

# **North Dakota Center of Excellence for Individuals Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing**

Revised 5/27/2010

## **Basic Structure**

### Purpose:

North Dakota will establish a Center of Excellence (CoE) that will be responsible for the development, coordination and maintenance of a comprehensive continuum of non-duplicative services for all citizens who are deaf or hard of hearing from infancy through old age.

### Mission:

An environment in which individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing can access the services and support that they may need to become integrated, productive citizens of the state.

### Center of Excellence Values/Philosophy:

- The focus will always be on the people who need/receive/use the services.
- All services to be provided and developed will be of the highest – “best” - quality.
- Planning and services will be need-driven, responsive and flexible.
- All activities and recommendations will reflect a leadership role that is current, and creative.
- All related laws and regulations will be identified and respected.
- Fiscal responsibility and good stewardship will be stressed.
- Efforts will reflect a broad focus and the inclusion of all deaf/HH programs in the state.
- Services will be available and accessible to all individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- The process will reflect a comprehensive approach to the needs of adults who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Services will be based on a continuum of services for all individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing from infancy to old age.
- All plans, services and recommendations will be applicable to all North Dakotans regardless of race, ethnicity, geographical location or age.

### DPI Portfolio

The Center of Excellence will be established under the authority and jurisdiction of the ND Department of Public Instruction (DPI). As such, the DPI will be responsible to:

- Establish and maintain consistent state policies and philosophies regarding the education of and provision of non-duplicative services to ND citizens who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Establish an administrative and managerial structure for the Center of Excellence that provides management, oversight, planning, budget and fiscal services.
- Develop, implement, monitor and maintain a strategic service plan (comprehensive continuum of services) for the provision of education and other non-duplicative services to ND citizens who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Gather, evaluate and maintain relevant statistics and data regarding the citizens of ND who are deaf or hard of hearing.

- Explore and develop innovative/best practices models and partnerships with other state, regional and national educators and service providers.

### Center of Excellence

The Center of Excellence will be staffed by qualified, experienced professionals who may be located on the NDSO campus or in regional/outreach offices throughout the state. The Center will be responsible to:

- Provide Long/Short Term Educational Services (year round options)
  - Residential Services
  - Laboratory School
  - Non-traditional Educational Services Based on an “Open/Revolving Door with Wraparound Services” Philosophy
- Maintain and expand existing programming and services (infant, preschool, residential, outreach, research, including IFSP and IEP consultation, etc.);
- Identify, develop, manage and maintain a continuum of services that is available and accessible for/to North Dakota citizens (from infancy through old age) who are deaf or hard of hearing;
- Provide an information and referral service for individuals, families and the public;
- Develop a public awareness and education campaign;
- Provide and coordinate data and research services as they relate to the full continuum of services;
- Explore the development of technology-based services and initiatives and coordinate the implementation of specific options as they are deemed appropriate;
- Establish and maintain quality standards that promote a statewide policy/philosophy on services and support consistency from community-to-community, school-to-school, and provider-to-provider;
- Coordinate vocational, employment and placement services with other partners and providers in the state;
- Coordinate and provide social and deaf cultural programs and services;
- Serve as the focal coordinating and support point for the exploration and utilization of related technologies;
- Serve as the coordinating partner for the expansion and monitoring (training, certification and accountability) of interpreter services;
- Identify and promote innovative best practices partnerships and models that support quality services and economies of scale at the local, state, regional and national levels;
- Develop, provide and maintain a public education/information program regarding deaf and hard of hearing Issues; and
- Establish, implement and maintain a plan for the management and effective utilization of the NDSO campus, its buildings and facilities (recognizing and supporting the history and traditions of NDSO).

The NDSO/Center of Excellence Advisory Council will be reorganized and reestablished reflecting a broad comprehensive membership including stakeholders/consumers, administrators, legislators, services partners and FSP Transition Team representatives. The

Council will provide oversight, advices and recommendations regarding the management, direction and services provided by the NDSD/Center of Excellence.

### Potential Partners and Collaborators

The NDSD/Center of Excellence will not duplicated or assume the responsibilities of other groups, organizations or agencies, but will work in partnership and collaboration with stakeholders and service providers to identify and meet existing and changing needs and develop and provide appropriate services and programming.

#### Potential Partners

- Parents, Consumers and Advocacy Groups
- School and Special Education Districts
- Higher Education - Colleges and Universities
- Hospitals and Medical Facilities
- Alumni and Staff of NDSD
- Advocacy Organizations and Agencies
- ND Department of Human Services/Regional Human Service Centers
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Child Care Providers
- Other states and national education and service providers

#### **Service Populations/Profiles:**

- #1. Infants – 0 to 2 years
- #2. Preschool – 3 to 5 years
- #3. Elementary – 6 to 11 years
- #4. Junior High/Middle School – 12 to 15 years
- #5. High School (transition) - 16 to 21 years (or graduation)
- #6. Young Adults – 22 to 35 years
- #7. Adults – 36 to 64 years
- #8. Seniors – 65 years and older

#### **Specific Examples of Essential/Core Services**

- Assessments and Evaluations
  - Newborn
  - Preschool
  - School age
  - Adults
  - Seniors
- Case Management Services
- Early Intervention Services
- Family Support, Training and Education Services
- Pre-school (Regional Preschool Programs) Services
- Language Training Services

- Interpreter Services
- Assistive Technology (including hearing aids) Services
- Consultations (including IFSP and IEPs)
- Information and Referral Services
- Advocacy/Mentoring and Peer Support
- Education and Consultation (school and special education districts) Services
- Audiological Services
- Vocational Services
- Mental Health Services
- Cochlear Implant Support Services
- Social and Cultural Support and Education Services

Working Draft