable information for consultants’ use with families and schools. Her October 27 presentation to SDSD and SDSBVI Outreach teams featured ecological assessment which is a way of describing student’s educational placement and their ability to function in that environment. She also presented strategies for effective PowerPoint presentations.

On Saturday, October 29, 11 families with a total of 28 children participated in multiple activities as part of Family Learning Day sponsored by SDSD. Current SDSD team members partnered with former staff and Augustana College staff and students to provide children with a fun filled day of events, instruction, refreshments and socializing. Parent workshops included how to expand your child’s vocabulary and increase communication in the home, Fall/Halloween sign language lessons, how to create a family activities experience, and how to use current technology to facilitate language skills. SDSD plans to host additional Family Learning Day events across the state in the future. Special thanks to the following entities whose contributions helped ensure a successful day: Tanya Cross, Allisa Versteeg, SDSD Foundation, Hy Vee, Insti-Prints, Parent Connect SD, and Communication Services for the Deaf (CSD).

The Yankton Lions Club invited Sara Hansen to their November 7 meeting to speak about issues related to hearing loss in children and services available through SDSD. The

group asked general questions about services available to children in Yankton area schools and agreed that partnering with school administrators may be the best way to explore and support the educational needs of children with hearing loss. The group reiterated that Lions Clubs are able to provide financial support to both children and adults who are in need of hearing technologies.

SDSD Outreach Consultant Naomi Mangan, Augustana College Associate Professor Monica Soukup and CSD Outreach Consultant Teresa Nold collaborated to develop a social skills group for middle and high school students. The first gathering occurred Saturday, November 12, with 13 deaf/hard of hearing teenagers in attendance. The mission for this group is to provide social skills training in a social setting with peers with hearing loss. Attendees discussed their experiences and explored opportunities to “teach” younger students with hearing loss by creating a video series.

Kim Wadsworth has been select as the new SDSD Director of Outreach. Kim is a South Dakota native who graduated from Augustana College with a degree in deaf education. After graduation she taught at the Utah School for the Deaf and Blind for nine years. Kim moved back to South Dakota and has been an SDSD Outreach Consultant for the past 15 years.



Kim Wadsworth, Director of Outreach for South Dakota School for the Deaf.

Kim has represented SDSD on the planning committee for the Midwest Deaf Education Conference and Parent Learning Days. She also participated on the Deaf/Blind Advisory committee and presents at many local schools and statewide conferences. Kim lives in Sioux Falls with her husband and three children.

Outreach Student Services

Outreach students are served in the family’s home, community agencies or in their home school districts:

Birth to 2 yrs, 11 month	19
Students 3 yrs to 5 yrs, 11 months	46
Students 6 to 21 yrs	317
Total Students Served	382

There are six new referrals with the potential to become Outreach clients pending completion of required paperwork.

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Outreach In-Services Conducted

The following report details the total number of in-services provided thus far in the 2011-2012 academic year.

<u>Southeast Region</u>	<u>In-services Conducted</u>
Julie Delfs	--
Naomi Mangan	1
Jodi Schnider	7
Laura Scholten	3
Kami Van Sickle	8
Kim Wadsworth	13
<u>Central Region</u>	<u>In-services Conducted</u>
Carol Johnson	--
Sarah Lingle	9
<u>Northeast Region</u>	<u>In-services Conducted</u>
Eileen Anderson	15
<u>Western Region</u>	<u>In-services Conducted</u>
Nina Ringstmeyer	3
Total In-Services Statewide	59

On-Campus Audiology Services

The following report details audiological appointments provided to the public on the SDSD campus July, 2011 to the present.

July, 2011	14
August, 2011	19
September, 2011	28
October, 2011	40
November 1-12, 2011	20
Total Appointments	121

Completed Mobile Lab Visits

The following report details audiological services provided to the public via SDSD's mobile lab from July, 2011 to the present.

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Screens</u>	<u>Evaluations</u>	<u>Sites</u>
July 1- Sept 12	1246	171	32
Sept 13–Nov 12	3131	311	28
Year to date	4377	482	60

Total Hearing Screens Completed to Date

The following report details audiological services provided to children this academic year (2011- 2012). Data provided covers *July 1* through *November 12, 2011*.

<u>Mobile Lab</u>	
Total Individuals Screened	4377
<u>On-Campus</u>	
Total Evaluations	121
Total (YTD)	4498

Upcoming Mobile Lab Visits

<u>December</u>	
Pierre	12/1-2
Bennett County	12/6
Sioux Falls Christian	12/9
West Central	12/13
John Paul II Mitchell	12/15
<u>January</u>	
Brandon Valley	1/26
<u>February</u>	
Baltic	2/21
Tri-Valley	2/28