

NFADB PRESIDENT'S 2017 MID YEAR REPORT

Following the Action Plans from a very successful 2016 Symposium in Austin (TX), NFADB Board members have been working relentlessly in these initiatives:

- **Advocacy.** Strong support to the Cogswell-Macy Act (HR 1120) that will support the training of teachers for the deaf-blind and Interveners. We have mobilized the national family network to call and write to their federal congress representatives and senators. NFADB participated in the national Cogswell-Macy Day that was held in Washington DC in March.
- **Affiliate Network.** NFADB continues to support the family organizations who are members of the Affiliate Network through quarterly meetings and individual collaboration. We are excited to introduce the Illinois Advocates for the Deafblind as our newest Affiliate Network member! We are also working with other family organizations as they complete the application process to join us. Also in the works is a family leadership and board development training series for both our Affiliate organizations and partner organizations.
- **DbI Conference of the Americas.** NFADB is a participant at the Scientific Committee of DbI organizing the next April 2018 Conference in Cape Cod with an expected audience of 500 participants.
- **Deaf-Blind Citizens in Action (DBCA).** NFADB has a partnership with DBCA dealing with federal issues important to people with deaf-blindness and their families.
- **Family-to-Family Communities Project (F2FC).** NFADB board members have served as advisors, trainers, recruiters, facilitators and evaluators on the F2F groups.
- **Helen Keller National Center (HKNC).** NFADB has a long history of partnership with HKNC and in the last few years, many different opportunities to network together have arisen.
- **Membership.** Number of NFADB members is at 550, an increase of 10% since last year.
- **National Center on Deaf-Blindness (NCDB).** Our partnership is stronger than ever and two of NCDB's staff members are in our Board as Special Advisors.
- **National Coalition on Deaf-Blindness.** NFADB has been supporting the Coalition since our creation and we will continue our partnership in advocacy issues.
- **National Community of Practice (NCOP).** NFADB is represented at the NCOP and working on the sub group on Transition.
- **National Leadership Consortium in Sensory Disabilities (NLCS).** NFADB participates with NLCS in Washington DC to continue developing a community of learners composed of Fellows, University Faculty and Public Advisory Council.
- **National Research & Training Center on Blindness & Low Vision (NRTC).** NFADB is an advisor with the development of a new app from NRTC at the Mississippi State University.
- **Open Hands Open Access (OHOA).** NFADB has been hosting the Module 3 "The Role of the Intervener in Educational Settings" with more than 85 registered participants who took the modules so far. A new Cohort 10 study of Module 3 will begin September 18 till October 23, 2017 (registration opens July 17th). In 2018 we will have the beginning of a new study combining Module 16 and 24 about "Self Determination" and "Transition into Adulthood and Community Living".
- **Partnerships.** NFADB is honored to be part of the new partnership between NCDB/HKNC/NFADB to motivate families to start working on the transition to adult life of

their loved ones at age 14. Letters were sent to State Deaf-Blind Project to share with their families and also promote the national deaf-blind registry.

- **Pennsylvania.** NFADB was represented at the Pennsylvania Family Learning Conference
- **Podcasts.** We will be announcing the date for the launching of the new podcasts generated at the 2016 Symposium. Stay tuned!
- **Sharing information and resources.** NFADB continues sharing information and resources through our membership list, and through a Listserv with over 500 participants.
- **Social Media.** We have increased our popularity in Social Media, and as of June 15, FB has over 2,200 Likes.
- **Texas.** NFADB was represented at the 2017 Texas Symposium on Deaf-Blindness: “Making Connections” in Austin TX.
- **Videos.** Different videos interviewing families of individuals who are deaf-blind were generated since 2012, and they can be seen in our website.
- **Virtual Presentations.** Board Members have been doing virtual presentations across the country, including the Michigan Family Association for Deaf-Blind family gathering, the Illinois Advocates for the Deaf-Blind conference, the Maryland/DC Family Conference and the Iowa Summer Workshop on Deaf-blindness. We are planning more presentations in the near future and coming years.
- **Webinars.** NFADB will continue providing 3 Webinars in Spanish addressing different topics with follow up discussion.
- **Website.** Our Website has been updated and offers a variety of information to parents and professionals.

We encourage you to check our website www.nfadb.org or call 1 (800) 255 0411 to obtain more information or to get involved with our organization

With much appreciation for your support. We cordially thank you!

Clara Berg, President, NFADB

Clara Berg